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HIGHWAY ROUTE TO COME HERE?

THATCHER FAVORS CENTRAL OREGON

Good Roads Enthusiast, Who is Laboring For Pacific Highway Through Interior Oregon, Says Effort is Now Needed to Succeed.

The following is the substance of a letter received by the La Pine Commercial Club from Col. Charles W. Thatcher, the good roads enthusiast who is working for the establishment of the Pacific Highway through Central Oregon, instead of through the Willamette valley. The importance of the project to every Central Oregon community is apparent:

"We have before us at present a very interesting situation. In fact late developments are exceedingly flattering for Central Oregon. To pluck the precious plum of great price, namely: the Pacific Highway and the Crater Lake National Park Division of the Yellowstone boulevard, will require some live effort, which means bustling in the next 30 days. The opportunity is at hand and the reward means millions for your section. I speak from a standpoint of authority at this time. I have traveled about 2000 miles since leaving La Pine, searching for reasons why these great national roads should pass through your town. I realized to go to San Francisco, Portland and Seattle and simply state that I favored the Central Oregon route, would have little weight. But I knew beyond a doubt if I could tell the business men of these metropolitan centers that nature favored your section by placing upon it the seal of the best course for national boulevards it would have the weight of eternal truth, an invincible argument that could not be overcome. I have succeeded in my search far beyond my fondest hopes. I had not crossed the Siakiyous on my way to Ashland and Medford until I realized that this mountainous course is out of the question in the way of practicality. I called off a meeting at Ashland and passed through Medford without delivering an address, simply because I did not desire to be under obligations to a people that I would be compelled, from a standpoint of justice, to make a report derogatory to their section.

There Will Be Two Routes.

"Now, this route has been accepted by the State Highway Commission of California. I fully realized to change the decision I must furnish unquestionable reasons that another route was the best. It is a foregone conclusion that there will be two highways constructed through California from north to south. I knew that if both of these roads joined with Oregon on the Pacific Coast it would end the possibility of a Central Oregon State Highway, simply because it would be of local benefit and not state and national. It would be suicidal to your hopes to oppose a state highway along the Pacific Coast

through Oregon because that section controls the situation politically. But if you favor a state highway through both sections you will meet with small opposition, if we can succeed in influencing California to join Oregon at Klamath Falls with one of their north and south state boulevards. I found a pass 2150 feet lower than the Siakiyon pass which will give an all-year round route from Canada, Seattle and Portland, making it a sure winner. I have also discovered a route for the Sacramento valley state highway to Lower Klamath lake, lower than the Siakiyon-pass over which a 4 per cent grade can be secured—an eloquent reason for favoring the Central Oregon route. The Central Oregon route is about 75 miles nearer to Portland than San Francisco, carries the tourist via Crater Lake National Park and over the most moderate grades ever found through 400 miles of mountain country. Let everybody in Central Oregon throw up their hats and give three mighty cheers that will re-echo from corner to corner of the nation."

SEWER SYSTEM WORK GETS GOOD START DURING WEEK

With 50 Men Working, Much Ditch is Opened up—Minor Powder Accident Puts Power System Out.

With about 50 men on the job, work on the sewer system has been making notable progress during the week, the ditch being opened up the entire length of the alley west of Wall street, on Ohio between that alley and The Bulletin building, and thence through the alley south on to the old ball field.

During the week a carload of pipe arrived and was distributed about the work, and another is expected in a few days. While hundreds of "shots" have been fired, there have been few accidents, and after this, with the men more familiar with the rock, it is expected that trouble in this line will be practically eliminated. One blast in the rear of the Almont Hotel Monday cut off the arms on an electric light pole and put the system out of commission for a couple hours while repairs were being made.

H. E. Abrey, secretary of the South Portland Crushed Rock Co., went to Portland Tuesday morning to be gone over Christmas. While there he will arrange for the importation of more labor. Mr. Dwyer states that after the first of the year he expects to have at least 100 men at work steadily.

PLAN TO WATER LAND.

L. D. Wiest, Z. N. Brown, Joe Howard and George S. Young of the Suttles Lake Improvement Company recently had a conference with Grandview people on the west side of the Deschutes from Culver, relative to using water from the Suttles Lake irrigation project. While nothing definite was reached, it is likely that an agreement will result whereby a large area of fertile land will be brought under water.

MANION REMODELS HOUSE.

H. P. Manion is having an addition built to his home in Park Addition and remodeling it, at a cost of several hundred dollars. The changes will give him a five-room house which will be modern.

