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NO. 12.

SUMPTER VALLEY EXTENSION

PRESIDENT ECCLES REFUSES TO MAKE RASH PROMISES.

Signs Point to a Long Extension of the Road This Year--To Confer With O. R. & N. at Portland.

President David Eccles of the Sumpter Valley Railroad who is just here from Utah and left last night for Portland and Hood River where he has large business interests, was asked by a Baker City Democrat reporter what he intended to do this season in the way of extension of the road into the John Day country, Canyon City and Burns, said:

"I never do any talking until I am ready to act. We do not believe in giving the public a lot of hot air about what may or may not be done. It is my firm belief, from the investigation we have already made, that the country south and west of Whitney, including the valleys in which are situated Prairie City, Canyon City and Burns, is very rich in natural resources of all kinds and would pay well to develop for a transportation line, at least it would seem that the country would support a road in a few years. The further extension of our road will depend somewhat upon circumstances and the arrangements we can make with connecting lines for the exchange of business."

From one who is close to headquarters it is learned that the Sumpter Valley people have contemplated building about one hundred and ten miles of extension this year. It is known that they have most of the material on hand and have the equipment here with which to operate the extended road. The revolution in traffic matters that would occur with the completion of this extension is apparent to the most casual observer. A vast emporium to the southwest of Baker City only waits transportation facilities to make it one of the richest countries in the world from every view point, mines, agriculture, stock, lumber, fruit, all can only be developed to their fullest extent by a railroad.

While in Portland Mr. Eccles will have a conference with President A. L. Mehler, of the O. R. & N. and it is fair to presume that the two presidents will arrive at some understanding as to interchange of business in southeastern Oregon via Baker City. The public has confidence that the people who opened up the mining camps contiguous to Sumpter and put a large timber field in the market will carry on the good work and in the near future add the rich John Day and Harney counties as contributors to the world's markets.

It Rains Mud.

A phenomena which seems to trouble every one and is as yet unexplained, occurred here Thursday.

A shower of rain came up in the afternoon which proved to be not giving water but drops of mud. Windows and sidewalks were spattered with mud and the appearance of hats would lend the impression that the owners had been standing on their heads. The fact that trains arriving from both the east and the west were covered with the substance demonstrates that this strange trick of the elements is not merely local. Various theories have been advanced as to its cause, but the prevailing idea seems to be that there has been a volcanic eruption somewhere.

However the only thing of this nature known to occur recently is the dispatches from Amsterdam saying that the volcano Morapi in the island of Java, is in a state of eruption and pouring forth hot lava and ashes, but we do not profess to be sufficiently advanced in the science to judge the feasibility of an explanation on this scale.—Huntington Herald.

BRIGHT TO COME THIS WAY.

F. H. Watts, of The Dalles, who has been in the city the past week

COUNTY COURT HOUSE BURNS

FIRE DESTROYS UPPER STORY OF BUILDING AT PRINEVILLE.

Prompt and Effective Work of the Firemen Saved House From Total Destruction--Records all Saved.

Fire, starting from the roof, partially destroyed the second story of the courthouse at 8 o'clock this morning, says the Prineville Journal.

The offices on the first floor and the county court room were not damaged and work will be resumed in them as soon as the water and dirt can be cleaned out. The damage to the building will amount to \$2000 which is fully covered by insurance.

County Clerk J. J. Smith had been in the building only a few minutes when the blaze was discovered. A fire had been started in the county court room stove and Mr. Smith had just built a fire in the clerk's office when the smell of smoke led to the discovery of the burning roof which had been set on fire, it is thought by the sparks from the chimney. A 40 mile gale was blowing at the time and the flames were given a draft. Only the prompt and effective work of the fire companies saved the building and those across the street from total destruction.

Both fire companies were soon on the ground and inside of 35 minutes the flames were extinguished. Almost all of the second story was wiped up, but with systematic work the firemen confined the flames to the upper floor. As soon as the fire was discovered all books and records in all the offices were put into the fire proof safes and so far as known, nothing of value has been lost. While the firemen were fighting the flames from the outside, the county clerk, sheriff and deputies, with the assistance offered, gathered up the books and papers and carried out the furniture.

Western Ways.

Mrs. R. F. Claypool was a West-fall visitor Friday of last week.

John Daly passed through West-fall on his road home Friday.

Al Weatherly and Carl Riley, of Drewsey were in Westfall Saturday evening on their way home from a trip to Nevada.

Wm. Altnow, of Drewsey was a caller at Our Western Ways office one day last week. Mr. Altnow is one of the leading stockmen of the Otis Valley.

Relief in One Minute.

One Minute Cough Cure gives relief in one minute, because it kills the microbe which tickles the mucous membrane, causing the cough, and at the same time clears the phlegm, draws out the inflammation and heals and soothes the affected parts. One Minute Cough Cure strengthens the lungs, wards off pneumonia and is a harmless and never failing cure in all curable cases of Coughs, Colds and Croup. One Minute Cough Cure is pleasant to take, harmless and good alike for young and old. Sold by Burns druggists.

Why Willie was Absent.

Dear Teacher—I am sending our Willie with a inclosed excuse for his absents during the time he wuz away from skool, which will explain why he wuz not there. It is as much your fault as Willie's that he wasn't to skool. You told him that anything that fell for any distant wood inkrase in wait, as it descended, and Willie put a pair of skates in the front yard under the bay window, and went up on the roof to let a shoemaker's last fall, and sea how much it wood way at the bottom, and fell off himself and fractured his spinal column just below the kitchen window. He was lade upp for 3 weeks and 2 days. Now if you don't stop such nonsense in your teaching, I will be compelled to report the affare to the board of

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Editors are too honest.

