

The Independence Enterprise

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KREBS HOP YARD SOLD FOR CASH

Largest Hop Farm in the World Sold at Independence for Nearly \$200 an Acre.

Property Was Transferred Monday By John Carmichael of Salem, to Eastern Hop Company.

Probably the greatest real estate deal ever made in this vicinity, and one involving more money than any ever placed on record, was consummated Monday when the Krebs hop yard located a few miles south of this city, was sold to John Carmichael of Salem.

The consideration is said to have been \$130,000 and the amount was paid over in cash when the necessary papers, assigning the property to the new owner, were made out.

While it has not been definitely stated who the property was assigned to, it is understood that Wigan, Richardson & Co. of London, England, of which Mr. Carmichael is local representative, are the purchasers of the valuable property.

The yard contains 653 acres and is the largest hop ranch in the world. It is a valuable property and the price paid for the same, nearly \$200 an acre is regarded comparatively cheap considering the valuation.

The yard has been owned and conducted by Krebs Brothers for a number of years and each season approximately 3000 people are employed to harvest the crop. In addition to the number of people who inhabit the farm as employees during the hop harvest there are many others engaged in different branches of business and for six weeks or two months the southern rural district tributary to Independence is transformed into a prosperous and thrifty city of several thousand inhabitants where stores, bake shops, meat markets and places of amusement of various kinds and descriptions are maintained. Thousands of dollars are annually distributed among laboring people as a result of this great enterprise.

Several weeks ago the affairs of the yard passed into the hands of the Ladd & Bush bank of Salem to satisfy a mortgage, but Krebs Brothers, it is said, still had the right to dispose of the property if they could find an opportunity, and it seems they did. It is understood that negotiations for the large holding have been in progress for some time past.

Wigan, Richardson & Co. is one of the largest hop firms in the world, selling to the market in Germany and other European countries where hops are in much demand, and now they own the largest hop yard in the world, located at Independence, Oregon.

J. A. McCorkle of Salem, has been placed in charge of the farm and he arrived here Tuesday to formulate plans for the season's work.

Dante's Inferno

Dante's imaginary view of hell was shown at the Star theater Friday afternoon and evening and it was witnessed by a large number of people. The entertainment was wonderfully interesting and startling in its vividness in description of the men who sin against the laws of God. Certainly the author of that work was a man of strong imagination.

Messrs. Nelson & Henkle are giving a clever class of entertainments at the Star and their efforts to please their patrons are successful, as can be seen by the large crowds in attendance every night. The room was inadequate to accommodate the people Friday evening. They have the best equipment for the motion pictures and keep abreast with the times in the presentation of the latest films.

Teacher Engaged

Miss Kora E. Browne, who has been spending her vacation in the city, returned to Lyons Saturday to resume her work. While at home she was Crowley will teach the first grade of the Independence school and will resign her position at Lyons, the resignation taking effect February 1st when she will return to Independence. In the meantime Mrs. Wilson expects to go to Idaho this week to look over a business proposition. If it is satisfactory Mr. Wilson will move his family there.

RECOMMENDS PAVEMENTS

Coming Year to Be one of the Best in the Entire History of Independence.

Upon assuming the office of Mayor last week, Mr. Eldridge, in his message to the council, bears out the same industrious spirit he has always maintained in conducting his own business, and from all appearances the coming year is going to be one of the best in the city's history so far as civic improvements are concerned. Among the most important things that Mr. Eldridge recommends are municipal water works, extension of city limits, street paving improvements, establishment of street grades, and examination of bills and claims against the city before they are allowed. This all goes to show that the affairs of the city will be conducted along economical lines, and that there is going to be a progressive movement on the part of the mayor and the city council in the way of improvement of all civic conditions.

With the great advancement the city has experienced since the establishment of a sewer system and the pavement of business streets it can readily be seen that Independence is going to the front with wonderful rapidity under the present administration. The council are to be congratulated upon securing men of ability and sound business judgment to handle the affairs of the city.

UNIVERSITY DEBATES

Management Adopts New Plan To Arouse Interest.

Last year the University of Oregon won all its inter-collegiate debates except the one with the University of Utah, and ever since that date the Oregon shouters have been planning revenge with Utah.

