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A. E. VOORHIES, PROP.
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FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1905.

The Oregon supreme court last week rendered a decision that will have a far-reaching effect on counties that have exceeded in their expenditures, the \$5000 limit fixed by the state constitution. The case was that of an injunction to restrain Clatsop county from incurring added indebtedness in building a court house, the court holding that as the county was in debt beyond the legal limit, a special tax for building a court house could be levied. Should this ruling be applied to other than the current expenses of the county, it will make a crash with counties whose debt is already beyond the limit.

SOME GOOD ROAD POINTERS.

Road experts who have visited this section, state that owing to the dryness of the climate and the rolling character of the country that Josephine county can maintain passable roads cheaper than can any other county of Oregon west of the Cascade mountains. They claim that with proper drainage and a roadbed rolled with a very heavy roller, so hard that it will be impervious to rains, that the roads about Grants Pass could be made passable to loaded teams at all seasons of the year, and that the annual mudblockade of the winter and the dust banks of the summer would be practically eliminated. While they hold that a coating of crushed rock, gravel or decomposed granite would strengthen the roadbed, yet they think if the roads were graded while the ground is yet moist and then rolled with a roller of 15 tons or more weight, so as to pack the roadbed as hard as adobe brick, that a decided improvement could be made over the present method of work that so far has not given permanent roads to the county. As the road work is now carried on, the grading is done in the spring and the road not being rolled, is left uneven and soft, to become a mass of dust for the summer and with the first rains a canal of

mod, interspersed with chuck-holes and ruts.
The method of road construction by practical road builders is with a grader to throw to each side of the right-of-way all the surface soil. Then bring the sub-soil surface to the required crown and grade, then roll it with a heavy steam roller. This gives the hard foundation to the roadbed and all soft places that are found are filled with earth and rolled, and filled again if need be, until the surface has an even hardness and the grade and crown is free from high places and sags. Then a layer of the surface soil is put on and thoroughly rolled and other layers put on and rolled until the roadbed is finished.
A roadbed constructed in this manner and perfectly drained with side ditches, that are open to the free flow of water and not merely pools to hold water to seep into and soften the roadbed, and with lateral tilling along the center of the road on ground that is springy and wet, would give a good road to farm districts, where the travel is light for all seasons of the year, provided that after each wet spell the road is harrowed and thoroughly rolled to fill all ruts and low places. This method of building and maintaining earth roads was first adopted in Missouri, and it proved such a success that that state now has hundreds of miles of such roads, and the rest of the country "having been shown" earth roads are now being successfully built in many of the Eastern states and the government bureau of good roads has endorsed the plan in the road bulletins that are sent out from Washington.

For heavy freight teams earth roads have been found to be useless and crushed rock of road material has been found to give the best wearing surface. On roads having only a reasonably heavy traffic, gravel and granite sand has proven very successful. Thus the traffic is to be considered in making a selection of the method to be used in building a road. If county courts would bear this in mind, thousands of dollars could be saved to taxpayers and the public would have roads that would meet their requirements.

Cards of Thanks.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the friends who extended help and sympathy during the illness and at the death of my daughter, Genevieve, Mrs. May Booth.
We wish to express our sincere thanks to the kind friends who assisted us during the illness of our daughter Mrs. Etta Long, and extended sympathy in our sad bereavement, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Armstrong.
The best washing machine on the market at McLane's auction store, west G street.

SAVES PLATINUM VALUES
W. J. Wimer Has Devised Method for Saving Valuable Metal.

W. J. Wimer, manager of the Deep Gravel Mining Company of Waldio was in Grants Pass last Friday and Saturday. At this mine, which is one of the big placer mines of Southern Oregon, is accomplished a feat in lifting gravel not equalled in any other mine on the Pacific Coast for the gravel is shot up a height of 41 1/2 feet to the sluice that carries away the debris from the mine and this is done with a head of water of only 192 feet. Mr. Wimer stated that they had a fine run this season, but would shut down during the summer months to make some improvements and to do some prospecting.
So far as known, the Deep Gravel mine is one of the richest in the United States in platinum, which is found in minute particles along with the placer gold, and Mr. Wimer has been making a thorough investigation of methods for saving the platinum and he has succeeded so well that he now has 1 1/2 ounces of this rare metal, which is worth more than gold, for it sells for \$21 an ounce. Mr. Wimer thinks that there is an extensive deposit of platinum in Southern Oregon and that the placer miners, for years past have been losing thousands of dollars worth of this valuable mineral each season by not knowing how to save it. Mr. Wimer has invented a method whereby he is able to save every particle from his sluice boxes and he has generously consented to prepare an article for the Courier giving the details of his procedure that the miners of Southern Oregon may save what would likely be a good profit to their mining operations did they know how to recognize platinum and how to save it.

