

The Madras Pioneer

MADRAS, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPT. 7, 1905.

NO. 3

LYTLE HAS RESIGNED

Severs Connection With Columbia Southern.

E. E. Lytle, who has been president and principal owner of the Columbia Southern Railway from Biggs to Shaniko since the road was first built, has resigned his position at the head of the company owning that line, thus confirming the repeated rumors that the road is now owned by the Harriman interests. The announcement of Mr. Lytle's resignation was made last week, his control of the road having been relinquished on the first of this month. The resignation of Mr. Lytle elicits the further information that the transfer of his interests in the Columbia Southern was made nearly a year and a half ago, but through an arrangement with Mr. Harriman Mr. Lytle retained the position of official head of the Shaniko line.

What bearing the resignation of Mr. Lytle will have upon the proposed extension of the Columbia Southern, or whether or not his resignation on the eve of the date set for the commencement of the construction of the extension has any significance, no one seems able to say. The organization of a new company by members of the Harriman staff of officials in Portland, with the avowed purpose of building a road from Natron to Ontario, coming at the same time with the announcement of Mr. Lytle's surrender of control of the Columbia Southern, has caused the rumor that the Columbia Southern extension has been abandoned, and that this section of the state will be served by the east and west line from Natron to Ontario, or by a branch line of that road.

Mr. Lytle refused to be interviewed on the subject of his resignation, but stated that he had plans for the development of Oregon through railroad building.

A TERRIFIC DUST STORM

Last week's dispatches telling of the big dust storm which swept through the wheat belt of Eastern Oregon, the Palouse country in Washington and in Idaho, August 27, recall the storm experienced here on the same afternoon. Beginning at about 4 o'clock there was a very severe wind storm for an hour, and this was accompanied by clouds of dust which were so dense that objects could not be distinguished 20 feet away. A shower of rain followed the wind storm, settling the dust. This is the first rain that has fallen in two months, and although it rained quite hard for a few minutes, within an hour after it ceased raining the ground was quite dry again.

In the Pendleton country where the dust storm was at its worst a great amount of damage was done to the grain which was yet unharvested. The grain was badly shattered and in many places nothing but straw remained of the fine crops standing before the storm. Telegraph and telephone wires were blown down, and in the cities considerable damage was done to buildings. In Pendleton the storm struck about a o'clock in the afternoon, and the city was

shrouded in complete darkness, it being impossible to distinguish objects five feet away. The storm raged for an hour, filling stores and residences with dust, and almost suffocating people even in houses well protected from the dust.

U. H. Curtis, of this place, who was returning from Colfax on the train running between Walla Walla and Pendleton, says that when the cloud first appeared it looked black as night and the passengers on the train thought it was a cyclone coming. That when the dust cloud settled down about them the train was surrounded by darkness, and that the train slowed down until it was barely moving.

The storm extended all through that section of Oregon and Washington and the Panhandle district of Idaho. It was the worst storm that has been known there in years.

The tremendous clouds of dust which accompanied the storm are supposed to have been due to the long drought and the great amount of summer fallowed lands throughout the wheat sections of the three states in which the storm raged.

FAMOUS AERONAUT KILLED

Professor John Baldwin, the famous aeronaut, was blown to atoms while exploding sticks of dynamite from an airship at a county fair at Greenville, Ohio, on last Thursday. Fully 3000 people were watching the exhibition, among the spectators being his wife and children. The airship was 1500 feet in the air, when suddenly a great cloud of smoke appeared and after this had drifted away the airship was seen to have disappeared. Half a mile away, searchers found fragments of the aeronaut's body and pieces of the airship. It is supposed that in igniting the fuse with which the dynamite was exploded, Baldwin fired the gas in the balloon, and that the six sticks of dynamite which were known to be in the airship were exploded simultaneously.

CLEW TO MURDERER OF "SHORTY" DAVIS

Oregonian.
Well A. Bell, deputy district attorney of Crook County, who has been in Portland during the past few days making an investigation into the causes that led to the disappearance, about three years ago, of "Shorty" Davis, formerly a shepherd of the Crooked River country, returned to Prineville Sunday night, having in his possession what is believed to be the first authentic clew to the unsolved tragedy yet unearthed.

Armed with the statement of Christian Feuerhelm, a shepherd of the region, who is here now as a witness in the land fraud cases at present occupying the attention of the Federal grand jury, Bell will seek the former residence of Shorty Davis, and it is expected the latter's remains will be recovered from the bottom of an 85-foot well in the vicinity, where it is alleged they were thrown after he was murdered, the horse that he was riding at the time being likewise cast into the yawning abyss.

Feuerhelm claims that the murderer became afflicted with remorse to such an extent that he confessed the crime to him, even going into details upon matters connected with the hiding-place of the dead man, together with a close analysis of the causes, which led to his taking-off. According to Feuerhelm, there was a motive in slaying Davis, and it is believed the authorities of Crook County are now in possession of all the facts in this connection, and are operating in conjunction with the Federal officials in Oregon in bringing the guilty person to justice.

Shorty Davis had located a home-
stead in the southern part of Pendleton.

"THE CONTRACT IS LET"

For Advance of the Columbia Southern Railway.

Under a Portland date-line the Bend Bulletin publishes the following railroad news. Its authenticity is vouched for by the Bulletin, although the source of the information is not made public. The despatch follows:

"From an inside authority that cannot be quoted but is entirely trustworthy it is learned that the contract for extending the Columbia Southern railroad from Shaniko to Madras has been agreed upon and that work in the field will begin next month. The contract calls for the completion of the line not later than July 7, 1906. No details are yet obtainable. An official announcement will be made soon. According to one authority the construction work will begin within five weeks, and according to another definite official announcement will be made within that time. All are agreed that there is no longer doubt about the building of the railroad to Madras. Not all the details are yet settled nor is the building between Madras and Bend yet determined. Those in position to know, however, say if the Columbia Southern halts at Madras it will find the field south of Crooked river served by another road."

A. R. LYLE DIES

A. R. Lyle, one of the most prominent cattlemen of Crook county, died in Portland on last Friday morning at 5 o'clock. His death occurred in Nau's drugstore, underneath the Portland Hotel, to which place he had gone for medicine to get relief from an attack of heart disease. During the early hours of the morning he arose from his bed at the Belvidere, and telling the night clerk he was not feeling well, was directed to Nau's, and a few minutes after he reached there fell to the floor and died.

Mr. Lyle was a member of the firm of Lyle & Brown, whose large cattle business is conducted near Heisler in this county. They own several thousand acres of land and a large number of cattle. Mr. Lyle has also been prominent in the politics of the county and in this section of the state, and several years ago was a member of the state legislature from this county. The news of his death which reached here Friday was a great shock to his many friends in this locality.

The only surviving relatives are Mrs. Harriet Veazie, a sister, residing in Portland, and William Lyle, a brother, residing at Eugene. The remains were shipped to Dallas for interment.

The Fall term of circuit court will convene in Prineville in the first week of October. The Prineville Journal says that an unusually large docket will be sounded, and that the term promises to be a long and busy one. A score of indictments have been returned against stock rustlers, and some of these cases will be vigorously defended. There are also a number of other important criminal cases.

If in need of a tombstone, write a postal card to the Watts Marble works of The Dalles and they will send you designs and prices for their art. Try out this way.

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