

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 first clarion call to arms for the defense of the Southern Pacific monopoly in transportation between the Bay and this valley was sounded the week before last by our esteemed contemporary. In its issue of last Friday, however, the Sentinel showed signs of having read the Herald. It entirely abandons its heart-rending pleading for the S. P., and the Herald will be glad to help draw the veil of merciful forgetfulness over that evidence of a too tender consideration for the predatory privileges of a corporation which is sometimes suspected of being a little too grasping. Its recorded opinion that to grant the Smith-Powers petition, after the S. P. has paid part of the taxes with which the road is being improved, would be "about as unjust and indefensible a proceeding as we can imagine," which would seem to settle the question, has been emasculated to this: "But if the Logging Company will leave the 30-foot roadway untouched—or where it is absolutely necessary to trench on it will grade out on the west side of the county road far enough to make a 30-foot roadway and replace all improved surface torn up—and will then lay its tracks so as to leave ten feet clear space between the cars and the fence, it would be worth while to consider the proposition." That is decidedly better and almost indicates that our esteemed contemporary is still open to a change of heart. In fact the whole remaining sticker seems to be the distance to be left between the railroad tracks and the fence, for that is really the only point which is open. It is not to be supposed that the County Court would let the railroad take up any part of the roadway needed by the county. Whether ten feet is required for the brakeman to get far enough from the track to signal the engineer, on a straight road as the one proposed would be, we have our doubts; but there should certainly be room for him to swing his hands without ruining his pants by climbing over a barb wire fence to "trespass" on the county road.

Still, we are obliged to take issue with the positive statement that, "As to the compensation talked of, the \$85,000 saving figured in graveling the county road between here and Marshfield is pure moonshine." This is a clear case of bats in the belfry. The Sentinel's designation of the S. P. charge of \$2.25 a cubic yard as "excessive and exorbitant" will never cause the S. P. to give us a lower rate, so long as it has absolute mastery of the situation, as it has now. The county must use a certain large amount of gravel whenever the road from here to Marshfield is hard-surfaced. If the county can save \$1.00 or \$1.25 a yard on this gravel by dealing with the Smith-Powers people it is estimated by those in authority that it would mean a saving of about \$85,000. It would cut down the amount to be raised by just that much. If the saving be not made, and the taxpayers are called upon to make up the amount, it will be a decidedly prosaic and every day piece of business, very far removed from "Moonshine."

But a careful study of the last article of our esteemed contemporary shows that it is decidedly wobbly and not nearly so sure of its ground as when it first jumped so boldly and unreservedly into the breach for the protection of the S. P. monopoly. We would not be in the least surprised to see it complete its evolution and revolution by next Friday and come out squarely on the side of the Smith-Powers project.

Those whose habit of thought is such that they can not conceive of any newspaper man taking a stand on a question of public interest except "with an object" and for his own advantage are perfectly welcome to think that the Herald has advocated the acceptance of the Smith-Powers railroad proposition because it is "married to the Smith-Powers people." As a matter of fact, the Herald has not and does not advocate such acceptance except with the understanding that the interests of Coos county will be fully protected. We are as positive about that as the Sentinel was when it opined with so much warmth of feeling that any proposal to interfere with the monopoly of the Southern Pacific Co. should be turned down at the drop of the hat and without investigation or consideration. So far as we can remember we have never received a dollar, directly or indirectly, from the Smith or Smith-Powers interests, except for two subscriptions. We are not in line for such benefits and emoluments. We don't give one continental whoop, except from a purely social standpoint, whether Al Powers ever reads what the Herald has to say about his scheme or not. But there come times in the affairs of some people when they like to express their opinions, whether anyone likes those opinions or not. The newspaper man has the best chance to indulge this gentle failing, and that is one reason why we are in the newspaper business. Our opinions are not always right, but, as Frank M. Pixley once said in the Argonaut, "they are our opinions and we like them." So we took up the Smith-Powers proposal as a good one for the county as a whole and for the Coquille valley in particular; as a way to realize very substantial benefits from a strip of land which will be of no conceivable use to the county; as an oppor-

tunity to show the good will of the people of Coos county toward its main industry and toward the people who are furnishing the payrolls upon which a large part of our population is subsisting; and further, as a chance to assist that industry to get out of the grip of a railroad company whose whole record is that of squeezing to the point of strangulation every industry over which it has the power. Now so far as the position of the Herald is concerned, it makes no difference whether any one agrees with us or not. It is sufficient satisfaction to know that we are on the right side of the fence. And we know THAT.

