

TWO RAILROAD TRACKS

Roadbed in Malheur Canyon for Both Hill and Harriman Tracks

CARL GRAY BE PRESIDENT G. N.

Louis W. Hill to Resign Despite Denials, is Information Received, to Devote Time to Land Deals—Hill and Harriman Engineers Working Together.

The extensiveness of the operations on the Oregon & Eastern railway, started in the Malheur canyon twelve miles west of this city, came to light today when it was learned that a double track roadbed is being built throughout the whole length of the narrow and difficult gorge says the Enterprise. The roadbed is to be used for the separate tracks of the Harriman and Hill railroad, which will branch off into their respective territory upon leaving the west and east portals of the Malheur canyon.

This is the main reason for the present slow movements of the construction department, as it is understood that Chief Construction Engineer Osborn, of the Harriman force, in charge of the operations here must refer to a Hill engineer all the new engineering and construction strips being made over the joint roadbed.

From the most reliable source it is further learned that the specifications for the Malheur canyon operations call for the best roadbed in the United States, showing that both systems are planning to maintain and operate standard trunk lines through Vale and the famous Malheur pass. It is further known without a doubt that Hill will connect the Pittsburg & Gilmore in northeastern Idaho with the "Pin" road over the Dead Ox Flat into Vale to pass into interior Oregon enroute to Coos Bay for supremacy of that coast terminal.

GRAY TO BE PRESIDENT.

Notwithstanding repeated denials from Louis W. Hill that he is contemplating resignation from the presidency of the Great Northern Railway, the information was received here last night from St. Paul through private sources that Carl R. Gray is to be made president of the Great Northern on May 1, says the Journal.

Mr. Gray is president of the Hill lines in Oregon, having come here a year ago from the Frisco line at St. Louis to succeed John F. Stevens who built the Oregon Trunk line for the Hill interests, and he is now in St. Paul or on his way home from a conference with Hill officials at St. Paul. It was stated at the North Bank offices that Mr. Gray will probably return home Monday or Tuesday.

That Louis Hill will devote his time to the colonization of Central Oregon is believed to be the program he has mapped out, but which he is not ready to announce, judging from the fact that he has denied the truth of the various rumors to the effect that he would resign.

Mr. Hill is interested in the 800,000 acre tract of the Oregon Western Colonization Company, and as has been announced, this land will be placed on the market this summer, with a view of establishing thriving communities and thereby create traffic for the railroads tapping the central part of the state. To transform for this vast area into a prosperous, thickly populated settlement, is said by his friends to be one of Mr. Hill's ambitions.

Shortly before his resignation from his position as president of the Hill lines in Oregon, John F. Stevens was spoken of as having been slated for the presidency of the Great Northern, and it is believed here that Mr. Hill at that time figured seriously on devoting all his time to the colonization of Central Oregon. Mr. Stevens sudden decision to sever his connections with the Hill in-

terests, however, brought about new conditions.

Two names are mentioned prominently in connection with the report that Mr. Gray is to succeed Mr. Hill, these being Mr. George T. Slade and Howard James, both of St. Paul. Mr. Slade is third vice-president of the Northern Pacific and a son-in-law of James J. Hill, the railroad and empire builder, and Mr. James is director of purchases of the Great Northern. It is reported that one of them will succeed Mr. Gray as president of the Hill lines in this state.

ANOTHER MODERN BUILDING.

Archie McGowan has purchased the lots on the corner of Third street leading to the court house and has already made arrangements for the erection of a modern fire proof office building which will be rushed to completion just as rapidly as material can be brought in and the weather conditions will permit.

It is not the intention of Mr. McGowan to erect a large building, but ample for his personal use and a safe place for the valuable books and records of the Harney County Abstract Co. It is an ideal location for his business on one of the principal streets leading to the court house and a neat office building on the corner will add much to the value and sightliness of that section.

The house now on the property will be improved and will be used for a residence to be occupied by Mr. McGowan and family or possibly rented.

The Times-Herald understands the Abstract Co. books will be removed at once from the present office into one room of the C. B. McConnell suite in The Times-Herald building where they will be kept temporarily as it is safe from fire.

This is the first new structure of business houses announced for this season but there are other buildings contemplated and it is almost certain that Burns will witness considerable activity in this line during the business season.

Property owners are convinced of the permanency of our city and henceforth substantial business structures will be erected.

WOOL GROWERS MEET.

There was a very representative gathering of wool growers at the meeting of the Harney County Wool Growers Association last Monday. The Times-Herald has not a list of all the members of the association but between now and shearing time it will represent about a million pounds of wool and some of the most substantial men of Eastern Oregon are active in the organization.

