

# THE COQUILLE HERALD

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Devoted to the material and social upbuilding of the Coquille Valley particularly and of Coos County generally.

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The Oregon Voter, published in Portland, evidently does not approve of popular government, and it misses no chance to take a whack at the "Oregon System." Discussing the rural credits provision recently made a part of the Oregon constitution, the Voter points out that it is acknowledged, even by its main promoter, to be imperfect and to need amendment; also that it will accomplish but very little that could not be attained by the Federal Farm Loan Act. The Voter uses this as a criticism, not so much of the act itself as of the system by which it was adopted. The fact is mournfully pointed out that the act is now a part of the constitution and cannot be monkeyed with by the legislature. "The legislature cannot change a word or punctuation mark in the amendment," says the Voter, and Brer Chapman seems to think that this is an objectionable feature of the Oregon System. "It is there for two years . . . beyond the reach of any legislature." Too bad, isn't it, that the legislature can not "correct" the acts passed by the people when such acts do not meet the approval of the interests that are so powerful in "fixing things" with the legislature? "So under our loose system of popular government," says the voter, "we have bonded the state under terms which even the promoter of the plan says should be amended." We wonder if the editor of the Oregon Voter is so distressingly young that he does not know that very few out of the multitude of acts passed by a legislature are satisfactory to the promoters by the time they get through the House and Senate. The only such law the editor of the Herald ever heard of is the one by which the seine fishing monopoly on Rogue river was handed over to R. D. Hume. And, by the way, of all the legislatures that have met since the iniquity of that law became generally known not one has undone the wrong. "We, the People," says the Voter, "will vote for any old thing that sounds good at the time, whether it is needed or not and irrespective of whether it needs fixing as soon as we have adopted it. Our Oregon system is a loose system indeed." Under this "loose" system, the "thing" submitted to popular vote must at least "look good" to the voters before it can receive a majority. That one fact is enough to over-balance all the criticisms launched against direct legislation. But the most amusing objection made to the system is that the laws thus adopted by the people may need "tinkering" when nine-tenths of the time of every legislature is taken up with the "tinkering" of the laws passed by preceding legislatures. Bro. Chapman's paper is full of information for the Oregon voter, and the Herald will suggest that he keep tab on the next session of our law-making body and afterward inform his readers exactly how much time was given to new legislation, together with an estimate of the time that will be devoted by future legislatures to the "tinkering" of it.

The attention of Herald readers is called to a change that is coming over the dream indulged in by Coquille advertisers. That is, the old announcement "So & So, dealers in General Merchandise, Hats and Caps, Clothing, nails and patent medicines, Undertaking and Pile-driving Done," can no longer be found in our columns. Instead, the advertisers are taking some little interest in their advertising beyond the consideration of "supporting the paper." They are thinking up something to say to the people they want to sell goods to, and are telling something about their stocks in detail. They are taking a few leaves from the book of the big advertisers who find advertising so profitable. They are changing their ads every week, and trying to say something of real interest to the possible buyer. This is all very encouraging to the newspaper man, for while it makes more work for the same money it gives promise of increased business. Such advertising pays and will therefore be continued and of such is the main resource of the newspaper made up. Those readers of the Herald, if any such be left on the list, who think it sounds intelligent to say that they "never read the ads" are advised to come out of that dream of the long ago and begin to sit up and take notice that the ads in the Herald are worth reading.

## The Birth of a Nation Meets All Expectations

To say that "The Birth of a Nation", shown at the Scenic on Friday, is "a great picture" is so pitifully inadequate that we won't say it. That every one who saw it appeared to be perfectly satisfied comes nearer to covering the point. The picture simply took the people in its grip and held them under its spell for nearly three hours, and the only long breaths taken by any one were during the five-minute intermission. When that intermission came people all over the house were seen to straighten up and rub the backs of their necks, which they then found to be aching from the strain. The gripping power of the picture was at least doubled by the orchestra, and the music at times made every nerve jump in unison with the scene before the eyes.