FIRE FIGHTERS STOP BAD BLAZE

STORES ON OREGON STREET BURNED

Mutzig, Martin, Boyd and French Are Principal Losers—Much of Latter's Stock is Saved and Moved to Wall Street Building.

That Bend is unlucky in having fires, and lucky in extinguishing them, was shown again Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock, when a blaze gutted the three buildings on Oregon street in the rear of lot 1, block 10, opposite Lara's store, but was prevented from spreading to adjoining frame structures, thanks to the heroic work of the fire fighters.

The fire originated in the Chili Parlor, next to the alley. The restaurant is the property of F. E. Martin, who sustained almost a total loss. Charles Boyd's meat market next door was gutted. Mr. Boyd estimates his loss in stock and fixtures as about \$2000, with practically no insurance. A. L. French's men's furnishings store was also gutted, but practically all of the large clothing stock was saved though badly damaged by water, smoke and removal. It was later moved to the Fuiks store room on Wall street next door to the Star Theatre where Mr. French will conduct the business temporarily.

The three buildings—one of two stories and the others of one—are the property of R. B. Mutzig of Washington, Pa. It appears doubtful if they will be worth repairing. Their damage is roughly estimated at about \$2500.

Mr. Mutzig is at his home in Pennsylvania. In July he sustained another fire loss when the building he had just purchased from C. L. Hotelling, on the west side of Wall street, was burned. It is understood that Mr. Mutzig is amply protected by insurance in this last fire.

"Only a few hours before the fire I was talking insurance with M. S. Lattin," said Mr. Boyd, one of the sufferers. "He said he would go to his office then and write a policy if I wished him to, but I said the morning would be time enough." And in the morning Mr. Boyd's butcher shop was charred and water soaked. He will repair the quarters immediately and conduct his business there, at least temporarily.

The fact that there was no wind meant much. Had there been a breeze, there is reason to believe the flames would have spread to the Bend Hotel, on the east, and probably farther. All the hoses were in operation and did excellent service.

MILL SHUTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

On Christmas day, and for all of this week, The Bend Company's lumber mill will be shut down. Many of the men petitioned for the holiday, especially those whose homes are in the country and on homesteads and who wanted a chance to get to them.

C. S. PROJECT IN PUBLIC EYE

CONSIDERATION OF SETTLERS' PLAN

Forbes Writes Governor That It is Now Up to State Authorities to Give Men on the Ground a Chance for a Livelihood.

V. A. Forbes, Representative from this district in the forthcoming Oregon Legislature, has received, as has The Bulletin, a report sent out by Governor West covering the history of the Columbia Southern Irrigation project, adjacent to Laidlaw. It was prepared by the Desert Land Board, and contains a review by the Governor of five courses that might be followed in working out the project.

The possible course, in the Governor's estimation, are as follows:

- 1—Contract with Alma D. Katz.
- 2—Contract with some other person or company.
- 3—By organizing irrigation district.
- 4—United States reclamation service, either alone or through cooperation with the state.
- 5—State reclamation.

It appears that the only method that presents itself to the Governor as feasible, with assured success, is state reclamation. This would be "construction of a reclamation system with money appropriated by the Legislature and expended under the direction of the Desert Land Board or such other officer, board or department as the Legislature may direct. It is believed that this is one of the most feasible and satisfactory methods of completing the project."

Give Settlers Chance.

In reply to a letter from the Governor commenting upon the necessity of some action in this matter, Representative Forbes has replied urging that the settlers be given a chance to adjust the problem which is essentially their own, at which rates officials have made miserable failures; he urges that at least their plan be given careful hearing before any action is taken, or other plan considered.

His letter to Governor West is, in part, as follows:

"I beg, however, to advise you at this time that the settlers on the segregation, together with what assistance they are getting from outlying communities, are devoting considerable time endeavoring to work out a solution of the affairs of the company. It seems to me that the settlers on the segregation are the only parties in the state who have all at stake, and therefore the parties most directly and deeply interested.

The state of Oregon and the Desert Land Board and various promoters have endeavored for the past seven or eight years to carry out the completion of this project. The attempt on the part of all has been an absolute failure, and it would seem that it would be only fair that if the settlers on the project can devise

some scheme which seems in any way at all to be reasonable and to be capable of bringing the desired results, that they should be given an opportunity.