The debaters, under coach Ray Johnson, have been working steadily and earnestly. Now that football season is over, and the time of the debates approaches, added interest is being taken. Try-outs have been held and the following men have been chosen to represent Oregon against their rival universities: A. J. Jones of Newberg, and P. C. Crockett of Pendleton, will endeavor to lower the colors of Utah on February 23, by proving that Judicial Reel is right and incidentally blot out last year's defeat.

With the strong force of debaters named for the contest the Oregon University supporters can not but feel confident that they have a fine chance of winning at least a majority of the contests.

It has always been very hard for the student managers to create enough enthusiasm to insure a crowd large enough to make debating financially profitable, but Graduate Manager Gray has proposed a plan which will probably be adopted. He proposes to utilize leap year, 1912, and by giving the Oregon student something more novel and pleasant than they are accustomed to, by having leap year dances in connection with the debates and allowing one ticket to admit its possessor to both affairs. It is certain that this will prove inviting to the students and, at the same time, profitable to the managers.

Purchased Blacksmith Shop

A. W. Russell of Molalla, purchased C. E. Williams' blacksmith shop on South Main street recently, and Mr. Williams has purchased a half interest in the Jim Hilliard shop.

Mr. Russell owns a machine shop in Molalla and will move the machinery here in the spring and open a machine shop where he will be equipped to do all kinds of machine work.

Unexpectedly Departed

T. J. Stanberry of Los Angeles, Cal., who has been spending a few weeks at the home of his sister-in-law Mrs. M. E. Stanberry, took his departure for the sunny south on the 2:45 train Sunday. His departure was almost as unexpected as his appearance.

F. A. Wilson expects to go to Idaho this week to look over a business proposition. If it is satisfactory Mr. Wilson will move his family there.

SILVER THAW IS QUITE GENERAL

Snow, Freeze and Rain Handicaps Business Slightly in the Valley.

Grain Has Not Been Injured by The Cold, and Fall Plowing Is Benefited.

Portland is not alone in suffering from the effects of a "silver thaw." This entire section of the Willamette Valley has experienced the most inclement weather conditions that have been felt in the country for a number of years, and the past week will go down in history as the most severe that has been experienced for a long time. This part of the valley has perhaps suffered less from the freezing snow and rain, but it has been unpleasant enough in Independence. Rain and snow have fallen for several days and the Willamette river has reached high water mark here and is still on a rampage. No great damage has resulted but conditions look threatening at present, and unless there is a change within a few hours there will be considerable loss of property along the river bottoms.

The telephone service has been hindered a little on account of the ice and sleet, but for the most part communication has been maintained except at points on the east side. The ferry boat has been out of service for a few days on account of the high water and traffic suspended. This caused a full in business to some extent, but it is probably only temporary. In one or two instances the people living along the river bank were obliged to vacate for fear of loss of life by a flood.

The icy streets in the paved district made it difficult for horses to travel Monday, but this lasted only a few hours as the south wind and rain soon melted the ice.

The snow fall in this immediate vicinity has been comparatively light as compared to other sections of the valley. At Black Rock it is said that snow fell to the depth of six feet. This being the case there is likely to be higher water in the river if the warm rain continues.

Farmers in this section, as a rule, are not troubled about the cold weather. Grain has changed color little, but it is said that no damage has resulted from the freeze, and the fall plowing will be benefitted.

Moss Nearly Fainted

Sam Irvine, W. Percival, Hank Mattison, Moss Walker, Chet Long, Nute Jones, and J. E. Hubbard attended the auction sale at the Bevins farm last Saturday. Moss Walker is now convinced that it was a better day for ducks than it was for auction sales. He made a purchase of several fine chickens, a few of which he had intended to send to his mother on account of the excellent breeding, but he failed in this, as the Chink at the hotel is not a judge of standard bred fowls and put them on for dinner. As illness rated by the hotel caroliner, Moss nearly fainted as he learned of his misfortune.

W. R. C. Meets

General Gibson W. R. C. held their annual installation of officers on Saturday, Jan. 6. The following officers were installed:—Pres. Mrs. M. E. Feltzer; S. V. Pres. Mrs. Esther Morgan; J. V. Pres. Mrs. Ida Phillips; Sec. Mrs. Eliza Ewing; Treas. Miss L. M. Ewing; Com. Mrs. Sarah Jarvis; Guard, Mrs. Lydia Howard; Asst. Guard, Mrs. Jessie Skinner; Miss Lorna M. Ewing was installing officer.