There is a little paper published in the state penitentiary of Minnesota Prison Mirror, which proposes the following question:

"Why is it from the first conception of our paper until the present time we have never had an editor to sojourn in our midst? Other professions have been well represented. Of preachers we have had enough to furnish subsistence to an African chief for a year; doctors in sufficient numbers to depopulate a state and enough lawyers to establish a good-sized colony in Hades. But editors—none."

The Finest of All

MARYLAND CLUB WHISKY

For Sale Only at

Hotel Burns Bar

Agents, Burns, Ore.

Rotheid Bros., Distributors, Portland, Oregon.

DEATH OF THOMAS PRATHER

Former Harney Valley Pioneer passes Away in Montana

The Pioneer, published at Big Timber, Montana, in its issue of Jan. 21 reports the death of Thomas Prather who was among the first settlers in this valley and owned a stock ranch on Prather creek. Many of our old timers were well acquainted with the deceased and will be sorry to learn of his demise. The pioneer gives the following account of his life. It says he resided in Grant county—this being in Grant county at the time:

Thomas Theodore Prather was born in Clermont, Ohio, on Dec. 21, 1843. At the age of 10 months his parents died of typhoid fever and he was then cared for by relatives until he was 16 years old, when in 1859, with an uncle he journeyed by oxteam overland to Douglas county, Oregon. Here he remained until 1862 when he enlisted in Co. C, First Oregon cavalry and remained with his company until discharged. Mr. Prather then returned to Douglas county and for a year followed agriculture and cattle raising. He then sold out and returned to Ohio. After eighteen months spent in the scenes of his youth he again set out for Oregon going by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He engaged in buying cattle and selling them in the fall in Washington and California. Later he engaged in the manufacture of buckskin gloves but in this venture he lost money so he again turned his attention to cattle raising. He recouped his financial losses and in 1872 removed to Grant county, Oregon. On Feb. 22, 1872, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Jane Marriam of Jackson county, Ore., and the fruits of this union were a daughter, Kate, now the wife of A. J. Bryant of this city, and a son William Thomas Prather.

For ten years he continued in Grant county and was successful in the business of raising cattle and horses. In 1882 he moved to Montana and located on a ranch about seven miles west of this city. Here he engaged in sheep raising until 1900 when he engaged in cattle raising. He was a hard worker and conservative in his dealings through which characteristics he succeeded in accumulating a competency, and was considered one of the wealthy men of this county.

China New Year.

China Tom paid this office a visit the other day and informed us China New Year would begin tomorrow, Feb. 14 at midnight. He desired that the great religious inform the public that on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 3 o'clock p. m. the Chinamen would fire off 100,000,000 fire crackers and that horsemen should be careful not to hitch their teams in the vicinity.

Have You Indigestion.

If you have indigestion Kodol Dyspepsia Cure will cure you. It has cured thousands. It is curing people every day—every hour. You owe it to yourself to give it a trial. You will continue to suffer until you do try it. There is no other combination of digestants that digest and rebuild at the same time. Kodol does both. Kodol cures, strengthens and rebuilds. Sold by Burns Druggists.

EDUCATION.

What difference would it make to Willie if the shoe last did way more when it cum down. He couldn't sel junk on them bases. Never mind teachin' Willie science. He won't need it in baseball, and furthermor we don't want anny akrobats dooin leeps 4 life off the rufe for the benefit of doctors and hospital students. It's well enuff for rich men's sons, wot has nothin' 2 do but keep gettin well and havin relapses. But wot a poor man's son wants is hgw 2 reed his own name when he sees it in print. If Willie shood ever be a mooter man on a electric car, they cood rite down enything at a koroner's inquest as his evidence and he woudn't know it. So let this kommunercashun be a warnin to you. Your's trooly, Mrs. Hennerr B Leathers.

Sheriff Lawrence, who left Vale a week or so ago for Nebraska to bring back one J. H. Slattery, held on a charge of horse-stealing, and wanted here, arrived home Sunday, having failed to get his man. Slattery was arrested jointly with one of our citizens here. However through some technicality of the law the requisition papers were not honored by Nebraska, and the prisoner was turned loose. There is yet a way out of this matter. It is high time this matter of horse-stealing was put a stop to. It has been going on from year to year in Malheur and Harney counties unabated. A vigorous campaign should be inaugurated against these jackals. Comparatively few of these offenders have been captured and brought to justice. Bring Slattery back, and let him and those with whom he is accused, have an impartial trial. If they are innocent, so much the better. If they are guilty, let them suffer the penalty of the law.—Vale Gazette.

Some Winter.

The past week the weather has been the most disagreeable of the winter. The wind has been blowing at a rapid rate giving us a little snow here in the valley and more in the mountains. The thermometer registered 3 below Tuesday morning the coldest yet recorded this winter.

An Early Riser.

A strong, healthy, active constitution depends largely on the condition of the liver. The famous little pills known as DeWitt's Little Early Risers not only cleanse the system but they strengthen the action of the liver and rebuild the tissues supporting that organ. Little Early Risers are easy to act, they never gripe and yet they are absolutely certain to produce results that are satisfactory in all cases. Sold by Burns Druggists.

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This bank is insured and will be reimbursed for any loss by burglary or hold up day or night.

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W. JONES, VICE-PRESIDENT. C. E. KENYON, Asst. Cashier.

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W. R. SEBREE, CASHIER.

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