

HILL SYSTEM TO TAP REDWOOD OF NORTHERN CALIF.

Rumor Is That Oregon Trunk
Line Will Be Extended
Through Central Oregon to
Rich Timber Lands.

That the Hill system is actively engaged in forging its way into the redwood district of northern California through central Oregon is the latest news in railroad building. Report has it that the plan is to continue the Oregon Trunk line through the Deschutes valley and central Oregon southwest by the Crater Lake National Park, and crossing the Rogue River valley, into the redwood timber of Del Norte county to the coast at Crescent City.

The report is largely based on recent occurrences in and about Medford, which have just come to light. The name of John F. Stevens figures prominently in the matter, as it also did in connection with the Oregon Trunk line before its recent backers were finally announced.

James J. Hill, when in Portland last week, decided to discuss the Oregon Trunk line, saying that its eventual terminal would be ascertained upon the completion of the road, leaving the inference that Bend would not necessarily figure in that light.

And these are the circumstances leading up to the conclusions that the northern lines are contemplating tapping one of the richest timber belts in the world through its gateway to the Deschutes valley.

In June last Stevens and a party of Hill engineers came south from Bend in an automobile by way of the Crater Lake National Park to the Rogue River valley and to Medford, which is on the line of the Southern Pacific between Oakland and Grants Pass.

For the last 50 miles of this trip the route taken by the Stevens party was through the country in which the Pacific & Eastern railway had been projected, but never completed, the road having gone into the hands of a receiver after 14 miles of grading had been done and before any equipment had been delivered.

About the same time John Roberts Allen, a New York operator, who is said to have acted before in the capacity of a Hill scout, appeared at Medford, and in July and August negotiated and completed the purchase of the Pacific & Eastern railway.

Following this purchase graders were at once put to work, and it was discovered that the contract had been given to Porter Bros., who are doing the work on the Deschutes line.

Allen did not stop with the purchase of the bankrupt road. Before leaving for the east he had secured a 50-year franchise for an interurban trolley line running through the Rogue River valley, and incidentally had picked up an interest in several timber holdings and probable townsites locations.

Among other things, Allen made a careful personal inspection of the country between Medford and Crescent City. He was also in frequent conferences with representatives of the owners of the redwood timber lands in Del Norte county, which would be benefited by a line from Crescent City to a transcontinental connection; and after he left Medford he had a conference with Stevens in Portland, at which it was presumed, the plans for the building of the line from Bend were consummated.

In the meantime Allen has returned to New York, where he is selling the bonds of the Pacific & Eastern. The road is estimated as tapping 8,000,000,000 feet of timber, and opening the pathway to the Crater Lake park.

Contracts have been let for the construction as far as Butte Falls, 31 miles from Medford, and the line is surveyed as far as the park. From Butte Falls to Bend the distance is roughly 200 miles, and those who claim to speak ad-

Christmas Greetings to Them All

By Rex Lampman.

The greeting, "Merry Christmas!" is an all-inclusive thing. It takes in the whole creation; and perhaps the stars that swing in their God-appointed courses feel the merry Christmas forces. That we set loose on this planet as the bells of Christmas ring. So let's make the happy greeting universal; time is fleeting; if we catch the Christmas spirit we must catch it on the wing. Let good will be all-embracing, let us cease our duet-chasing. For the nonce, and shake the steeple with this cheery Christmas call: "Merry Christmas to you all!"

Doctor Cook took Barnum's motto as his own, his very own, and applied it to the world at large—this scandal now is known; He's not sterling, only plated, but he neatly amputated. From the simple, trusting public, that was yearning to be shown, Oodles of its hard-earned needful—O, why weren't we more heedful Of the things blunt Peary told us? Are our heads of solid bone? Doc, you're sure all time's prize fakir, but you've earned a forty-acre Sulphur farm in remote regions not so cold as Anatook— "Merry Christmas, Doctor Cook!"

And there's dear, misrepresented, homiletic old John D. With his reconstructed stomach and his conscience calm and free—O, may the Christmas spirit reach his heart or something near it, And provoke the kind curmudgeon to further charity. He's set funds to fight the hookworm, and endowed the college book-worm—

Let's hope that he does something for humble you and me, Say, reduce the price of coal-oh—hush! the stuff's his very soul-oh. And more like he'll preach a little and then tack a half-cent on— "Merry Christmas, Uncle John!"

