

# The Madras Pioneer

MADRAS, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 1905.

NO. 5

## WORK HAS COMMENCED

Northern Pacific has Commenced Construction Down North Bank of Columbia.

"We are not going to start building; the work is already under way, and it will be pushed forward as rapidly as is consistent with the plans outlined," was the reply given by Judge B. S. Crosscup, of Tacoma, general counsel of the Western interests of the Northern Pacific, who is in Portland. "Six camps have been established at Kennewick, in addition to those along the north bank of the Columbia farther down the stream. The contract has been let to Messrs. Sims & Shields, of St. Paul, a reputable firm, and this is a guarantee in itself that the road will go through rapidly. Mr. Sims was formerly associated with Mr. Shepard, a well-known contractor, and the firm of Shepard & Sims built the Great Northern.

"There will be no money spared in the construction work. It is the purpose of the company to build a road that will equal that of the Pennsylvania lines through the Alleghany Mountains. The grade is no greater than the fall of the Columbia river, and the curvatures are such that trains can be run to their full capacity at 100 miles an hour. The distance is 240 miles, and as yet no complete estimates have been made of the probable cost."

"How will the Northern Pacific get around the right of way held by the O. R. & N. at the Cascades, where the old portage road was built?" was asked.

"The laws of Washington are such that we will be able to pass such an obstruction, but as to what measures will be adopted to force a right of way I am in ignorance as yet," replied the judge. "We have not obtained all of the right of way yet. There are several breaks in the line which will have to be taken up later."

"Is there anything to the talk that docks will be erected here and Portland made a port of call for Mr. Hill's liners?" was the next query.

"No; there is nothing I can say of that. Even the details of a portion of the building have not been finished."

More or less speculation has been indulged in at large as to what will be the outcome of the

The Lewis & Clarke Fair at Portland will close on the evening of October 14th. After that date there will be a "post exposition period" when people will be admitted for probably to cents.

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GRIZZLY OREGON

fight between Hill and Harriman on the north bank.

It is admitted by railroaders that the ultimate result is not in doubt. Hill wants to come to Portland; that he is in a position to make rapid progress, and the litigation which must follow his march in this direction will be surmounted without difficulty. Some trouble will be met with from Harriman and his agents. The old portage road right of way will be one obstacle, and the land L. Gerlinger has taken up under the guise of the Wallula Pacific will be another.

It is not supposed at this time that Mr. Hill will wage such a fierce war against Mr. Harriman that he will locate a dock here and bid for the Oriental business. He has not been overly successful in that line from the Sound. Naturally he will require docks in which to store the wheat hauled, and later he may merge his maritime interests with an outside line to create competition with the Portland & Asiatic Steamship Company. His entrance into Portland will obtain for him a key to such operations, and he could manipulate so that a bitter fight could be precipitated between himself and Harriman in both the coastwise and offshore trade, but those things are not in the present plans.

Portlanders feel that in dividing his business between this city and Seattle and Tacoma Mr. Hill has conferred a great favor. A water grade down the Columbia will serve to draw much of the traffic from the East to the Sound through this territory. Wheat will be hauled from the interior to Vancouver and thence routed north, and passenger business may be so diverted that through trains will travel to St. Paul to the Sound by way of Vancouver. The north bank road is being counted on as the long-desired cut-off from the East, and fully a day will be saved in the running time to Portland by leaving in the old line at Kennewick.

## LAWLESSNESS REIGNS.

Over the signature "Moonshiner" the letter published herewith appeared in last Thursday's Oregonian. If true, the condition of affairs depicted is a disgrace to any community, and it high time that a thorough reform were inaugurated. Time was when human life in Crook county was of little value, and if the crimes which have disgraced the public ranges of our county in recent years are to be ignored and lawlessness is to reign, then we are but little advanced from the period known as the "days of the vigilantes" in our county's history. It is true that the conditions named do not refer directly to the farming districts of the county, but in paying a large share of the taxes of the county, we are indirectly supporting this state of affairs. There may be some exaggeration contained in the letter, but if any one of the charges made is true, a state of affairs exists which demands the attention of every citizen who is interested in the maintenance of law and order in this county, and who has at heart the good name of the county he calls home. We publish the letter in full, believing that every citizen of the county should read the things

that can be said about us. The letter follows:

"Prineville, Or., Sept. 10.—(To the editor.)—An editorial in last week's Crook County Journal makes the claim that the Portland papers are trying to poison the minds of the public against the defendants in the land-fraud trials and also to defame the fair name of the county. I believe this to be a mistake; perhaps through honest ignorance of the editor. Be that as it may, a brief statement of the conditions existing here at the time Crook county first came into being and which are largely responsible for conditions as they exist today, will not be altogether out of place.

"In the early part of 1882 a man named Langdon killed two men, named Crook and Jory, on his homestead on Willow Creek. He was arrested and taken to Prineville and placed in charge of a deputy sheriff in the Prineville Hotel. At night a mob came in, overpowered the deputy and shot Langdon to death; it then lassoed a man named Harrison, who had formerly been employed by Langdon, and dragged him to the Crooked river bridge, about half a mile, and hanged him from the bridge, where he was found next morning. From that time forward the mob, which was a secret organization known as the 'Vigilantes,' terrorized the county, and any one incurring the displeasure of its leader was either compelled to leave the country or was murdered. Al Swarts was shot, through the window of a saloon, while playing cards with a member of the mob; Sid Huston and young Lester were taken from Elisha Barnes' dwelling and hanged; Mike Mogan was murdered by 'Mossy' Barnes and Frank Mogan was shot down by Bud Thompson, the captain of the Vigilantes, and his brains beaten out with the empty revolver, without the slightest provocation. This last crime was committed in the early part of 1884.

"About this time a number of lawabiding citizens got together and formed an organization known as the 'Moonshiners,' who ordered a lot of the Vigilantes to leave the country, which they did. In the majority of these cases nothing has ever been done, in other a farcical coronor's jury, dominated by the Vigilantes, has brought in verdicts of justifiable homicide or otherwise freeing the murderers.

"A number of the original Vigilantes still remain in this county, who, together with other lawless characters, now form what is termed the Sheep Shooters' Organization. These men are a power in county politics, and many of the lawabiding citizens of the county are afraid to report what they know, for fear of losing stock, or even their lives.

"Houses and haystacks have been burned and stock killed and the losers are powerless to either prevent these outrages or secure redress. Why? One reason is that witnesses are afraid to testify to what they know, and jurors, if they are not already under the influence of this criminal element, are unwilling to bring in a verdict of guilty on the same ground.

"Violation of the law is, and has been, so common in this county that very little notice is taken of minor crimes. Gamb-

(Continued on page 4)

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