For once the would-be humorists and disturbers of the comfort of other people were impressed, and they gave no annoyance whatever. The attendance, both afternoon and evening was a little above expectations. The house was over-full at the matinee and comfortably filled in the evening, and those who thought that Coquille people would "never pay a dollar to see a moving picture" were proved to be away off in their estimate of the intellectual standing of this community. The Scenic manager is naturally highly gratified that his patrons rose so splendidly to the occasion. However, lest it be thought that the engagement was extremely profitable to the house, it should be stated that the receipts for the week were considerably below the high record. But Coquille is now most certainly on the moving picture map, and, when the greatest has been shown, all others are possible.

## Coos County

The Herald's Special Coos County News Service

### Riverton Briefs

(Herald's Special C. C. News Service)  
The coal mine is continuing its improvements.

The Riverton School will give a basket social and Christmas program on December 23, at 8 p. m., for the benefit of the school.

On Friday, the 22nd the school will give a miniature fair exhibit of the industrial work that has thus far been accomplished by the boys and girls. This same exhibit will still be given on the evening of the 23rd. Judges are to award prizes, first and second, on the work exhibited.

Mr. and Mrs. Jameson, of our little burg, have been on the sick list lately. Mr. Jameson has been unable to attend to the ferry and a substitute has taken his place for the time being.

The children and the teachers of the school have been kept busy lately trying to prepare for the coming program and keep up the regular routine of work.

Not long since, the teachers of the school were agreeably surprised by receiving, as a Christmas present for the school, two very nice desk chairs. Many, many thanks to the Board for this favor.

The Seventh and Eighth grades have organized a boys' basket ball team. Grant McCormick is manager and Ralph Smith is captain.

NE PLUS ULTRA.

### East Fork Items

(Herald's Special C. C. News Service)

Earl Endicott is on the mail job again. He and Mrs. Endicott are living at Sumner.

Whether it is gripe or gripe colds, or whooping cough, something has caught many of the children and some of the grownups, or else they have caught it.

December 5th brought our first flurry of snow and it looked wintry.

That dozen men and women who are trying to make a record on cutting the cost of living might take a leaf out of the book of a senior in Albany College. A recent letter states that so far this semester his food has cost him fifteen cents a day, and that he is in good physical condition. When the wind is pumped out of the puffed food business, there is just about as much food value left as there is in peanut shells or pasteboard.

Mr. Nelson, the water commissioner of Casper, Wyo., is visiting his wife and children and his wife's parents, W. B. Myster and Mrs. Myster. Mr. Nilson has a month's leave of absence. He is looking ahead to getting his business in shape that he may locate on the coast, as it is a matter of health with Mrs. Nelson.

Mr. Vogel has a vineyard three years from the cuttings that made an average growth of about eight feet. Many of the vines did better than eight feet. His fruit trees are making a good growth.

Matheson, of Minard's Mill, has bought some timber of Ed Abernethy.

Mary Laird was to North Bend last week to see her brother, Harry Hall, who is in the hospital. He was badly hurt while working in Powers' logging camp. Mrs. Laird has only been home a short time from visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, in southern California.

Like the path of the sun as it lights the day, the trail of the independent voter leads westward. "What does it profit a state to boast: 'You can't elect a president without me'?" We did it.

The tail of the dog has changed ends; the old granite state with its majority of 63 caught the spirit of the West. Oregon's light is not put out for she called the brewery-men's bluff and put them in the run with a kiln dry bone in their teeth. That agonizing cry "to save the hops and allied industries" was heard and answered. They were saved as fuel for the pit.

Jeanette Rankin, the member from Montana—that sounds good. Montana is a great state; Miss Rankin has spread it all over the map.

R. A. EASTON.

## Good Road Ass'n. to Investigate Work of Officials

Pres. Chas. Hall of the Coos County Good Roads Association has appointed a special committee to make an investigation of the good roads work and make a public report on their findings. The action is the result of some criticism of the county officials.

Roadmaster Murdock sometime ago suggested such a plan in connection with some unfounded criticism of his office.