Coos County

The Herald's Special Coos County News Service

East Fork Items

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

Where has the Herald man any kick coming as to "Col. William Gimes of Oklahoma" and the Coos Bay bar dredge? Was not the "colonel" within his rights as an "educator" when he advocated the sucking of sand and the blowing of dollars into circulation? The dredge Col. Michie is a beautiful piece of machinery; the writer knows it, for through the kindness of Mr. Fritz Getty he was shown all through the dredge, and she is a thing of beauty and of power. Sure she can suck sand and mud, and after she has sucked out a big hole what does it profit when the big storm comes to fill up the hole? Why, man, the music of the machine and the pay roll is the profit. Don't somebody else pay the bills? Why does the editor of the Herald give the "educators" and near "educators" theology such a left handed wipe? It is sacrilegious to say ought but pleasing words of a mud-sucking dredge or of wind jammers for school room junk.

Jimmy Laird told a good one. He said he was in Coquille and he saw three road bosses of different sizes standing on a street corner, talking. He said to an acquaintance, "We are going to have good roads now. See those three big pay men building roads on the corner?" The man said, "We are getting roads, all right, I know one culvert where the engineering, the blue prints and the bossing cost \$400 and the building of the culvert cost \$35." Jimmie did not say that the man showed him the papers for the culvert job, but it was not told for a joke. If Mr. Murdock, the county road master, figures out into what hole the money goes and who gets it, it will be the first time that the hole in the road and the man and the money in the hole have been linked together. On new work and contract work, it looks as though Coos county is getting more for her road money than she has ever got before. It takes three surveys to locate a road right it is a good thing to have three surveys, for it is not what you pay, but what you get that counts.

Ernest Kreuson took a load of spuds to Sumner, where he gets \$1.55 per cwt. Mr. Coates, of Marshfield, buyer.

Melvin Snead, of the upper Bear creek, came in over the Coos Bay wagon road Thursday. He left home Nov. 17th on the stage down the coast; at Eureka took train for San Francisco; since then he has seen the country around the Bay and the Sacramento valley. He says work is a scarce article to get a hold of in California, and he is glad to get home. He reports about six inches of snow on the summit; and that he saw Mr. Christensen, who is trapping, up the canyon, come into camp with a big cougar on his back. The Christensens are doing well trapping; Mrs. Christensen is with her husband in the camp; they have gotten three cougars, one bear, quite a number of martens and a number of skunks.

Gladys Culbertson fainted in her reading class one day last week in the Dora school.

The Ephesians were great on making gods. When it looked as though the people might get too smart to take stock in their gods, they put up a yell, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." The "educators" and near "educators" seem to try to bolster up their gods in the same way by yelling, "Great is the 'Sanitary' heater." It is—great junk.

In the death of Dr. Semmler of Myrtle Point, not that town only, but the whole community has lost an able physician and a good man. Many a person he attended from

whom he received but little pay.

Ed Abernethy made a trip to Marshfield last week. He got back to Brewster for Christmas.

J. D. Laird, with a load of Brewster folks, went to Coquille Friday. The Krensens boys were close behind with the skeleton Ford.

If the makers of holiday newspaper editions would copy after the work done by Editor Levar, of the Herald, in his Railroad Jubilee edition, the readers would get more worth while reading matter and less ache in handling paper.

R. A. EASTON.

Riverton Briefs

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

The school closed on Friday the 22nd for Holiday vacation.

Miss Elsie Philpot, primary teacher, left Sunday to spend the holidays at her home at Randolph.

Mr. Turnbull, Superintendent of the Bandon schools, and Miss Downs, of the Coquille school, served as judges of the Riverton school exhibit given last Friday. Mr. Floyd, a carpenter of Riverton, also served as a judge. First and second ribbons were awarded to those deserving them.

A basket social and Christmas program was given on Saturday evening. Thirty dollars and thirty cents was realized from the sale of the baskets. The money will be used to pay for the material used in the industrial work, to continue the same and to help make the school a standard A.

The "grip" gripped a number of the pupils so hard the last month that the attendance was somewhat reduced.

M. W. McCormick, who is firing at the Smith mill at Marshfield, is home, spending vacation.

A. E. Martin, who has a cattle ranch west of Riverton, reports that his cattle are standing the winter thus far fine.

Geo. Allen and his father, from Conlogue's camp, spent Christmas day at Riverton with our enterprising merchant, W. Bean, and family.

The two sons of David Smith, our hotel man, visited him on Xmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Brosh, of Bandon, spent Christmas day with Cliff Martin and wife. Mr. Martin is one of the firm of Bean and Martin. Chas. Zimmerman, son-in-law of Mr. Floyd, and wife spent Xmas day with Mr. Floyd and family.

Oregon Tax Levy To Be \$2,699,250

Salem, Ore.—Oregon's tax levy for 1917 was placed at \$2,699,250 at a meeting of the state tax commission last week, as compared with \$2,550,000 for 1916.