In congress rules a relic of the epoch pliocene— The earth had not quit cooling when his whiskers sprouted green; He's your Uncle Joseph Cannon, and, by gum, he puts a ban on— His own epithet were using—everything that is not seen To be for the darlings dollored who have cornered, cooped and collared.

All the wealth of this great country—see the latest magazine— There he perches quoting scripture, the old vulture—'twas he ripped your—

Purse wide open with the tariff, made revisionists eat crow— "Merry Christmas, Uncle Joe!"

Lastly, for there is a lastly, even unto fits like this, Take the simple case of Satan. Don't you think we'd sadly miss, When our plans trip up, dishevel, go clean wrong, the dear old devil. To lay the whole blamed business on? That subject let's dismiss, Perpetrate some lines Miltonic, and hope the plague bubonic Takes the critic that dares whisper that they're not the best what iss. Cook, John Rockefeller, Cannon—there's a bunch to urge a man on To write: "Have lots of brimstone ready, stir the lava with a stick— "Merry Christmas, dear Old Nick!"

visedly say that this gap will be filled and the Hill line built into the Rogue river country and on to the coast.

Obviously the significance of Allen's operations in this territory depends on his relations with Hill, but the interest shown by Stevens is taken as evidence to this point by those who have been following the developments of the last summer.

These people do not believe that Hill intends to continue building down the coast from Crescent City. There are other indications in the activity of the Walker interests, in addition to the holdings in Shasta county, that are interpreted as meaning that Hill will build south through the Klamath lake country and on through the timber belt where Walker and the Terry company are located.

In this connection it is said that Walker and the Terry company have recently come to a better understanding. The Terry company is now operating a broad gauge logging road north from Anderson, and Walker has a survey which could be coupled with this road leading through the Pitt river timber.

This is one of the routes which it has been conjectured Hill might take in coming into the Central California valley, and the association of Walker with the Minneapolis railway magnate has given color to this assumption.

NAMPA WOULD BE BIG HONEY MARKET

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Nampa, Idaho, Dec. 25.—For the purpose of establishing a large apirary, S. H. Wiley of Enid, Okla., has thoroughly inspected the country adjacent to Nampa.

Mr. Wiley was a successful apiarist in southern Texas for several years but does not like that section for bee culture because of the great prevalence there of bee moths, which are very destructive and annoying to apiarists. His coming to southern Idaho would mean the starting of the biggest bee business in the state, which would be the development of another of Idaho's big natural resources.

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BETTER HOMES TO BE PLANNED FOR POOR CLASS

In Scheme to Make Portland
More Beautiful Civic League
Will Suggest Comfortable
Tenements.

More wholesome housing of the laboring and poorer classes will be one of the first matters to which the Civic league will give its attention after the first of the year. In making a preliminary report to E. H. Bennett, municipal architect, who comes to Portland in August, the league will consider the possibility of replacing many of the old rookeries by comfortable tenements, which can still be supplied at a reasonable rent.

A number of cities which have undertaken city beautiful construction have found it necessary to tear down and rebuild entire blocks. At other times it has been found necessary to remove the people from the fever haunted sections where they have been living, then making their former residence an open and parked space, where the sunlight and air may remove infection.

The construction of city blocks without alleys or unsightly back yards, giving this space to grass and trees, has also been found healthful and beautiful. It has always been found convenient to make collections and deliveries of various articles from the street to the houses, while alleys breed unsightly, dark, damp, disease breeder, where crime lurks.

The Civic league may undertake two systems of building—the classic or monumental, which the French have employed in making Paris known as the most beautiful among cities, or the individualistic, homelike style, which the Germans prefer. Or, it is thought, Mr. Bennett, seeing the city and its unusual location, may suggest construction blending both ideas, grouping public buildings and monuments in the vicinity of the civic center and its modern business blocks, while extending the street parking plan toward the suburbs, where the city parks are to be located at convenient intervals.