The committee will meet at Coquille Friday, December 15, and make the investigation. The committee named consists of:

A. H. Powers, chairman; J. O. Stemmer of Myrtle Point; Elbert Dyer of Bandon; Henry Kern of North Bend; C. R. Peck of Marshfield; R. H. Mast of Coquille, and Chas. St. Dennis of Lakeside.—Times.

## School Census Shows Loss

School Supt. Baker informs the Herald that the school census just taken indicates a falling off in the population of the county in the past year. While the figures for some of the small outlying districts are not all in, it is estimated that the census will show a falling off of between 250 and 300 pupils from the number found last year. Then the census showed 6889 children of school age, while now a loss as stated will be shown. While the towns having a steady payroll have made gains, those have been more than offset by losses in other towns not so fortunately situated and in the country districts.

## SLIDES BLOCK ROADS.

War Department Has Other Slides Troubles Outside of Canal Zone.

The war department's troubles with landslides are not all centered in the Panama canal zone, although, of course, the great ditch presents the greatest problem of all. But landslides also occur in Yellowstone park, and it is necessary for the government to maintain a sort of special emergency service to keep the roads clear. The roads of the park, some 250 miles of them, wind through the hills, and at the deep cuts the hills often decide to slide down into the roads.

As the blocking of one road is liable to tie up the entire transportation system of the park, it is imperative that a slide be cleared away as soon as possible. Repair cars are kept at strategic places and gangs of men held ready to answer calls. A hose cart and service engine complete the equipment for fighting slides.

The hill which every now and then—always, of course, at the most inconvenient time—slides down over the road is composed of gravel and loose conglomerate rock, streaked with yellow slippery clay. There is a great deal to shovel it off. Meantime the engine has been set up and a heavy stream of water at seventy pounds' pressure is played on the earth above, so as to wash down as much of the stuff as possible while they are at it and thus lessen the interval to the next slide, but at that the hill sometimes fools them and slides off soon afterward in quite another spot.

## How to Prevent Croup

In a child that is subject to attacks of croup, the first indication of the disease is hoarseness. Give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as the child becomes hoarse and the attack may be warded off and all danger and anxiety avoided.

## Notice of Final Account

NOTICE is hereby given that W. W. Gage, administrator of the estate of Phoebe Whetstone, deceased, has filed his first and final account as administrator of said estate, with the Clerk of the County Court for the County of Coos and State of Oregon, and that Thursday, the 4th day of January, 1917, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Court House in Coquille, Coos County, Oregon, has been appointed by Hon. James Watson, Judge of said county court, as the day and the place for the hearing of objections to said final account, and for final settlement thereof.

W. W. GAGE,  
Administrator of said estate.  
12-5-16

## Lois Weber, in "Shoes"

Dozens of moving picture stars have obtained their first opportunities in moving pictures in strange ways, but it is safe to say that no star before the public today has as unusual a story to tell of her first part as has Mary MacLaren, the star of the Bluebird photoplay, "Shoes" written and produced by Lois Weber.

Mary MacLaren is Lois Weber's discovery, and it is entirely due to her chance meeting with the totally inexperienced girl that a new screen star has risen in the photoplay firmament. The story reads like a fairy tale, and in itself would make an extremely interesting photoplay if Lois Weber should ever be at a loss for a striking plot.

To go back to the beginning—Lois Weber, as everyone knows, is the best known woman director of photoplays in the world, and as such she is the object of ceaseless solicitation for an opportunity to appear before the camera from a thousand different sources. Anyone who can appear in a picture directed by the Smalleys is indeed lucky, and the hundreds of extras and would-be extras who besiege the gates of Universal City every day not only cast longing eyes in the direction of Phillips Smalley and his wife, Lois Weber, but would find their time occupied for the most part in interviewing people who want to appear on the screen.

