

ROGUE RIVER COURIER  
GRANTS PASS, OREGON.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1903.

Ex-Premier Sagasta of Spain died on January 5, in his 76th year. Sagasta was one of the greatest of Spanish statesmen and was premier during the war with the United States.

The Venezuelan matter still hangs fire. The allies persist in maintaining the blockade until satisfactory peace terms are arranged. The Venezuelan rebels are again active and are taking advantage of the situation to advance their cause. It is asserted that they are being openly aided by the allies. President Castro's position is one of extremity. The powers have delayed responding to Castro's last proposition to submit the matter to the Hague tribunal and meanwhile his case grows desperate. He claims that the powers have seized and confiscated already enough to pay the alleged debt several times over.

The Kewick strikers have asked the company for a conference committee with the object of being allowed to return to work under very nearly the same conditions under which they struck. The only cause of the strike was that the company would not recognize the union and this the company refused to do. There was no disagreement as to wages, treatment or hours of labor. Many of the miners are now fully convinced that the strike was a great mistake. The Kewick mines and smelter constituted one of the greatest industries of the Pacific coast and hundreds of men were thrown out of employment, not only to their own disadvantage but to that of their fellow workers in California and Oregon. The company paid the men to the day of the strike and closed the works, the managers remarking that the grass would grow in the streets of Kewick before they would start again. There is little expectation that the mine will be re-opened soon.

A new licensing act has gone into effect in London, the provisions of which are exceedingly drastic. It proposes to treat the drunkard as a person who deliberately incapacitates himself for usefulness, and who renders himself unworthy of honor, trust or the exercise of personal freedom. It allows either husband or wife to secure a separation in the case of habitual drunkenness, and allows the police to arrest an inebriate whether he is disorderly or not. Upon conviction, drunkards are black-listed for three years; that is to say, if they attempt to obtain drink within that time they are liable to a fine, as is also the liquor vendor who supplies them with drink. The custom of treating the drunkard as a "poor fellow," a helpless creature who is preyed upon by saloon keepers, having utterly failed as a reform measure, it will be interesting to watch the new process of making and holding men responsible for drinking to excess. In this view the most flimsy excuse in the world is that which seeks to extenuate brutality, pecculation, the neglect of wife and children, and misdemeanors generally, by the plea, "Poor fellow, he was drunk or he never would have done so." If he was drunk, according to the spirit of this law, so much the worse. Let him be punished because he was drunk, even if he was not also disorderly-Oregonian.

Three prominent dairy farmers of Applegate valley are this month, trying an experiment, the result of which is watched with interest by the rest of the dairy men in the Williams creek and Applegate valleys. Having purchased cream separators these three are sending their fresh cream to the Roseburg creamery, and if, at the end of a month they find that the experiment is a profitable one, the rest will follow their example. This matter should be called to the attention of the business men of Grants Pass, for even at present there are imported from creameries outside Josephine county at least 2000 rolls of butter every month. To pay for this takes at least \$18000 per year for this county. Cannot our business men and farmers co-operate in establishing a creamery in this county and thus keep that \$18,000 in circulation near home. There are two sections of the county that could well support creameries; huge enough to furnish Grants Pass with butter; viz: Williams and Applegate district and the Sucker creek district. In each the farmers are beginning to pay more attention to dairying than formerly, and, if creameries were established they would surely take advantage of the excellent market by keeping more milk cows. Creameries would add to the wealth of the community in this way as well as by saving the profits of the butter to the home people. Unless something be done to remedy it, the situation will presently be the farmers exporting cream, the Grants Pass merchants importing butter and the consumers paying for it at the rate of 70 cents per roll. Let us have creameries in Josephine county. This is a matter well worth the consideration of the board of trade.

Watch Night Meeting.  
Those who attended the watch night meeting at the M. E. church on New Year's eve enjoyed very pleasant services. A number of short addresses were given on the several lines of church work, hymns were sung, and the evening passed quickly till midnight.

GOOD LUCK  
GOOD LUCK  
GOOD LUCK

We have had lots of good luck with our Shoes. People tell us they wear well. We think it is because we strive to buy the kind that wears. We do not search for shoddy stuff when buying.

RED STAR STORE.  
W. E. Dean & Co., Propr.  
Front street, oppo Depot.

PLATINUM IN OUR PLACERS  
Geo. F. Smith Tells How to Save This Valuable Metal.

