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AND WEST SIDE.

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\$10,000,000 TRUST.

A History of the Founder of the New Corporation.

The organizer of the People's Home Building, Employment & Investment Association sat in the steaming interior of a big tent on the corner Seventh and Everett yesterday talking to several interested workmen. Mr. C. F. Keller is a hale and prosperous looking man of genial countenance. His blue eyes steadiest into seriousness when he summed up his mission. "I am backing the under-dog," he said. And his whole life has been consistently tending toward his present attitude.

C. F. Keller was born in Lock Haven, a town in the very center of the manufacturing section of Pennsylvania. His father was a butcher and this trade young Keller learned thoroughly. His education he received from the public schools and from "rubbing up against people," as he put it.

"In 1864, in the month of February," Mr. Keller continued, "I joined the Seventh Pennsylvania Calvary. That I have to confess was more of a frolic than anything else, but I served through the war. Then I went to California by way of the isthmus, landing in San Francisco in 1866. The first thing I did after I got off the steamer was to buy four glasses of beer and for that beer I paid a \$1 greenback. That satisfied my thirst. Then I went directly to San Bernardino, the worst place in the state. It was absolutely without ready cash, for the store-check system was in vogue. I took a contract for building a sawmill dam and with the money went to Los Angeles and tried to operate a brewery. My partner had the experience and I put up the money. When my partner had got my \$1000, which was pretty soon, I left that business. In those days I was a red-hot Republican—none hotter. Why, I cast my first vote for Abe Lincoln at the age of 18.

"Well, after I lost the money in the beer business I went to ranching in Santa Barbara and in 1870 and 1871 that was good business. It was all home consumption and I got as high as 3 cents a pound for my barley. Then I tried Russian River until the Spring of '76. By that time I was married and so went back to Centennial and spent a year in old Pennsylvania.

"Here it was," Mr. Keller asserted, "that I got my first eye opener. It was the time of the Tilden Hayes campaign and I never in all my life saw business more stagnant. The railroad employees are working in four-hour shifts at half the usual pay. I figured that the laborer should not be affected by political conditions to that extent and I saw that the capitalists were using their influence to alter market conditions by political movements. Why, Clinton county, where I was born and raised, could not even pay the state tax. I wouldn't have taken the biggest farm in the state to stay. I wasn't clear awake, though, for I voted for Hayes.

After this he returned to California and found that '77 was a dry year in the lower part of the state. So he went to Eureka. His exper-



THE INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, One of the best structures in Polk County.

ience while instructive. Mr. Keller considered anything but pleasant. "When we were within hailing distance of the wharf the jam of men on it yelled with all their lungs. 'Fresh fish.' The poor devils had come just as I had and were stranded there without a cent. Those that could went back, but I'm not that kind. I bought land and ranched it from '77 to '79. Then I returned to the town of Eureka and opened a meat market. During this time my ideas took shape. I read Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty' I began to agitate. I worked under the Liberal League, though we changed the war cry from opposition to religion to greenbacks. Yes, sir, I was a Greenbacker. Now, in those days, Denis Kearney and the sandloters were advocating Chinese exclusion. I never did believe in that sort of business and I don't now. What I work for is the enfranchisement of labor. It's not the man that is at fault but the system. I helped organize the International Workman's League. Among the San Francisco unions that I organized were the tinsmiths, the plumbers and the sailors.

At this time Mr. Keller also tried the scheme that was tried before in the famous Brook Farm, immortalized by Emerson and Hawthorne. He described this attempt with a good deal of feeling against the forces that rendered it abortive. "It was a sort of commune," he remarked, reminiscently. "I had discovered and surveyed a forest out in Tulare county. Fifty-six of us started the Kaweah colony. Kaweah means 'here we rest.' We took up a quarter-section of land and worked it with the idea of dividing the proceeds equally. I was manager of the enterprise, and we cut timber and built a road 18 miles long from the valley into our forest. Then we secured right of way for two railroads from Tulare City. The farmers all promised us \$1 an acre for all land within five miles of the road, and we were just going to be prosperous. They held a big ratification meeting full of good California enthusiasm. A week after congress passed an act setting aside our

lands for a national park. This dropped our bubble—bursting it wide open. We kicked and the soldiers put us off the place. This was in 1888, and the case is still hanging fire in congress.

"When we were run out of Kaweah we accepted the invitation of the Government Land Office and took up homesteads. We spent \$20,000 on improvements, built a little city and were booming once more. Well, sir, the Southern Pacific one day stepped in and took our whole outfit up as lieu land. You see the railroad gets every other section for so many miles on either side of the right of way, but with the provision that any sections previously held by good title shall be made up to them out of the next 10 miles. Ours was the next 10 miles, and while we had our patents from the United States, it did us no good. We were informed that the United States guaranteed no titles under patents. That decision knocked out 236 settlers, and the only recompense was a paltry \$200 on each homestead from the government. I wasn't half so good a republican after that as I had been before.

"In 1891 I vacated the land and spent a year in San Francisco. I farmed in Contra Costa three years, in Santa Cruz three years, and ran a bakery in San Jose. Three dry years put all the farmers in California out at the elbows, and we came to Oregon. I am living now in Tillamook, which is a mighty prosperous place. The laborers there are not yet divorced from their tools and they have no kick coming."