If back yards and rookeries are eliminated and open spaces for air and light substituted, it is believed by promoters of the city practical plan that soon the unsightly features of the harbor would be numbered among the offensive things disposed of.

Shippers and navigators advocate the substitution of concrete docks for the rotting and ugly structures now in use. These would be similar then to the docks of European cities, which are maintained largely at government expense. Owners of the Portland docks, however, admit that the time is at hand when much rebuilding will have to be done. If it could be done in accord with the city beautiful plan it would be extremely satisfactory to them, they say. The initial cost would be greater, but would be equalled by increased utility, without even considering the feature of permanence.

Harbor improvement will be given much attention by Mr. Bennett. It is said. At the present time the Port of Portland has available a fund of \$500,000 for improvement which, if used in cooperation with dock owners, who are ready to spend money making radical improvements, will be worth to the people of Portland and outside shippers at least five times this amount.

Surprising as it may seem, the jingle of telephone bells in Portland will interest Mr. Bennett as he reads the report of the Civic league committee as he travels in Europe seeking new city beautiful ideas preparatory to his Portland coming. How the bells rang in a few houses, then in more and more, and over wider areas; now they mean more, not only as a convenience and necessity, but in showing the growth of the city will be points of emphasis.

There were 3179 telephones being used in Portland in 1902. During the year just ending 21,578 have been in use, an increase of 21,578, or more than 200 per cent in seven years. As the Port of Portland's boundaries, and new homes of the citizens are built, so does the jingle of the telephone bell follow, a mark of prosperity and short civic life wherever.

EXPENSIVE GIFTS MARKED CHRISTMAS

General Advance in Prices
Made All Wares Dearer
This Year.

Portland people paid more for most of their holiday presents this year than ever before.

Those who bought furs, were forced to pay an advance of perhaps 15 per cent over previous prices because the seal herds of the north are being rapidly caught out and an advance of fully 25 per cent has been quoted in the wholesale price of sealskins.

Jewelry cost from 15 to 25 per cent more than usual. Jewelers attribute this to the higher cost of materials.

Clothing (men's) cost from 15 to 25 per cent more than a year ago. Those that bought a few months ago saved this extra amount.

All sorts of apparel for women has been advanced from 5 to 15 per cent. Foodstuffs are generally higher because of scarcity. Turkeys reached the highest prices this year for many seasons. In fact, such high prices have never before existed in this market. With turkeys selling wholesale from 25 to 30 cents a pound, retailers were forced to sell at 35 cents if they were to obtain a profit. Some few were sold retail at 40 cents, however.

Dressed chickens cost 25 cents a pound, or 5 cents a pound more than ever before at this time of the year. A similar advance was noted for geese and ducks.

Oysters are very scarce and therefore about 10 cents a pint higher than normal. Even at the higher price there was not enough to feed the consumers who wanted to buy.

Fruits are very high. Apples of quality cost the consumer from \$2 to \$4 a box, while only the very cheap varieties sell below the lower figure.

Cranberries are slightly cheaper because of a greater crop than expected, and the same is true regarding nuts, which go to make the Christmas of the children happy. Candies are slightly higher—about 2 1/2 cents a pound being the average.

Vegetables, with the exception of potatoes and cabbage, is high and very scarce. Too, cauliflower, of quality is hard to get, but there is plenty of celery at the prices listed.

800 MEN GORGE AT THE COMMONS

Eight hundred men were given their Christmas dinner at the Portland Commons yesterday. At three long tables in the mission hall, they were seated, 65 at a time, and fed upon turkey, cranberry sauce and plum pudding, together with all the other good things that go to make up a Christmas dinner.

Among those helping were the men were 10 paroled convicts.

Last Friday a Christmas tree was given the children, and more than 200 were in attendance. Many more children were sent the same night to private families to be entertained. Each child at the mission tree was given candy and nuts and a substantial present in the way of clothing.

At the Louise Regus Home a Christmas dinner was served yesterday, to which all the girls who were graduated there in the last year were invited. Forty were present.

Twenty-five families were given Christmas dinner baskets filled with food. Among others that were remembered by the mission were 150 convicts in the different state prisons. Each was given a new suit of clothing, beside the distribution of four boxes of oranges among them.