It was the good fortune of a Courier representative a few days ago to have an interesting interview with Walter F. Smith, the representative of the Welshbach Gas Fitting company, of Philadelphia, who have been experimenting and operating for platinum in Josephine county for the past year and longer. These people have been very quiet at work and but little has been known to the outside world regarding their operations. "We have made a success of our experiments and tests and are now ready to tell the placer miners of southern Oregon how it is done," said Mr. Smith to the Courier man, as he puffed his cigar with the air of one who has accomplished something of which he feels proud.

The Welshbach Gas Fitting Company use a vast amount of platinum in the manufacture of their various articles and as they are experiencing considerable difficulty in keeping a supply of the metal and its growing scarcity is making it more valuable each passing season, they have started out prospecting and mining for the metal for their own good. For a number of years past the placer miners of the western Josephine districts have been finding a quantity of an unknown metal in their sluices at clean-up time. The metal was mixed with the black sand and the miners being ignorant of its identity and value threw it from their sluices. The Welshbach company heard of this unknown metal being found in the placer diggings of western Josephine county and sent some of their representatives out to investigate. It was ascertained that the strange metal which the miners had been carelessly throwing aside was platinum, and when the miners were told that the metal was valuable as gold, they opened their eyes in wonderment. But the next problem that confronted the miner was how to separate the platinum from the black sand. Mr. Smith and his associates set about solving this and now have the problem solved. "The system is as flexible as a baby's gown," said Mr. Smith, "there is not a placer miner in this section of the state but that can mine platinum with his gold and with no extra expense. If he will but follow the plans that we will give to any of them free of charge. Our people are desirous of stimulating and encouraging platinum mining wherever the metal is found, and will aid any miner in putting in appliances for saving it where he knows the metal exists. I believe that every mine in southern Oregon situated on old channels and nearly all are contain platinum. The metal is found with the black sand. Our experiments and work thus far have been carried on only in the Waldo district, but we will operate in a number of other districts in Josephine county before another season. I sincerely believe that when all things are clearly understood, the miners of this section will find that they are just saving one-half of the values of their diggings. They will have the idea that gold is the only thing, and their appliances are built to save gold alone. How much better it would be for them to save all the metals when it can be done with no additional expense."

The manner in which platinum is saved from the diggings is very simple. It consists, practically speaking, of adding a system of undercurrents, similar to the ones some of the large mines have in for saving flour gold, to the sluices, by the putting in of these undercurrents the platinum can be mined and saved at the same time with the gold. A number of the larger hydraulic mines of the surrounding districts have already arranged to put in platinum appliances and will make the saving of this metal a permanent feature of their business in the future.

The Courier man was shown a flask of platinum that Mr. Smith had taken from the mines of Waldo. The metal has much the appearance of coarse powder, with a slightly metallic lustre. From the success being met with in mining and saving the metal by those who have been operating here during the past year, it seems most probable that platinum will become an important feature of the mineral industry of southern Oregon.

W. H. Halbert, editor of the Oregon News, was in town Monday on a business visit. Mr. Halbert has recently made a number of improvements on his printing plant and is getting out a paper that is a credit to his town.

Oregon Counties  
The largest county in the state is Oregon is Harney, with an area of 9985 miles; second in size is Malheur, with 9784, and third in size is Lake, with 7884. In 1882 Lake was the largest county in the state as it contained the combined areas of Lake and Klamath, making 12214 square miles. Klamath county was taken off of Lake in that year.

The smallest county in the state of Oregon is Multnomah, with only 49 square miles of territory. In Oregon are nine counties with over 1000 square miles, and eight with less than 1000 square miles. The nine largest are Douglas, 3861; Grant, 4591; Harney, 9985; Klamath, 4880; Lake, 7884; Crook, 7558; Lam, 4880; Malheur, 9784; Umatilla, 6116. Union had 3146 miles before losing the Panhandle, but this addition to Baker did not place her on the list with the nine largest. The eight counties having less than 1000 square miles are Multnomah, 499; Benton, 677; Clatsop, 820; Columbia, 677; Polk, 101; Sherman, 736; Washington, 714; Yamhill, 711. When it is remembered that Rhode Island contains only 1500 square miles, the magnitude of Oregon seems almost incredible. Yet Rhode Island has the same strength in the United States senate as Oregon, ninety times her superior in area.

For a bad taste in the mouth take a few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Price 25c. Warranted to cure. For sale by all druggists.