From 1892 until 1899 Mr. Keller held a position from the Knights of Labor and was a very active organizer. Now he is promoting the People's Home-Building, Employment & Investment Company, which is incorporated with a possible capital of \$10,000,000. When some surprise was shown at the size of this figure it was explained that it was a trust. To this perfectly satisfactory explanation Mr. Keller kindly added: "I am a little different crank from the rest. I believe in trustifying labor, in making the laboring man his own

employer. Trusts are a beneficent institution and the man who tries to fight them is silly. Labor pays more tribute to the fear of want in life—to insurance, fraternal societies, etc., than would be sufficient to forever put them beyond the need of employing capital. Let laborers control their own industry, instead of denying the present want for fear of future insecurity."

Mr. Keller stated that he had always made his own money, and plenty of it. His whole aim was a selfish one, simply to advance himself, and to do that he had to advance his fellows. "Self-interest rules the world, and were I Morgan I would do precisely what he is doing. I would pay the same wages and require the same hours. The only difference would be that the dividends which are the unpaid wages of the workman should go to him, the workman."

A tremendous megaphone is part of the stock in trade and a magic lantern is one of the advertising features.—Oregonian.

REDUCED RATES.

To the Seaside and Mountain Resorts.

Tickets are now on sale at all Southern Pacific and Corvallis & Eastern R. R. offices, through to Newport and Yaquina at reduced rates. Southern Pacific trains connect with C. & E. at Albany and Corvallis. All tickets good for return until October 10, 1902.

Passengers for Detroit, Breitenbush and other mountain resorts can leave Albany the same afternoon, reaching Detroit in the evening. Tickets are on sale from Albany to Detroit at \$3, and from Corvallis at \$3.25 good for return until October 10th, with privilege to get on train returning at any point east of Mill City.

The Southern Pacific Company have now on sale round trip tickets from all points on their lines in Oregon to either Newport or Yaquina with privilege to return via either East or West Side divisions, in connection with the C. & E. three-day Sunday excursion tickets good going Saturday and returning Monday are also on sale at very low rates from all S. P. and C. E. points.

Full information can be obtained as to rates, time tables, etc., by application to any S. P. or C. E. agent.

Band Concert.

Another successful band concert was given Saturday evening. The cool weather kept a larger attendance from being present than usual. The boys furnished good music, however and were enthusiastically applauded. Next Saturday evening's program is appended.

March "Union Forever" Scanton Overture "Brunswick" Rollinson March "Tenth Regiment" Hall Cornet solo "My Old Kentucky Home" (By request.) Prof. Lucas. Schottische "You and I" Hall March "Red Men's" Hall Andante and waltz "Troop" Rollinson March "The Imperial" Anthony "Yankee Doodle and Dixie." (Prof. Lucas, musical director.)

STRUCK IT RICH.

The Herrens Have a Fortune in Their Grasp.

Salem Statesman: E. C. Herren was showing to some of his friends on the streets yesterday a sample of coal, and also some of the borings of a diamond drill above the point where the coal was struck.

The sample of coal came from near Heppner. Some twenty-two miles east of that Eastern Oregon town Mr. Herren and eleven other people have a tract of 1920 acres of deeded land. Mr. Herren has one-twelfth interest. They have been drilling there with an \$8000 diamond drilling outfit for two years. Finally their labors have been rewarded by finding a ten-foot vein of cannel coal at 700 feet. The quality of the coal is as fine as any in the United States, and the patient twelve of the company have a fortune. It is understood that they have refused \$250,000 for their property.

They expect to go on drilling until they are down 2000 feet. A ten-foot vein of cannel coal of good quality at 700 feet would be enough to satisfy most people; but these men want to know what else there may be down under the surface of their holdings. At one point the drill brought out a quantity of stone such as is used in making whet stone.

Mr. Herren is the well-known hop grower and dealer, and his many friends will be pleased to know of his good fortune. Other members of the Herren family are interested.

The surface cropings of this vein of cannel coal in Morrow county are much the same as those found in the Forward mine in the Waldo Hills, where the diamond drill is working, now being at a depth of nearly seven hundred feet; and some of the borings are similar. What a revolution the finding of a ten-foot vein of cannel coal in the Waldo Hills would work in Salem—whether at 700 feet or very much deeper. And much stranger things may happen when people are determined to see what the earth under us is made of.

Shatters All Records.

Twice in hospital, F. A. Gullidge, Verbena, Ala., paid a vast sum to doctors to cure a severe case of piles causing 24 tumors. When all failed, Bucklen's Arnica Salve soon cured him. Subdues Inflammation, conquers Aches, kills Pains. Best salve in the world. 25c at Kirkland Drug Co.

Superb Minstrels.

At the opera house, Independence, August 26, Sweeney Alvido Big White Minstrels, an attraction composed of artists of Eastern reputation introducing strong first part, a strong olio and many novelty features. The press in speaking of Sweeney Alvido Minstrels say they are a success artistically as well as financially, one of the big winners in minstrelsy. Don't fail to see the Golf parade headed by Prof. Maurer's band at noon on day of arrival in this city. Reserved seats now on sale at Locke's drug store. Prices, 25, 35 and 50 cents.