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Cottage Grove Leader

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EUGENE TO PORTLAND

Order Placed For The Ties for Road.

WILL TAP A RICH COUNTRY

Will Build From Eugene to Blue River and No Doubt to Cottage Grove.

Salem, Feb. 2.—The Portland, Eugene & Eastern electric railroad company, through its local representative, F. W. Waters, yesterday placed its first order for delivery of ties for the city system of electric street cars. The order calls for delivery and distribution within ten days. A similar franchise was granted at Albany and work will commence there the same time it is carried on here.

AN IMPORTANT LINE

The advent of this new line is another link in the great network of electric roads centering at the Capitol City. No road ever projected through the valley has the scope and importance of the Portland, Eugene & Eastern. As planned, it will not only give another line to the metropolis but will tap the upper valley clear through to Eugene and on into the great Blue River mining districts. The entire line under contemplation by this company will be about 200 miles long. Already a city system at Eugene and an extension from there to Springfield has been built and is in operation, at a cost of over \$100,000. The permanent surveys from Salem to Eugene have been made and the engineers are finishing profiles and maps of the field work. It is expected that the coming spring will see the city lines in Albany and Salem finished, when the work of connecting Salem with Eugene will be commenced. The route through the valley touches all important towns and will tap an immense territory for passenger and freight traffic. When finished, the new road, now partially built, will be one of the largest, most expensive and complete interurban lines ever projected in the state of Oregon. The line to Portland will either take the west side of the Willamette river or pass out east of

Salem and take in Silverton, Scotts Mills, Oregon City, and other points into Portland. It is estimated that the cost of this great electric system will exceed \$5,000,000.

A. WELCH ENTERPRISE.

A. Welch of Portland, is representing the capital behind this road, and is the same individual who secured the franchise for the present Oregon Electric line running into Salem. He is a man who "does things" as evidenced by his action when that franchise was granted to him. He promptly pushed the rights of way and started construction of that line in January 1906. Mr. Welch took out the franchise now held by the Portland, Eugene & Eastern company, in his own name, and recently assigned the same to the new company incorporated for that purpose. The new road will be rushed as rapidly as possible, under his direct supervision, he having heretofore released himself from the Oregon Electric interests for the purpose of undertaking this larger work for the Eugene & Eastern.

WEST HAS HAD ENOUGH RECOMMENDS T. K. CAMPBELL

Albany, Or., Feb. 2.—While making an address before the Linn County Council, Patrons of Husbandry, in this city yesterday, Oswald West declared he would not be a candidate at the election in 1910 to succeed himself as a member of the State Railroad Commission. He spoke in favor of the reelection of Commissioners Campbell and Aitchison at the coming election in June, but asserted he would not be a candidate when his own term expired.

REV. R. C. GRACE GOES TO CALIFORNIA

The following letter to the Leader from Rev. Grace, formerly of this city, is self explanatory:
Corveta, Okla., Jan. 30, 08.
Cottage Grove Leader:—You have been a welcome visitor to me and to my family, but if you still wish to come to see me you must come to Fort Bragg, California, as we start at once for the West. My health has failed here in Oklahoma. God bless you and your readers.
R. C. GRACE.

Last of the Series.

The Wilbur Starr Concert Co. will give their splendid musical entertainment at the Christian church Wednesday Feb. 12th. Their singing and instrumental work is unsurpassed and will please you beyond a doubt. Don't fail to hear this talented company.

GOVERNOR'S LIFE IS THREATENED

Cottage Grove Relatives or Friends of John Branton Would Force the Governor to Pardon Him.

Portland, Jan. 31.—A special dispatch to the Oregonian from Troutdale states as the east-bound Union Pacific train was leaving Portland depot tonight, Dr. Charles Chamberlain, son of Gov. George E. Chamberlain, was handed an anonymous letter demanding that his father pardon John Branton, now in the Oregon state penitentiary, before Feb. 20. It threatens that if the governor refuse he will meet the fate of Governor Stuenberg of Idaho, and former Sheriff Harvey K. Brown of Baker county.