It's a Mistake  
to suppose you can't afford to buy good flour. The best is the cheapest, always. The product of our mills has gained a popularity that is widespread and deserved. It is at once economical, pure and of uniformly high standard. Our Medford brand is noted for its excellence. Has no superior on the market. Low priced too.

A. A. DAVIS.

Diamonds in Oregon.  
The fulfillment of the prophecy made 90 years ago by Professor Clayton, a geologist in the employ of the United States, that diamond mines would be found in Oregon, is at hand. The mine is in the Blue Mountain range 60 miles from Burns, the seat of Harney county. There is no question of the quality and quantity of the precious gems, but there is a question as to their commercial value. The stones thus far discovered are generally too small for the trade. They are no larger than a small pinhead. A few have been found that would sell for from \$20 to \$500, but they are rare. Were diamonds marketable like gold, if there was any process known to science by which the miniature stones could be welded together, then Harney would no longer be known as the "cow county," and Oregon would rank with the diamond producing regions of the earth.

The commercial value of the diamonds is now being determined by the great diamond firm of New York, Tiffany & Company, whose confidence in the new field is sufficient to warrant them in furnishing the capital for further development. They are co-operating with the local owners.

The diamonds are found in layers of volcanic ash. Geologists and mineralogists agree that the formation being the same as that indigenous to South Africa, where the largest diamond mines in the world have been exploited. This is the formation that Professor Clayton referred to when observing the geological conditions of Oregon in his official capacity, 10 years ago. It is said to be the next to the oldest formation found on the North American continent, only that through which the St. Lawrence river runs being older. The layers thus far mined yield only extremely small stones, but it is expected and hoped that other layers will be discovered that bear with the precious stones gems of commercial importance.—Telegram.

Jackson County Mines.  
Medford Mail.

John Mitchell has located several placer claims on Birdseye creek and is fitting them up with pipe and giant. His locations are near the famous "Jintown" from which claims the late sheriff "Jim" Birdseye took many hundreds of dollars.

Thomas and William Carr are working their high bank in Lyons gulch, Foots creek, with powder and driving into their flume with a giant. The Carr brothers have worked their claims every year for the past 25 years and have always had good clean-ups.

Oscar Swacker, who has some rich placer ground back of the school house on Foots creek, has his claim in first class condition for the winter's run and expects to clean up a good bunch of heavy nuggets for which his ground is famous. Two years ago Mr. Swacker took out one nugget worth \$50 in addition to the usual number of smaller pieces.

Work was started Monday on the Golden Eagle mine opposite Rock Point. H. B. Jones of Medford, went down Sunday to inspect the property and instruct the men who are to work. The Golden Eagle is now owned by H. L. White, of Ashland, but was formerly the property of Mr. Jones, who took considerable money from it regularly for over three years. The present work will consist of a new shaft and cross-cut on the main ledge.

Provolt Items.  
Sharpe Bros. and Holman began panning at their Powell creek placer on Christmas.

Sibly and Co. are pushing development work at the Mountain King quartz mine on Powell creek.

The Sikes family expect to move into their new residence this week. R. M. Congal has been doing the finishing work.

Herman Messenger moved over to his ranch near the Provolt school house this week. At Herman's age and with his prospects, he will surely be satisfied very long with a bachelor's life.

Messrs Layton and Spencer expect this winter to complete their part of the irrigation ditch which is taken from Applegate at the 19th placer. When completed to the Spencer farm the ditch will be about eight miles long.

C. T. Davidson, foreman of the Toledo placer mine, reports that there is a good force of men at that mine working night and day and panning lots of dirt which prospects finely. Mr. Davidson is an energetic superintendent and can be counted on to make a profitable run.

The Ballinger Camp, W. O. W. at Williams is flourishing and expects to initiate a dozen new members at their next meeting. The Woodman Hall has just been finished inside and will

make the lodge a very comfortable home.

Dr. Jennings has been doing considerable development work on his quartz mine on China creek lately, and has gotten fine prospects. We shall be glad if the mine shows up well enough to induce the doctor to make his home in this district.

We are glad to note that Ed Herriot is sufficiently recovered from his recent fright to be able to drive stage regularly again. It is reported, however, that seeing a monkey, wrench or a gas-pipe gives his nerves a severe shock yet.

Williams creek farmers and miners are very much pleased with the weather this winter. While there has been sufficient water for placer mining for nearly two months past, yet the rains have been moderate and interspersed with warm sunny days. Fall sown grain has had a fine chance and is looking well.

