

## PETITION MEETS WITH FAVOR

IMPROVEMENT OF STREETS IS OCCUPYING ATTENTION HERE JUST NOW

Independence Invites Settlers and Affords Greater Opportunities Than Other Cities in the Valley

Vast progress has been made during the last decade in the construction of pavements in cities of the west. Time was, and not very long ago at that, when wood and stone constituted much of the hard surface pavement in large cities, and this was unknown in smaller towns. How to get good streets at a little expense has long been a puzzle to towns in Oregon, and very recently an ingenious fellow solved the problem, and not only has it been put into practice in Portland and cities of that size, but the smaller towns are adopting this means of civic improvement with a large degree of satisfaction.

Independence, which has long been dormant in her street improvements, has awakened to the necessity of reform along this line and will pave the business portion of Main, Mainmouth and C. streets early in the summer. Petitions circulated among the property owners on Main street last week received almost unanimous endorsement and it has practically been definitely decided to begin work within a few weeks. By the time Main street is finished arrangements will have been made to improve the condition of the other streets named, in the same substantial manner. This is the beginning of a great and prosperous summer for Independence, and means more than the average property owners can comprehend at this time.

Besides the improvement of the streets, plans are being made to put the canning and packing factory in operation. The new ice plant is being installed at the creamery and other necessary machinery to equip the plant sufficient to meet all demands. The large lumbering enterprise of the Spaulding Logging Co. is busy filling orders for new homes to be erected in and near Independence some time during the early spring. Probably greater efforts along this line have never been made in this city, and never have greater results been accomplished than will be during the summer.

Independence is surrounded by the richest farming section of Oregon; its excellent shipping facilities have established a market for a vast territory, and it is destined to become one of the leading cities of the Willamette valley. To the people who are coming to Oregon in pursuit of a home, in behalf of The Independence Commercial Club and the city in general, The Enterprise invites you to come to Independence and investigate, and locate. We can offer cheaper homes and cheaper farm lands, location and improvements considered, than any other city in the west. Thousands of people are in Oregon today who were not here prior to March 1st, when the low railroad rates from the east went into effect. Many of them can find homes and business opportunities here. Come and you will be given a cordial welcome.

Although we have here so much development, and so prosperous a community, the country is in its infancy. The manufacturing possibilities have hardly been touched. There is a pressing need for many manufacturing industries, chief among which is a saw mill to take the place of the one consumed by fire recently, and present appearances indicate that this is not going to be long coming. Just now, when home seekers are floating around the country, is the time for the Commercial Club to get busy and let the stranger know that In-

dependence is not only on the map, but that it is one of the best towns in the valley; that there are undeveloped opportunities here awaiting capital and energy; that they are welcome here and that the business men of this city are anxious to assist every business enterprise established here. Let them know of our schools and our churches, and of all the good that goes to make a comfortable and happy home town.

### A FREAK EGG

Snyder's Hens Lay Eggs With Long Handles

Strange things have happened at the Snyder Poultry Ranch a little way across the bridge in old town. A couple of weeks ago, after the Enterprise came out with a long article about the abundance of green grass in the country affording good pasture for stock, one of his cows made a hog of itself and nearly died from having eaten too much. Again last week, after we published an article on the poultry industry in Oregon, his hens endeavored to start something different in the production of hen fruit, and the Elder found an egg in a nest which had a well developed handle on one end no larger in circumference than a lead pencil, and not over six inches in length.

There has been so much said about China of late that it will be no great surprise if those fool hens of Snyder's get to laying China eggs.

### BRUSH HEAP SAVES HINKLE

Automobilist Loses Control of Machine, Which Crashes Through Rail Fence

H. J. Hinkle of Portland, travels under the same lucky star that keeps Hank Peterson unharmed. Hinkle is an automobilist, and yesterday he was scooting along the road near Jefferson when something happened to the steering gear of his machine and it struck out for the rail fence along the road. He leaped into the back seats of the auto and escaped any damage going through the fence, while rails flew thick and fast.

But the machine was not stopped. It tried to climb a tree and struck it with a fearful impact, and Hinkle was hurled twenty feet into the air and landed on a pile of brush, un-  
and.

### BIG ASSET TO OREGON

That the colonist immigration now sweeping over the Northwest is an asset to Oregon that can be estimated in dollars and cents is the opinion of publicity workers in Portland who claim that the present month of low rates will bring an investing power of not less than \$6,000,000 to this state alone. It is estimated that the number of people coming to Oregon during the period of cheap rates will not be less than 30,000 and that one in five is the head of a family and as such is worth \$1,000 to the state.

Supposing the Commercial Club would make an effort to locate say 50 of these families in Independence and vicinity, according to the estimate, the assets of Independence would be increased \$50,000. Now is the time to move if we expect to accomplish very much from this source.

### INJURED WHILE PLOWING

Geo. Shaffer Meets With Accident Which Renders Him Helpless

Geo. Shaffer, while plowing in his field Monday, became mixed up in some difficulty with his horses, and was thrown against the plow handle with sufficient force to inflict a serious wound. He was in such a condition that the services of a physician were necessary to relieve his suffering. Just how the accident happened we could not learn, but he was in some manner thrown against the plow handle which penetrated his groin, rendering him in a helpless condition.