The unavoidable absence of W. E. Coman, general freight and passenger agent of the Oregon Trunk and representatives of warehouse companies who were scheduled to be present was a disappointment as it was hoped to get some valuable information from the gentlemen as to rates and such inducements as they had to offer for turning the wool business of this section into another channel rather than shipping and selling over the same route and manner as in the past. These gentlemen wired it was impossible to reach Burns on the date set for the meeting of the wool men and asked for a postponement to a later date. This could not be done under the

circumstances as many members had come long distances to attend and the spring rush of getting their stock to the lambing quarters and preparations for shearing, range, etc. made it very inconvenient for them to return here.

The primary object of this organization is for mutual protection as well as to get closer together for the best results and the greatest advantage of the industry.

One advantage of such an organization is the large amount of wool represented which will be an inducement to buyers that will attract them to this territory instead of waiting for each individual clip to arrive at some shipping point in such amount as to justify visiting such point to examine and purchase.

The meeting Monday took proper steps toward ascertaining the most practical point for shipping the wool as well as the warehouse facilities, etc. The secretary has written to various shipping points and the replies will be submitted to the president and if deemed of sufficient importance he will call a special meeting to consider them.

SUNSET NOTES.

One of the most enjoyable entertainments of the season happened at the home of W. R. Dawson on the night of Feb. 23. The event being the home coming of Miss Laura, who has just completed a successful term of school in the Voltaire district. Many of Miss Dawson's Sunset and Voltaire friends attended. Music dancing and card games were the order of the evening, and at midnight a fine oyster supper was served. Every one had a good time, and all agree that W. R. understands the game of entertaining.

The grange had a social dance and box supper on the night of Feb. 24. The boxes were sold to the highest bidders and brought \$24.00. It is the intention of the Grangers to buy an organ in the near future. Two new members were voted in last meeting; a good program was rendered. Several applications will be voted on at the next meeting and it is safe to say Sunset will have more than 50 members.

A number of the Sunset home-standers are making preparation to make five year proof, even though they will prove up very few speak of leaving Sunset.

Our stage driver is sporting a brand new stage these days. In the Weaver Spring neighborhood, Ross Ringer has broken 25 acres of new ground this spring, this makes him 200 acres under cultivation. More farmers like Ringer is what we need.

Mrs. W. R. Dawson returned from her winter's visit in California on the 27th of Feb. W. R. who has so long had a grouch, now wears the Taft smile.

Bert Porter has entirely recovered from his recent attack of pneumonia.

From all reports there will be great activity at the new town of Wellington as soon as weather and roads will permit. We are told that one of the first improvements will be a newspaper. The press is now at Vale, a residence and shop will be constructed at once, as soon as completed the new editor and family will come from Portland.

VALLEY VIEW ITEMS

Valley View Grange will hold its regular monthly meeting Saturday, March 9, 1912. A debate on the question of building a new court house will be one of the features of the literary program.

The Valley View Grange will give an entertainment at the school house Tuesday, March 12. A fine program has been arranged including a one act farce entitled "Mrs. Stubbins' Book Agent." Supper will be served to all at close of program. Every body cordially invited to attend. If your own girl is away, bring the other fellows. This means you!

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TO SELL INDIAN LANDS

Plans Decided Upon Some Time Ago To be Carried Out at Once

LOCAL MEN SUGGEST DISPOSAL

Majority of Allottees Incompetent, Some Dead, Others Blind—Disposal Considered Best for Indians and Development of Big Area Will not be Retarded.

Three or four years ago a suggestion was made that the lands allotted to the Piute Indians should not be allowed to remain idle and some means provided whereby the land might be cultivated or placed in such a shape as would permit of their development under competent supervision. The matter was taken up by Dr. Marsden and Register Farre of the local land office and since then considerable correspondence has been exchanged between these gentlemen and the U. S. land and Indian service department. Dr. Marsden is thoroughly familiar with the Indian allottees their relationship and inclinations respecting the lands and this knowledge, together with the confidence the Indians have in him has made his service of great value to bringing about desired results. It was represented to the Department that the Indians were incompetent, many being old, others blind and a large number of the original allottees dead, therefore it would be best for the public and also the Indians themselves to dispose of the land, therefore the Department ordered the land to be sold. This was some three or four years ago.

Prof. Rakestraw, who was then in charge of the Fort Bidwell Indian school, was instructed to come here and carry out the plans of the government. Later Mr. Rakestraw was succeeded in the schools by another man, who it seems, did not get the opportunity to do the work. A few weeks ago Mr. H. G. Wilson of Roseburg, an attaché of the Indian service, was ordered to do the work.

Dr. Marsden has recently received a letter from Mr. Wilson respecting the matter in which he says:

"The matter of straightening out and leasing or selling the land of the Piute Indians in Harney county has been assigned to me and I will either personally go to Harney or send a representative there some time in the early part of April. I do not deem it advisable to go in earlier on account of the bad roads. I presume that a large number of the original allottees are dead and that hearings will have to be held to determine rightful heirship. I believe that you know more concerning these Indians than any other person. Under the law the hearings have to be advertised for 30 days therefore to expedite matters if you could go over the list of the names of the allottees at the land office and send me a list of all names, and note all the deceased Indians of the list in order that I could get their names so that advertisements could be made in advance in order that the hearing might be held some time in the early part of April and thus save considerable time."