RURAL RESIDENTS MUST BUY STAMPS

Postoffice Department Discourages Practice of Dropping Money in Boxes.

"Buy stamps" is the request now being sent out to millions of citizens sending out mail by rural carriers by the postoffice department. So great a burden has been invested by the department of 300,000,000 one-cent pieces annually in boxes along the rural routes that the department has decided some action must be taken.

Persons living on rural routes frequently, when they do not have stamps, deposit letters in the collection boxes and drop pennies, for postage, with them. Heretofore carriers, finding the unstamped letters and one-cent pieces replying in the boxes, would stamp the letters.

For a time this system worked satisfactorily in the country, but now the practice has become so common as to work hardship on the carriers. Last year more than 300,000,000 one-cent pieces were left in rural boxes. Because of the increasing number of coins so left, carriers, according to a letter mailed to Postmaster John C. Young, have wasted much time and the delivery of mail has been delayed.

Frequently during the cold weather in the outside districts the coins freeze to the bottom of the mail boxes, and great difficulty has been experienced by carriers, who have been compelled to remove from 100 to 300 on each trip.

Postmaster Young has asked that persons living on rural free delivery routes provide themselves with stamps, and only when necessary deposit money, in payment for postage, in letter boxes. Such a practice is not permitted in the city limits.

TURKEY ENJOYED BY OLD PATIENTS

Many Gifts Also Make Inmates
of County Infirmary Happy
—Sewing Bags Given.

The inmates of the county infirmary were well remembered this Christmas. The table on which rested the bountiful Christmas dinner served them was trimmed with Oregon grape and mistletoe, and cedar boughs. The turkey, which was the star course on the menu, was presented by Mr. Laidlaw, the British consul at this port.

The many gifts received by the patients were all placed upon the dinner table so that each one got his own when he sat down to dinner. Donations for the gifts were made by the First Congregational Church, and by many private individuals. The fast dimming eyes of the feminine portion of the aged recipients were brightened by the sight of new silk sewing bags. The men were all presented with slippers by the church people.

The Flower Mission also gave packages of tobacco to the carriers, and boxes of candy to the women. Other individuals sent fruit and nuts to be distributed. The recipients of the many gifts wish to thank their friends and wish them a merry Christmas and happy new year.

Consul General R. M. Bartleman, of Buenos Ayres, reports that a company has just been organized in England by prominent English shipowners and Argentine cattle raisers to ship regular weekly supplies of chilled meat from the River Plate to London and Manchester.

BAD PENNY WILL ALWAYS TURN UP

Stray Bogus Coin From 1902 Scheme Found in Portland—Shopper's Souvenir.

One of the peculiar features in the great game of running down counterfeiters, which is imposed upon the United States secret service, developed yesterday when a bogus penny, dated 1902, was turned over to S. A. Connell, superintendent of the northwestern district of the service, by Meier & Frank.

Added interest is attached to the passing of the counterfeit penny by the fact that Mr. Connell was the secret service operative who six years ago ran down and convicted the gang of counterfeiters who manufactured the bogus 1902 one-cent pieces.

When the daring and subtle scheme of three New York pawn shop proprietors, who made the coins, was exposed, and two of them were sent to the penitentiary, every effort was made by the secret service to get possession of all the coins manufactured. Until yesterday, when the stray copper piece was turned over to Mr. Connell, it was supposed all had been obtained.

"In all probability," said Mr. Connell yesterday, "the lone penny was kept by someone as a keepsake, and in the rush of Christmas shopping was carelessly passed. Similar in every respect to those made by the New York counterfeiters, it is without doubt one of the bogus issue manufactured by them."

In the breaking up of the New York penny counterfeiting gang, which was the only one in the criminal history of the country to manufacture so small a coin as a one-cent piece, secret service operatives especially distinguished themselves. Two counterfeiters were sent to the penitentiary and one paroled.

Conceived by three New York pawnbrokers, the penny counterfeiting scheme was one of the boldest on record. I. Weiner, H. Shapiro and Joseph Fisher were the leaders. Each had a pawnshop in different districts of the New York ghetto.

In the basement of Shapiro's shop, tucked away in one of the lowest corners of the district, was installed an immense 50-ton press, such as is used by counterfeiters of coins of larger denomination. For months the work went on without suspicion being aroused.