## ANOTHER MAN GOES CRAZY

HARRISBURG MAN TAKEN TO DALLAS VIOLENTLY INSANE

Adjudged Insane by Authorities at the County Seat and Committed to the Asylum at Salem

Laboring under the hallucination that he was being pursued by enemies a man by the name of Barney Carr from Harrisburg, was taken in custody by the city marshal Monday, at the Independence hotel and conveyed to Dallas on the first train where he was adjudged insane and committed to the asylum at Salem.

Carr, it is said, has been in the city for more than a week. He did not seem to be employed in any way, and was supposed to be a housekeeper looking for a location. He has money and was comparatively well dressed, indicating that he was not wanting for worldly goods. He had but little to say to persons and seemed melancholy. He retired at the hotel Monday evening at the usual hour and nothing was thought of the strange character until early the next morning when occupants of neighboring rooms were awakened by yells and screams from the insane man. The marshal was called and took the party away. While going to Dallas he seemed under the impression that he was going to prosecute the evil men who were pursuing him. He imagined that the roof of the hotel building had opened during the night and that men with guns were gaining entrance to his room by means of the opening. He gave every appearance of one suffering from excessive use of some drug. He was not known to have drunk much while in Independence and no cause can be given for his insanity.

Carr carried a check book on the Harrisburg bank and is said to have had some money on deposit in that institution, but aside from this little is known of him.

Carr ate only two or three meals while staying at the hotel here. He would remain in bed nearly all day and got up at eight or nine in the evening and walked around the streets.

The "at home" given by the Reading Club at the library on Friday, March 17, was socially and financially successful. It was the second anniversary of the founding of the public library and the management heartily appreciate the good will and cooperative spirit shown by our citizens.

Jes. Scrafford of Walla Walla, Wash., has located in Independence.

### MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

Team Runs Away and Seriously Injures one Lady

Mrs. Kesper, a lady living in what is known as the Soap Creek neighborhood not far from this city, met with a serious accident Sunday in which she sustained a fracture of the ankle bone. Dr. Butler reduced the fracture and she is improving as rapidly as could be expected under the painful circumstances.

Mrs. Kesper was riding behind a team driven by Mrs. Thurson. The vehicle contained several women and children and as they were going down a steep incline in the road some part of the harness gave out and frightened the horses. All of the occupants were thrown out upon the ground, but no one was injured except Mrs. Kesper. Mrs. Thurson manifested unusual pluck by hanging onto the reins until the frightened horses were compelled to stop. Persons familiar with the conditions say it is nothing more than a miracle that every occupant of the carriage was not killed. Dragging on the ground for several rods Mrs. Thurson clung to the reins until she forced the horses to stop.

### CRIMINAL BORN IN POLK

Mrs. Inez D. Peterson, Held in Jail at San Francisco, Was a Resident of this County.

Mrs. Inez D. Peterson, who is being held in jail at San Francisco to answer to the Superior Court on a charge of forgery in having signed the name of Mrs. Henrietta Farrell, a wealthy widow of Oakland, Cal., to a note and mortgag for \$1000, is a former resident of this vicinity, having been born and reared five miles south of this city near Buena Vista, and is well known by many of the older residents of this vicinity. Her maiden name was Inez Davidson. Her mother, who was recently married to a second husband, a now living at the little town of Tangent, in Linn County.

Mrs. Inez (Davidson) Peterson is being held without bail until her case can be heard in the higher court of the southern state. She is recognized by the courts of California as a dangerous criminal. Her bail was fixed at \$10,000, which she was unable to furnish.

Mrs. Peterson will be remembered by some of the older Oregonians as the party who attempted to blackmail Senator H. W. Corbett several years ago for the sum of \$100,000, but apparently few people in this city are cognizant of the fact that the now renowned criminal of California, was at one time a resident of this vicinity. She grew to womanhood here and went to Portland, where she was married to a man by the name of Peterson, and at that place is where her criminal record started.

## FAMILY FEUD AT BUENA VISTA

ACCUSED WITH ASSAULT WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON

Mrs. Steel Makes Complaint Before Prosecuting Attorney—Case Settled out of Court

According to reports current in this city a sensational affray was started Monday at the usually quiet little town of Buena Vista and Wm. Steele is said to have been the star actor.

From the best information that can be obtained the commencement of the trouble dates back some time. It seems that Mr. Steel and his wife are occupying two houses on the same ranch. It is alleged that the head of the Steel family entered his wife's apartment Monday, after having taken on considerable strong drink, and started a warm war of words. The son stepped into the room to intercede in his mother's behalf, whereupon the erring spouse drew a gun and made all manner of threats.

Mrs. Steel came to this city and interviewed Attorney Swope, who advised her to go before the prosecuting attorney at Dallas and make complaint, which she did. Steel was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, but it is understood that the matter has since been settled out of court and the case will not be prosecuted by the plaintiff if the husband and father makes his conduct in the future more edorable.

Mrs. Steel, however, has brought another action against her husband in Marion county circuit court to recover a deed for a certain tract of land on the east side of the Willamette river in Marion county. In the complaint she alleges that her husband imprisoned her in her own house by force of firearms and compelled her to sign a deed giving away one-half of her property or lose her life, and she asks to have the deed adjudged null and void by the court and her property restored to her. Mrs. Steel claims that Steel threatened her life and continued to keep her a prisoner in her own home for weeks in the effort to secure the right to one-half of the property located across the river from Buena Vista. Through fright caused by the alleged violent action of her husband Mrs. Steel claims she signed the deed and gained liberty.

According to statements of those familiar with the history of the Steel family, trouble has been in progress in that household for some time, and upon previous occasions the man has mistreated members of his family.

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