Branton was sent to the state's prison from Cottage Grove for attempting to kill a man for his life insurance. A brother of Branton's was hanged at Eugene about 10 years ago. The letter is dated January 29, and post-marked Cottage Grove. Hand-writing on the envelope was a woman's. The letter was printed, and was a labored attempt to create the impression the writer was illiterate.

John Branton was sent to the penitentiary two years ago for trying to kill a man named Fletcher, near Cottage Grove.

Claude Branton, brother of John

tends to connect John Branton, prisoner in the Oregon penitentiary, with the authorship of the anonymous letter threatening the life of Governor Chamberlain, unless Branton is pardoned by Feb. 20. There is a strong belief here that Branton wrote the letter himself and that it was addressed and mailed in this city by Branton's 15 year old daughter, Blanch.

Blanch, the 15 year old daughter of John Branton, is attending school here, as is also her younger brother. Blanch is evidently in possession of more knowledge relative to this letter than she wishes to disclose. The letter written to Governor Chamberlain's son threatening his life, was sent to the post-office by Blanch Branton. She handed two letters to one of her schoolmates to mail last Thursday. One letter was addressed to Dr. Chas. Chamberlain, Portland, Or., and the other to her father, John Branton, Salem.

A reporter called on Blanch this evening and asked her for information relative to the threatening letter sent to Governor Chamberlain. She said: "I saw the report in the

envelope of the letter threatening the life of Governor Chamberlain leaves no doubt that the letter was sent by one of the daughters of John Branton. The prison authorities have in their possession envelopes addressed by one of Branton's children and the handwriting corresponds very closely with that on the threatening letter. As the letter itself was printed with a pencil, and not written, it is impossible to determine who inspired or wrote it. Governor Chamberlain will pay no attention to the letter and probably will take no steps toward punishing the person who sent it. He does not take the threat seriously, but like men who engage in other more or less dangerous occupations, he assumes this as one of the risks of Governorship. He is losing no sleep over it.

QUICKSILVER SMELTER AT BLACK BUTTE

G. B. Dennis has returned from Black Butte, where the fires were started for the first time last week in the 500-ton daily capacity quicksilver smelter which he and his brother own at that place, says the Spokane Review. As the furnace is new it will require three weeks to get it heated sufficient to treat ore. To heat it too quickly would endanger the walls, which are still green.

The ore from this mine is to be treated by a different process than is used by any other quicksilver mine in the world. The process is an invention of William Dennis, brother of G. B. Dennis, and one of the owners of the mine. It completely reverses the method of feeding fuel to the furnace fires, and has the merit of extracting practically all of the quicksilver from the ore, whereas none of the old process will extract more than 65 per cent.

Instead of the wood being laid at the bottom of the furnace and the smoke and flames rising through and above it, the fuel is placed at the top of the furnace and the flames are drawn down through it by currents of air induced by electric fans. This creates a wood gas, which ignites and is drawn into an adjoining compartment of the furnace where it passes through the ores, creating an intense heat. While the furnace is forty feet high and nearly as wide and has a capacity of four and one-half tons of wood at one time there is no smoke-stack. A vent for the non-combustible gas is open at one side of the furnace near the ground but not a particle of smoke can be seen to escape, showing that the combustion is perfect.

The new process was thoroughly tested on a twenty-ton furnace, but

WILL BOOM OREGON MINES

New Smelters For Coos and Josephine.

CONVENIENT FOR BOHEMIA

A Short, Easy and Cheap Haul From the Bohemia Mines Over to Tidewater.