Receiving its birth in the mind of Shapiro, during a usual weekly dearth of copper pieces in New York city, the scheme became a fact when Weiner and Fisher were admitted into the confidence of the first. The plan, as it was worked out, was to flood the ghetto with counterfeit pennies on Wednesday, Saturday and Monday, when copper pieces are always scarce. In that district of New York City many pennies are used daily in business, and especially on the three days of the week, Chinese laundrymen were in the majority in the list of the pawnbrokers' victims.

Steel dies were manufactured by the counterfeiters with the aid of new one-cent pieces, obtained direct from the mint. Fine steel dies were burned to a white heat, and a perfect impression of each side of the good penny secured.

Pure sheet copper was purchased for about 22 cents a pound, and out of each pound about 115 copper one-cent pieces made. Thousands of one-cent pieces, finished and tapered off by an original process, invented by Weiner, who was an expert mechanic, were manufactured daily by the three.

And one of the three days each week the market was flooded with the counterfeit pieces. Banks all over the city received the coins without question, clerks never thinking it would be possible to counterfeit one-cent pieces lucratively. Not until a secret service operative came across a bogus coin by chance was the counterfeiting scheme discovered.

The one-cent piece was the only counterfeit coin to turn up in Portland and in the northwestern district during

DETENTION HOME TO BE CHEERED

Pleasant Surroundings Will Add Moral Weight to Much Mooted Home.

Improved grounds, cheerful surroundings, gymnasium and playgrounds are to be supplied for the Fraser Detention Home, if plans now under way are worked out successfully. Within a short time those interested in the movement expect to have awakened sufficient interest to secure the appointment of a committee of business men to raise funds for the purpose indicated.

Several recent grand juries have taken whack at the detention home. Some of the criticism has been directed personally at the superintendent, but the friends of the home contend that irrespective of the personal equation the chief difficulty lies in the present bleakness of the exterior and the lack of playgrounds. The land was donated and the buildings and furnishings supplied by the county, but nothing else has been done. The home stands on an eminence at 221 Rosemont avenue, with ungraded grounds and unattractive appearance. But the site is one that can be improved to splendid advantage.

It is estimated that between \$3000 and \$4000 will be required to put the grounds in order and to build a gymnasium, which it is proposed to name Fraser memorial hall, in honor of the founder of juvenile court work in Oregon. Nothing more is expected from the county beyond the grading of the grounds. The money needed must be raised by popular subscription.

Newell, Gossett & Walsh, architects and engineers, have volunteered their services free of charge in laying out the grounds and preparing plans for the buildings. The playground plan will include the building and the gymnasium will include all the ordinary paraphernalia for healthful exercise.

The number of children at the home varies from 15 to 35. The average will, of course, increase as the city grows, and the friends of the home feel that the time is at hand to put the grounds and the gymnasium in such shape as to be a credit to the city. The home supplies a place not filled by other organizations, as it cares for the wards of the juvenile court and helps to lead the youngsters who are getting a wrong start in life in the right path. Many of the boys are returned to their own homes or placed on probation after a brief stay.

The Christmas season, when usually the makers of counterfeit money work with avidity, being comparatively certain to escape detection for the time being.

"Counterfeiting is becoming a past profession," declared Mr. Connell yesterday. "In every case of counterfeiting reported, the United States secret service of the treasury department has run down the criminals responsible. Alarmed by the persistency and energy of the secret service as a whole, criminals have turned to other lines of work."

"Baldy" criminals, who in former years went in for counterfeiting, have turned their attention to other work. Criminals, in the great majority, cannot be induced by any means to enter into a counterfeiting scheme. In a few years counterfeiting will be unknown."

WOULD HAVE COURSE IN AVIATION

(Publishers' Press Deated Wire.) Budapest, Dec. 25.—The members of the Budapest Academic Athletic and Football clubs are endeavoring to establish a chair of aviation at the Academy of Art. The professors of the Academy of Art are strongly in favor of the proposal.

The damaged masonry of a German railroad tunnel recently was repaired by injecting liquid cement under a pressure of 75 pounds to the square inch.

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