Eliza Ewing Secretary.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Independence National Bank, held Tuesday, H. Hirschberg was re-elected president, D. W. Sears, vice president, and C. W. Irvine, re-elected cashier. Messrs. DeArmon Heath and Mix were chosen as bookkeepers.

Elmer Metzger has his houses up and enclosed a ditch commenced the work of finishing. He has recently erected two houses on Fourth street.

INDEPENDENCE SCHOOLS GROW

Report of Co. Superintendent Shows Great Increase in School Attendance.

Number of Tenement Houses Insufficient to Accommodate Residents of This City.

According to a report just filed in the office of county superintendent of schools, H. C. Seymours, there has been a gain in the number of school children in the county of nearly nine per cent. The number, according to figures shown in the report, has increased 437 during the year 1911.

The increase has been extremely large in the Independence schools, the present crowded condition having given the board of directors reason to make a move in the direction of employing another teacher.

From the number of pupils enrolled in the Independence schools it is evident that the population of the city has increased by more than 300 since the last government census was completed.

This crowded condition is not alone in the schools. The residence districts are overtaxed and everything in the shape and form of a house is occupied. A family is occupying an old store building on C Street. Office rooms over the business houses are being used for places of residence. The Spaulding Logging Company's office building near the ferry landing is occupied by a family, and another family is living in a tent on the bank of the river.

One or two families that we know of located in Monmouth for the winter because there were no houses to be obtained in Independence.

If there is one thing more than another in which Independence is negligent it is in providing these requisites to increase the population. Several new houses have been erected during the past few months, but these were occupied as soon as completed and today the city does not afford a sufficient number of residences to meet the demand and provide comfort for those living here.

The nominal rate of taxation in the city, as compared to other places in the state, ought to be an inducement for monied men of Independence to make investments.

Oregon Power Co. Makes Change.

The Oregon Power Co. wishes to announce to its patrons that commencing Feb. 1st, 1912, it will put into effect a system of postal card billing for its residence consumers, both light and water, and respectfully request consumers to pay the bills at the Independence National Bank, where arrangements have been made for the handling of same. It was originally intended to handle these new bills at the office of the Oregon Power Co., located at the south end of Main St., but realizing this would inconvenience their customers to a certain extent, especially those living in the north end of town, they have now arranged with the bank for their collections. This arrangement will provide a more central location.

A. L. Porter of Falls City, in company with a party of surveyors, was in the city the fore part of the week. It is understood that they were surveying for a proposed line of railroad from the Falls City timber belt to this city, the proposed road to be completed by the Falls City Lumber Co. in the event that their mill is established in Independence.

I am prepared to give musical instruction, both vocal and instrumental. Terms 50 cents per lesson. Persons desiring to receive musical instruction please make application to Miss Beula Lynch, at the home of Mrs. Baldwin. Home phone 5311. 32 p-36.

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. McElmurry visited in Lebanon from Friday until Tuesday. They report business lively in the thriving Linn county city. Clayton Bowers of Ashland is in the city looking after his interests.

C. W. Tharp, who has been living in Portland for several years, has returned to Independence and will make his home here indefinitely.

Poultrymen Meet

The Polk County Poultry Show held at Dallas last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is said to have been the most successful meeting in every detail that the association has ever held. Independence was represented by the leading poultry growers of this vicinity and one of them remarked in the presence of an Enterprise representative that he saw the finest collection of birds at Dallas that he had ever seen upon a like occasion. Several sales were made at good prices, and numerous orders were placed for hatching purposes.

An effort is being made to have the next annual meeting held in this city and from what can be learned there seems to be little doubt about Independence being selected as the next place of meeting.

Car Turns Over

A couple of men from Dallas, whose names we did not learn, experienced rather an exciting wreck a short distance north of the city Thursday afternoon while enroute to Salem. They are said to have contained a sufficient amount of "booze" to make them careless and running at a rapid rate of speed, the machine slipped when it reached a place in the road where improvements had just been made and the occupants were thrown out in the mud while the car lodged against a stump. Had it not been for this it might have been going yet. One of the victims was quite seriously injured. They were brought back to the city for repairs and Lee Whitcomb was sent out after the machine. While it was a narrow escape, it is understood that nothing serious resulted.