There is a little white building with a garage where Lois Weber leaves

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Fancy Currants 16 oz. Pk. . . . . 25c  
Fancy Currants 12 oz. Pk. . . . . 20c  
Fancy Currants loose per lb. . . . . 25c  
Dromedary Dates, per package . . . . 15c  
Pressed Figs per package . . . . . 5c and 10c  
Black Figs bulk 3 lb. . . . . 25c  
Preserved Figs 16 oz. Glass . . . . . 25c  
Boiled Cider Quart Bottle . . . . . 30c  
High Grade Mince Meat pt. . . . . 20c 2 for 35c  
Fox Clam Tea per bottle . . . . . 10c 3 for 25c  
Creamed Horseradish . . . . . 15c 2 for 25c  
Salad Oil in Bulk 1 Gal. . . . . \$1.50  
Salad Oil in Bulk 5 Gal., per Gal. . . . \$1.40  
Shaker Salt 3 cans . . . . . 25c

### Special Bargains

**This Week**  
Morris Compound  
Large Pails . . . . . \$1.60  
Small Pails . . . . . 75c  
Liberty Wheat Flakes  
Liberty Rolled Oats  
Large Package . . . . . 25c  
Applies only to stock on hand.  
Can't be bought now to sell at this price.  
Prepared Mustard  
Knight's 1 3-8 pint . . . . . 25c  
New stock, limited supply  
Swift's White Laundry Soap  
Six Bars . . . . . 25c  
Toilet Paper Large Roll 4 for 25c  
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Bulk Coffees at 25c, 30c and 35c

## Busy Corner Grocery

Phone 691 and 541 Front and C Streets Coquille, Ore.

her car, and her office in Universal City. Progress along this walk had come to be almost like a gauntlet for Lois Weber until she discovered that if she were apparently occupied on this walk she was seldom interrupted. Even the boldest thought twice before interrupting the pursuit of genius. In this way, either writing or reading a book, Miss Weber contrived to escape interruption quite successfully.

One day during the early part of December, while she was practicing her usual defense against interruption, she had a strange feeling that there was someone near her whom she herself wanted to see. The feeling was so strong that she turned around, and found herself face to face with a bevy of young girls.

Among them was one whose face arrested her attention immediately. There were others in the group, but she does not remember to this day a single face except that of Mary MacLaren. With her usual directness she bowed to Mary and said: "Are you looking for work?"

"Yes, indeed; I have been here for several months, but have not been able to get a hearing with any of the directors," said Mary, quite beside herself with agitation at being noticed by Miss Weber.

"Have you had any experience?"

"Not in pictures," said little Miss MacLaren, with a sinking heart, "but I danced one year at the Winter Garden, in New York."

Miss Weber at that time was working on "John Neddham's Double," and she managed to make a small part for Mary in this Bluebird photoplay. She gave her the part of a maid, and she took part in three or four scenes—a very inconspicuous part. Her part in "Where Are My Children" was not much larger.

In Miss Weber's next play, "The Eye of God," there was no part for Mary MacLaren. Miss Weber tried to have Mary put on a regular salary as an extra in stock, but there seemed to be no demand for her services, and in spite of Miss Weber's own earnest endeavors, not one of the directors at Universal City would give her a part. So it was some little time before she acted again.

In the meantime, Lois Weber read the story of "Shoes" in Collier's Weekly and as she read the story, the face of Mary MacLaren fairly swam before her through the printed pages. She could not rest until Mr. Davis had bought the story for her, and she immediately started upon it with Mary in the leading role, that of a girl who virtually sold out for a pair of shoes.

Those who have been fortunate enough to see this Bluebird photoplay know the tremendous success which Miss MacLaren scored in this, her first real part in pictures. And it need only be said that as soon as the feature was shown in the projection room at Universal City, every one of the directors was falling over himself to produce a photoplay with Miss MacLaren featured.

Miss Weber saw the tremendously sympathetic quality in Mary MacLaren's face with unerring accuracy, and it is due to her determination to bring it out on the screen which resulted in adding one of the choicest stars to the Bluebird firmament. She is being featured by Phillips Smalley in a five-reeler, "The First Stone," written by Lois Weber with Miss MacLaren in mind for the leading role.

"Shoes" is the feature scheduled for the Scenic a short time ago, which failed to arrive. By a special flitting it will be shown on December 22nd.

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