"I write you along these lines inasmuch as you probably know I have been particularly interested in many of the affairs that have arisen on this segregation. The project lies right in the vicinity of my home, the settlers who live on the same come in contact with me every day, and I believe that I am voicing their sentiments when I would ask that no definite action be taken, and that no promise be made to Alma D. Katz, or any other person, for a contract over this project until such time as the settlers have an opportunity to get their proposition in shape and submitted to the Desert Land Board or to the Legislature, which undoubtedly will be at the next session."

Association to Act. The water users' association on the Columbia Southern segregation has been notified of the importance of immediate action, and it is expected that during the week meetings will be held and a definite plan mapped out for presentation to the Legislature and the Governor.

The general scheme proposed by the settlers thus far has been, in effect, that of organizing and conducting an irrigation district, its affairs to be administered by the settlers themselves, and its financial backing, if possible, to come from the state.

The report gives the following statistical information regarding the project:

"To complete the Columbia Southern project, so as to reclaim all the irrigable land in the original selection of 27,004 gross acres, would require, according to the state engineer's estimate, practically \$450,000, or an expenditure of \$225,000 a year for two years, if the state were to appropriate this amount, complete the project and then place the lands on the market at an average price of \$40 an acre, they could all be sold, and the money appropriated, together with interest, and a fair profit, be turned back into the state treasury."

TURKEYS ARE PRIZES.

The Rod and Gun Club has completed plans for its Christmas day clay pigeon shoot, to the winners of which turkeys are to be awarded. The shoot commences at 1 p. m. President J. N. Hunter is scheduled to say a few words to the members, who will then elect a vice-president and will pass upon a set of bylaws, these being a copy of similar rules used in clubs throughout the country. Hereafter members will pay for the pigeons they use, on the ground. Ward Coble and John Cunningham have been appointed a committee on membership.

ANNUAL CLUB MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Bend Commercial Club will be held Thursday evening, January 2, 1913, at the club room, at 8 o'clock. At this meeting officers for the ensuing year will be elected. The retiring officers urge that everyone interested in Bend's welfare attend.

BANK CONSOLIDATION.

The Laidlaw Banking & Trust Co. has been consolidated with the State Bank of Redmond, the change being in effect on the 17th. Cashier A. F. Ramsey, who was in town Saturday, stated that there was not enough business at Laidlaw to justify continuing the bank.

487 PUPILS IN BEND DISTRICT

INCREASE OVER 1911 IS 10

Census Just Completed Shows Rapid Strides in Population Growth.

H. E. Allen Elected Clerk to Succeed J. M. Lawrence.

Gaining a total of 110 pupils, the Bend school district this year beats the record which it made in 1911 when it showed an increase of 83 over the 1910 census. The enumeration recently completed for this district shows that there are 487 pupils of school age, as against 377 last fall. This is far ahead of the enumeration of any other district in Crook county.

As divided between male and female, there are 251 boys and 236 girls.

At a meeting Friday a school clerk was elected to fill the place left vacant by the resignation of J. M. Lawrence. H. E. Allen was chosen.

Bond Election January 29.

The school board has decided on January 29 as the date for holding the election to decide the question of bonding the district for \$40,000 for the purpose of erecting a unit of a permanent high school building, a petition for the calling of such an election having been presented to the directors. The plan, as outlined, is to erect a brick or stone building that will be a unit of a larger building and that may be added to as occasion requires.

During the week investigation has shown more than ever the great need for such a structure, and the importance of getting the project through in time for the next school term. A widespread support for the plan is almost universally encountered. An interesting commentary upon the favor it meets with in the school itself, among pupils and teachers, is the fact that more than \$50 has been voluntarily pledged there, to be paid in and expended for added school equipment in case the bond issue carries.

HOME FOR THE VACATION.

The boys and girls from Bend who have been off to college during the fall are home for the holidays. Saturday night the following came in: From the O. A. C. at Corvallis, John Sather, Fred Lucas, Misses Pauline and Margaret West; from the university at Eugene, Miss Angie Young and Steve Steidl; George and Clint Vandeventer from Willamette University at Salem.

SATHER TO MOVE IN.

The first floor of the Sather building is being shelled in preparation for the removal there of the store of E. A. Sather, who is located in a rented building adjoining. Mr. Sather will not continue his business, he says, longer than to close out the stock of general merchandise which he has on hand.

OPEN AN ACCOUNT

and see how many ways a Bank is of use to you. Checks are much cleaner to handle than money and you have the best kind of a receipt in a returned and endorsed check. We wish to emphasize the fact that a small account receives the same careful attention as a large one. One dollar starts an account.

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E. M. LARA, Cashier
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