The Champlain Gold Mining Co. have completed over 1000 feet of the 3000 foot tunnel which they are running on the Tip-top ledge. They have discovered several paying ledges while running this tunnel and have good prospects for developing one of the best paying mines in Southern Oregon. An electric light plant has been lately installed, and adds greatly to the convenience of the workmen.

Nipper and Johnson, the Williams saw mill men have recently purchased a new setting for their mill at the Gilmore cross-roads, Murphy. They intend to raft logs down Applegate and saw them there at Murphy, thus saving considerable on hauling lumber. If the project is as successful as it promises to be, it will be quite a boon to settlers along Applegate for their logs for several years to come. Williams creek people, however, are sorry to have the mill leave its present location because it supplies the local lumber trade.

To the people hereabouts we intend to remain unknown quantities so will sign as  
X. Y. Z.

Leland Siftings  
People are hunting up their stock. Stock rooms at will here and is liable to get scattered.

We have no sickness to report, but somebody is going to get married soon. They are keeping it very shy.

We have well established schools, good water, good land, good timber, all that is a pleasure to life.

Some of our farmers are pruning their orchards, so as to raise big red apples, of which Leland can boast.

Business is good here; so much so that many are going to get married soon. The streets are very busy. Our city days should order more gravel so the streets will be more passable.

Some of our people have gone to Merin, presumably on a business trip. People are settling down to business again in this district. Our man who lost his girl is being reconciled to his fate.

We are having warm sunny weather. It has the appearance of spring. Grass cereals are growing nicely. The miners are running their mines for all they are worth. T. J. Clark is knocking down the heavy bank; Tom understands mining. If he can't run a mine so as to save and slice off of the ground for the precious metal, others need not try.

G. W. Chapin told us last week that he was taken for a Dutchman, but afterwards he convinced the parties that he was a genuine southern Oregonian; we can tell the difference in the population; those coming from the Portland country, don't have the elastic step that the people have here. They also draw their words more something after the Arkansas style.

We are getting some population from the Willamette Valley; they report a constant rain there, for six weeks, so the short men have to wait; the tall men manage to walk on high places. When the rain will wash away plows and harrows from wheat fields, we think it is time to pull up and go to southern Oregon, where the rains come easy and have a lot of something; we have can even raise mortgages. Also we can raise lots of fat babies.

School teachers are looking for situations; some of them are in the field early before the rush. Some of our citizens took a trip to the Willamette Valley to see relatives; they wrote back, "rain, rain." If this country were more advertised, what a rush of people would come to Grants Pass and Leland as soon as the droughtless its work in widening and deepening Grays creek. Then we will have direct communication with the ocean and with the railroad in another direction, our country will be complete.

The railroad company is taking wood from the Kinney short line. A large amount of wood is on the line waiting to be shipped to Grants Pass and other points. Wide Awake.

Always keep in mind  
that we employ only first-class  
Plumbers and Tinnners  
and consequently can do work that will satisfy you.

Give us a trial and be convinced.

Grants Pass Hardware  
Company  
Front Street, Opposite Depot,  
A. E. CARLSON, Propr. GRANTS PASS ORE.

CLASSIFIED ADS.  
NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of The Sugar Pine Door & Lumber Company will be held at the office of said company at Grants Pass, Oregon, on Wednesday, January 14, 1903, at 10 o'clock, p. m. The meeting is for the purpose of electing a board of directors to serve for the ensuing year, and the transaction of such business as may come before it.

H. C. Kinney, president  
J. H. Booth, secretary  
Grants Pass, Oregon, December 13, 1902.

ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM  
will positively cure deep-seated  
COUGHS,  
COLDS,  
CROUP.

A 25c. bottle for a Simple Cold.  
A 50c. bottle for a Heavy Cold.  
A \$1.00 bottle for a Deep-seated Cough.  
Sold by all Druggists.

...Grants Pass Opera House...  
THURSDAY EVENING  
JANUARY 15th  
Sandy Bottom

"Sandy Bottom" is a story of the South—with its peculiar people and more peculiar dialect.

The varied characters chosen by the author to reveal his intentions are woven into action that in itself has artistic variety and is alive with elements that rivet the attention. The play is clean, clear and clever, and it has a lasting power in the memory surpassed by no other play.

A SIMPLE STORY,  
NATURAL AND TRUE TO LIFE

Wish You a Happy New Year's

Holiday gifts combining  
artistic merit and rare  
utility are scarce.