To arrive at the amount which can be raised under the tax limitation amendment the commission subtracted \$62,500, which is the amount of interest on the Multnomah county bridge bonds, from last year's levy, as such indebtedness is not included under the amendment, the remainder being \$2,487,000. Six per cent of the latter amount, or \$149,250, was added to it, making the total levy.

The difference between the amount of the budget for the year and the levy is \$239,250, which may be used for buildings or as the legislature directs.

The total state receipts will be \$333,691,50, of which amount it is estimated fees will total \$853,841,50, leaving a balance of \$2,490,000.

The state engineering department suffered the most severe cut of any state department, its estimates of \$10,000 for making hydrographic and topographic surveys being eliminated and a like fate was sustained by the \$20,000 estimated for use for topographic maps. The estimate of \$14,200 for stream surveys was trimmed to \$10,000, which is the same figure as the appropriation of two years ago.

No appropriation was included in the budget for the Oregon historical society. It is not specified by law and appropriations can only be made for such items as are specified.

Equipping Real Estate Office. Ross Bailey and J. W. Lucas, who have been here for some time in the interests of the Mt. Shasta Land and Irrigation company, are fitting up an office in the building formerly occupied by the Beckett saloon and ex-

Prices that Can't be Matched

Walnuts, Soft Shell per lb. 17 1-2c, 22 1-2c
Extra Fancy Budded 30c

Mixed Candies 12 1-2c, 15c, 20c
Pop Corn per lb. 7 1-2c
Novel Oranges per doz. 30c and 40c
Jap Oranges per doz. 15c

White Laundry Soap 6 bars.....25c
Liberty Wheat Flakes, Large Pkg.....25c
Liberty Rolled Oats, Large Pkg.....25c
Del Monte Catsup, Large Bottle.....20c
Park Brand Pineapple, Large Can.....15c
Hillsdale Brand Pineapple, No. 2 Cans 2 for 25c
Large Jackets Syrup.....\$2.40
Shaker Salt.....3 for 25c
Peanut Butter per lb.....15c

New Lot
M. J. Rice
2 1-2 lb. Bags.....25c
5 lb. Bags.....50c
10 lb. Bags.....85c
25 lb. Bags.....\$2.00
Wheat per Sack \$2.75
Eggrain per Sack \$2.75

On account of early frosts pickles in bulk are very scarce this winter. We were fortunate in securing a full line, including Dills, Sour, Sweet Plain and Sweet Mixed. These dills are exceptionally fine---Try them.

Busy Corner Grocery

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

pect to move into their new quarters shortly after the first of the year.

Mr. Lucas is at present in Montague to attend a meeting of the company. Mr. Bailey expects to leave on the morning train for that place. On their way home they will both stop over at Grants Pass to visit their parents, who reside there.

Must Wake Up

That Douglas county must wake up or it will lose the proposed state highway from Roseburg to Myrtle Point, is claimed by R. E. Smith who has been attending several highway meetings in Portland recently, says the Roseburg Review.

According to Mr. Smith, it is proposed to build a highway from Eugene to Marshfield by way of Florence. The state and federal officials have agreed upon this road as it is to be built by state and federal funds. In the proposed list of state highways none is designated between Roseburg and Coos Bay. Unless these plans are changed it means that the new coast highway will turn off at Eugene and that San Francisco will be routed by Eugene, Florence, Marshfield and on down the coast to San Francisco.

Such a proposed road vitally affects Roseburg and Douglas county in two ways. First, it means that Douglas county will not participate in the tourist and tourist trade between Portland and San Francisco. Second, it means that Douglas county must maintain the road between Roseburg and Myrtle Point to the county line. It also means that Eugene will be the outlet for Coos Bay automobile travel. It is understood that the highway routes which have been designated by state and federal officials are not final, but are subject to revision. It will, however, take concerted action by all the people of Douglas county to have this proposed highway changed to the route between Roseburg and Myrtle Point. It is possible to make this change, then the cost of building and maintaining the road between Roseburg and Myrtle Point running by way of Camas Valley will be built and maintained by the state and Federal Government, and all that burden of expense will be lifted from the shoulders of the taxpaying public of Douglas county.

PLENTY OF BASKETBALL

There has been plenty of basketball in this part of the county during the last week to satisfy even the most enthusiastic fans. Besides the game between the Oerding Bros. and the High School, an account of which will be found in another column of this issue, there was a game between a team composed of alumni players from various towns of the valley who are attending the University of Oregon and the Myrtle Point high school team Friday. Myrtle Point won the game by a score of 21 to 16.

The following night a similar team composed of O. A. C. students played a victorious game at Norway.

Last night the high school team played Norway here and the resulting score was 32 to 18 in favor of the local players. The Norway team was rather demoralized, as only three of her regular players were present; but the game was fast and full of "pep" and some good work was done by both teams.

Ancient Legal Fees.

In 1476 a barrister's fee in England was less than a dollar, with fourpence thrown in for a dinner.

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