It seems there is an impression current that these lands are to be thrown open to settlement, but such is not the case. An estate has been created, patents issued to the Indians and they must have consideration and be dealt

with just the same as any individual owner of land.

The Times-Herald is not familiar with the mode of procedure but likely the lands will be appraised and advertised for a period and then disposed of to the highest bidder. People must not get the idea that because they are Indians their rights will not be properly protected by the government.

THE "RABBIT SUPPER."

Tuesday evening about twenty contestants in the recent rabbit shoot of the Harney Valley Rod and Gun Club, gathered in the dining room of the Burns hotel, to partake of the bounteous supper prepared for them by Mrs. Dibble. It was supposed by the uninitiated that all were to fare alike, but Sam Mothershead, ever the favorite of Dam Fortune, was served with his favorite article of diet, a nice large juicy crow, borne to him on a large platter; attached to the bird was a card with the following inscription:

"Sam's feet got cold
The crow grew old
The rest of the story is better untold."

Sam promised he would go out and shoot next time. Then for awhile there was silence—a silence that was an eloquent tribute to the excellence of the meal, and the splendid appetites of the mighty hunters, many of whom, especially the Rev. Dr. Babbidge, had fasted all day, that they might show that their prowess at the table was fully equal to their prowess on the field. But when the edge was taken off the appetites, tongues became loosened, and many wild and weird tales of adventure on the field, forest and stream were related.

Dell Dibble told how, unarmed and all alone, he boldly confronted a rabbit in its lair, and after a fearful struggle, put the ferocious animal to flight. C. F. McKinney told of a hand to hoof combat with a deer on Steens Mountain, in which the deer came out second best; Jim Dalton told of a deer with a charmed life. He also told in thrilling language, how Ernest Music crawled cautiously through the grass to get a shot at his own decoys. Carl Herzog told the story of the ship, the whale and the lady who sold oranges. No one had the temerity to tell of the large trout that got away, but Charley Byrd told of a terrific encounter between Bruss Byrd and a gigantic sucker of the amphibious variety. Dr. Babbidge closed the evening with a tale of a rattlesnake, which shows the Doctor to be a close student of nature, disclosing as he did, some traits of rattlesnake nature, not usually noticed by the average observer. It has been suggested that the Doctor and T. R. would make a great combination to expose nature fakers. When he was through Dr. Hibbard announced that he had fitted up the traps for blue rock shooting, in his field, at the foot of the new grade. A con-

test has been arranged to take place there, Saturday March 9th, at 3:30 and it is hoped that many of the members will participate. The company then adjourned, all declaring they had enjoyed a pleasant evening and a splendid meal.

PORTER TO IRRIGATE 1000 ACRES.

Never before has the Dead Ox flat country in the northeastern part of the county received so much attention from irrigationists as at the present time. Another pumping plant for another irrigation system is being projected by O. W. Porter of Weiser, who is also a large property holder in this city.

According to the report just received Mr. Porter will place water on the major portion of 1000-acre Dead Ox Flat ranch by pumping water from the Snake River. This tract represents the largest individual holdings in this part of the county and has for years been sought after by men who wished to develop it and sell it for small orchard tracts.

Some months ago Mr. Porter engaged the services of Engineer Stuart M. French and since then has been working diligently on plans and specifications for a pumping plant with sufficient capacity to irrigate between 600 and 700 acres. This acreage represents that portion of the property that lies at an elevation not exceeding a 33 foot lift from the low water stage in the Snake river.

The plans and specifications as now evolved call for the installation of two 8 inch direct connected centrifugal pumps. The pumps will be operated by two 30 horse power electric motors. The machinery will be set on solid concrete base and have sufficient capacity to supply two acre feet of water during the irrigation season of 120 days. In addition to the pumping plant proper the installation calls for the laying of approximately 400 feet of 16 inch iron pipe and the construction of about 2 miles of main canals. This method assures distribution of water to all points by combining pipes and open ditches.

The pump house will be located on the bank of the Snake river immediately south of the Porter Ferry landing on the Oregon side. The pump house itself will be very substantially constructed of concrete and wood. The walls will extend four feet above the machinery to insure against flooding during times of high water. The entire plant will be in active operation this season.

The pumps, motors, and other necessities have been shipped from San Francisco and are expected to arrive this month when they will be immediately installed.—Enterprise.

CANNOT VOTE ON COURT HOUSE

Attorney General Crawford has written a letter to County Commissioner Sylvester stating the people have no right to demand the action of the court in levying a tax for the purpose of building a court house he submitted to them for approval or rejection. He says in closing: "The action of the county court in levying a tax is a judicial matter and is not one upon which the referendum may be invoked, consequently your county court is not reviewable by the people, and they have no lawful authority to demand that the question of the levy by you shall be placed on a ballot at the ensuing election."

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