THE "STANDARD" GRAND.

Fills the bill. It is a beauty, and makes the chain or lock stitch at the will of the operator. It is one of the best gifts possible to make.

For sale by  
Joseph Moss,  
the Real Estate Agent.

Cousin System  
of Investment  
Iowa Capital  
Oregon Enterprise

Mines, Farms and Timber Lands Bought and Sold.

We have Treasury Stock of the best Mining Companies in Oregon for Sale.

Exceptional facilities for investigating properties.

A. B. Cousin, Mgr.  
McKay Bldg.  
Portland, Ore.  
Send for Prospectus St. Helens & Galice Mining Co.

G. P. Pharmacy and National Drug Store.

BEST LINIMENT ON EARTH.  
Henry D. Baldwin, Supr. City Water Works, Schullsburg, Wis. writes: I have tried many kinds of liniment but have never received much benefit until I used Ballard's Snow Liniment for rheumatism and pains. I think it the best liniment on earth. 25c, 50c, and \$1.00 bottles at Slevor Drug Co.

NEW CENTURY COMFORT.  
Millions are daily finding a world of comfort in Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It kills pain from Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Bruises, contusions, Ucers, and Fever, soothes sore throats, Salt Rheum, Bolls and Felons; Removes corns and warts. Best Pile cure on earth. Only 25c at W. F. Kremer's drug store.

..SPECIAL SALE..  
Christmas has passed, and so have all regular prices. Should you need any article here mentioned and fail to take advantage of these Special Prices you will be causing yourself further regret.

Ladies' and Children's Coats at almost your own price.  
Ladies' and Men's Mackintoshes at a great reduction.  
Ladies' Opera Shawls, Fascinators, Wool Gloves, Wool and Silk Waists, and a few numbers in Wool Skirts that we will close out at great reductions.

..Men's Clothing..  
We have about 50 Men's Suits and odd Coats and Vests which we are positively going to close out. This means a great saving for you.

Come in and look them over.

E. B. Dixon

STARVEOUT PLACERS SOLD  
E. B. Meyer's Property Purchased by Capitalists.

E. B. Meyer has sold his placer claims on Starvout creek, to a company of moneyed men who will largely equip them and work them on a big scale. The price paid for the claims was \$12,000. These placer diggings are very rich and have been worked in a primary way by ground-sluicing and light piping for a number of years, during which time he has realized good returns. With a large equipment, these mines will produce a much greater amount of gold than formerly and will easily rank with the best lullion producers of this section of the state.

FOREST CREEK PLACERS  
Purchased by Spaulding and Others, of Tacoma.

E. A. Spaulding and associates, of Tacoma have purchased the Coffman placer property on Forest Creek, Jackson county, for a reported price of \$10,000. This property contains 40 acres. They have also leased 160 acres from the Hydraulic Mining Co., giving them 400 acres on which to operate. The company will build a mile and a half ditch which will give a pressure of 100 feet. Two giants will be put into operation. This property joins the famous Straggler placer. When it is fitted up it will be among the larger hydraulic enterprises of Southern Oregon and large returns are anticipated.

All our people seem to be afflicted with colic.  
Zanoni.

WILL THEY EVER FIND IT OUT?  
That the Medford flour is again the best flour on the market?

QUARTZBURG MINING CO.  
Installing Eight Stamp Mill in Williams District.

The Quartzburg Mining Company, composed principally of Grants Pass and Portland people, are installing an eight stamp mill and full equipment on their quartz mines in the Williams district, 20 miles south of this city. This company has been developing these properties for the past year, and now have them in excellent shape for business. The new mill will have a capacity of 20 tons daily and will be kept steadily at work. The claims of the Quartzburg Company are opened by three tunnels to a depth of 700 feet. The ore body exposed is a vast one. The values carried are in free gold, and range from \$10 to \$40 per ton.

Wilderville Items  
The farmers have commenced plowing again.

J. B. Robinson is now working on the new house of D. Sheehan.

Bernie To Mr. and Mrs. Strubel E. Robinson, Dec. 30, 1902, a 10 pound boy.

There was quite a disappointment on account of the discontinuation of the school for another week.

Messrs Adble and Chose, and Chas. and Kirkman Robinson went to Grants Pass Saturday to be ready to commence school Monday morning.

Miss Martha Hoop is now staying at Adam Carr's up on Slate creek.

All our people seem to be afflicted with colic.  
Zanoni.