High Taxes Predicted

According to all accounts of the state and county's financial condition taxes are going to be high this year. It is predicted that the state taxes will be doubled as compared to last year and the county taxes will be increased by reason of larger demands made from various sources, chief of which will be the needs of the schools. It will be gratifying to Independence taxpayers, however, to learn that the city tax is four mills less than they have been for some time.

Residence Burns

The farm house of Ennis Waitt, near Sidney, a little town southeast of here on the Marion county side of the river, was consumed by fire on Wednesday night of last week, together with the contents. No insurance was carried and the total loss is said to be approximately one thousand dollars.

Independence Defeated

The Independence High School basketball team was defeated in a game Saturday night, with the Newberg team, the score being 32 to 9. The Athletic Club also took defeat at Salem in a game with the Capital business college.

Notice to Swine Breeders

Registered Poland China boar, Billy Bumper, No. 175031, for service at my farm. Billy Bumper was sired by Silver Tip No. 147393; Dam, Peach Blossom No. 344930, and was bred by Fred Mosler, October 18, 1910, and sold to Thos. Brunk, Salem, Oregon, Jan. 20, 1911. Transferred to H. Lalaberty, Independence, Oregon, March 13, 1911. This is one of the best boars in the state of Oregon and is at your service at my farm, the Merwin hop farm, Independence, Oregon. H. Lalaberty

J. M. McCaleb, photographer

Photographs copied and enlarged in all grades. Viewing, Developing and Finishing for amateurs. Enlarging from original negatives a specialty.

J. M. McCaleb, Photographer, Both Phones C Street INDEPENDENCE, OREGON

MAY GET A NEW LUMBERING MILL

Independence Should Give the New Project Her Most Hearty Encouragement.

With a view of selecting a site for a saw mill in Independence, three representatives of the Falls City Lumber Company, Messrs. Becher, Cobb and Greir, came down from Falls City Tuesday to look over the different mill sites in this city. They were entertained by a committee from the commercial club in the office of the secretary, and after discussing their proposition at some length the gentlemen were escorted to the different localities that can be obtained to establish a saw mill upon. They were delighted with the outlook and the encouragement received from the different business men of the city. While nothing definite can be given out at this time we are led to believe that Independence will be the location of that company's mills in the near future.

This city, without a doubt, affords one of the most favorable sites for a saw mill that can be found anywhere along the river front, and that Independence is in need of a manufacturing enterprise which will afford a pay roll, goes without saying. And while the opportunity seems to be waiting, let us give this proposition our most hearty encouragement.

The committee reports finding these gentlemen very business-like and ready to give us further consideration as soon as they have developed their plans more fully, or sufficiently to give out a definite and detailed statement. It could be seen from their very appearance that they were much interested in what Independence had advanced in the way of encouragement, and the location is beyond question satisfactory. From this it is very apparent that they will formulate their plans as soon as possible in a manner that will give this city an industry which we may be proud of.

It is up to Independence to throw open her doors to this proposition and give it her most hearty cooperation. With the excellent shipping facilities afforded, there is no better location for a saw mill in the Willamette Valley. The chief obstacle that seems to confront the instigators of the project is the matter of transporting the raw material from stump to mill, but this can be overcome, and right here is where the business men and citizens of Independence can assist wonderfully.

When we take into consideration what mills and other factories have done and are doing for other cities in Oregon, it would seem that this proposition ought to have the encouragement of every man in Independence, and we believe it will have. Lumbering in Oregon is yet in its infancy. There is a sufficient amount of timber tributary to Independence to last at least thirty years, so we are told, and the cost of building a railroad to this city for the transportation of the same will not be enormous. Then is it not important that every business man lend a hand to this new enterprise? The town can well afford to give the company a right of way from their timber belt to this city as an inducement to establish their mill here, but this has not been asked.

The representatives of the company will confer later with the commercial club committee and it is presumed that an effort will soon be under way to locate their mill here. The mill has a capacity of 100,000 feet of lumber per day. The pay roll afforded by an enterprise of that capacity would mean much to our city.