The Alameda Mining Co. of Josephine county have let a contract to the Willamette Iron and Steel Co. of Portland, for a one hundred ton smelter of the latest design. This smelter will cost \$60,000 and will be a water jacket, copper converter and will treat the ores of Galice creek. This is the second smelter for Southern Oregon. As soon as the Drain-Marshfield branch of the Southern Pacific is completed a smelter for treating Bohemia concentrates and ores will be built at or near Marshfield. It will be built there in order to do away with the fumes and also to get cheap coal and cheap rates on coke and fluxing ores from other districts. The distance from Cottage Grove to the Tacoma smelter is about 270 miles as against 88 to Marshfield or North Bend, while, if the smelter is located at Gardner it would shorten this route by 25 miles.

while the capacity of the smelter was sufficient to prove the scientific principle correct, the economy of it was not established, hence the larger smelter is something of an experiment.

Work in the quicksilver mine has been in progress for about six years and \$400,000 has been expended in its development. It has not been a big financial success under the old smelter process. A shaft has been sunk 1700 feet and a drift started on every 100 foot level. Mr. Dennis says that 1,000,000 tons of ore are blocked out. Sixty men are employed at the mine.

This mine is located 18 miles south-east of Cottage Grove.

SEED POTATOES.

A fine lot of Burbank seed potatoes for sale. Apply to Beidler Bros. Cottage Grove, Oregon.
42-8*

Leader in New Quarters

The Leader was issued this week from its commodious new quarters on the corner of Main and Fourth streets opposite the Oregon Hotel and First National Bank. The new home of the Leader is 26x70 feet, has two stories, is well lighted and makes one of the best arranged and most convenient country printing offices to be found in the state.

The plant has also been greatly improved by the addition of new job type, and a 2-horse power electric motor drives the presses and greatly increases the printing capacity of the office. The Cottage Grove Leader with its new office and equipment and its improved news service, can consistently boast of being one of the best country papers in its class now published in the state.

The Leader invites its readers and many friends to visit it in its new home.

Branton, now in the state penitentiary, was executed in Eugene in May, 1898, by Sheriff Withers, for the murder of a man named Linn. Linn, Branton and a third man were bringing some cattle across the Cascades. Linn had some money, which Branton coveted. He killed Linn and cremated the body in campfire. His fellow conspirators confessed and when Branton, unsuspectingly returned to Eugene, he was arrested.

THE BRANTON LETTER.

Portland, Or.—Dr. Charles Chamberlain, sir. You are hereby notified to have your father to pardon John Branton out of the penitentiary and you keep this secret between yourself and father and don't let Branton know anything of this. He is a good man and is innocent of any crime. He was convicted on perjured evidence and in a pre-udic court. And we demand his pardon by the 20th of February this year. If this is not granted you and your father will both of you be death with the same as Stuenberg and Brown were. We don't want to kill any one but it is no worse to kill a man than it is keep a innocent man in prison. Anyway from his helpless little children. So you take warning and save yourselves and let Branton go to his children. We mean just what we say.

COMITY ON JUSTICE.

MORE ABOUT THE LETTER. The following from Cottage Grove appeared in Tuesday's Oregonian: Cottage Grove, Feb. 3.—Evidence has been uncovered here, which

papers, and that is all I know about it."

Asked if she sent the letter to mail by one of her schoolmates, she replied, "Yes, it was handed me to mail and that is all I know about it."

"Who handed you the letter?"

"I don't know."

"Where did the letter come from?"

"I don't know anything about it."

She was told that it was only in justice to herself that she tell all she knew about it, but she firmly declared that that was all she knew and could not honestly tell any more. The inference is drawn that her father is the author of the letter or some member of the Branton family sent her to mail it, and her attitude is only to shield the author of the letter.

Blanch has been attending the public school here for a number of years and she is an exceptionally bright and industrious girl and is held in as high regard as any girl could be under the existing conditions.

It is the general opinion that Branton is the author of the letter, as its makeup spelling and sentences seem to correspond with his other famous letter writing. There are few if any sympathizers of Branton around here, and people were surprised to learn that he was allowed so much liberty as a trusty at the penitentiary.

GOVERNOR IS NOT WORRIED. Salem, Or., Feb. 3.—Examination of the handwriting on the en-

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