Coming Events.

May 1, Monday—Adjourned term of county court.
May 1, Monday—May Day ball by A. A. C. at Opera house
May 3, Wednesday—Josephine County Teachers institute in Grants Pass for three days session.
May 4, Thursday—Norris & Rowe's Big Show in Grants Pass.
May 13, Saturday—Farmers institute and fruitgrowers meeting in Grants Pass.
May 19, Friday—Close of Grants Pass public schools.
June 1, Thursday—Opening day of Lewis and Clark Fair. Closes October 15.
June 15, Thursday—Grants Pass day at the Lewis and Clark fair.
July 4, Tuesday—Celebration in Grants Pass with drill contest by teams from all parts of the Coast.
Extras for all sewing machines, oils and needles at 5c a paper at Singer Sewing machine agency opposite Court House.

TELLS OF OLD KERBY TOWN
Prominent Kerbyite Says the Future Looks Bright.

J. H. Austin, who had been in Grants Pass for the entire week in attendance at circuit court in which he appeared as attorney for some important cases, returned Sunday to his home at Kerby. Mr. Austin is leading a life quite strenuous enough to suit President Roosevelt at the old town, that was the county seat of Josephine county during pioneer days, for he is principal of the village school, attorney-at-law, notary public and general utility man for the entire community, and that he is making a success in these various duties is attested by the good reports that come of his school and of the fine law practice that he is building up. Though located at Kerby less than a year he has been so successful with his law and notary business that at the close of his term of school he will give up teaching and give his entire time to his new vocation. He has the distinction of being the only attorney in all the center and southern part of Josephine county.

some of its bustlers that they expect that the town will again become the county seat of Josephine county, or not that, then of a new county that they hope to have created out of a section of Josephine and of Curry counties. This latter day prosperity comes from the development that is now being made of the agricultural timber and mineral resources of the section of country about Kerby, and which bids fair to make that district one of the richest sections of Josephine county. The lack of transportation facilities alone is keeping that part of the county back in its progress, and Mr. Austin says that the farmers, miners and town people are alike awakening to the need of having their road to Grants Pass macadamized and made passable for freight teams at all seasons of the year. It is their hope that in another year the county will make such a road tax levy as will enable a substantial beginning to be made on the improvement of this, the most traveled and most needed road in Josephine county.

Has Confidence in Grants Pass.

The Grants Pass bar is to have another member which will increase the number to 12 disciples of Blackstone doing business in this city. The new addition to the local legal fraternity, will be Judge W. L. Sowers of Charlotte, Michigan, who will arrive in Grants Pass in about two weeks with his family to take up his residence and practice in this city. Judge Sowers becoming interested in Southern Oregon mines was one of a company of Michigan capitalists to

Of the town of Kerby, which in its halcyon days, when gold nuggets were as plentiful there as potatoes in Tipperary, had a population of 1000 persons, but which now has only about 150 inhabitants, Mr. Austin stated that it is taking on new life and new hope and bids fair to again be one of the leading towns of Southern Oregon, and so encouraged are

It is a positive fact that we are selling real pretty Tailor-Made Suits for Ladies.
We are sure that an examination will prove that they are well made in every particular.
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A. U. BANNARD
At the Big Furniture and House Furnishing Store, North Side, is now receiving his
New Spring Carpets, Rugs, Art Squares and Linoleums
all bought before advance of price. You can't afford to pass them by. Large and complete stock of Furniture and Furnishing Goods.
A. U. BANNARD
Big Store North Side, 6th Street, Grants Pass

organize the Michigan Mining & Milling Company, which acquired a mining property on the Applegate nine miles from Grants Pass, and where the Company is now erecting a large quartz mill.
Judge Sowers has visited Southern Oregon twice within the past year, the last time making a stay of a couple of months returning to Michigan in March. The climate here suited him so well and he was so favorably impressed with the certain prospects of Grants Pass having a rapid and permanent growth that he concluded to take up his abode here. Judge Sowers writes that there are many Michigan people, some of whom have large means, who are contemplating moving to Southern Oregon, where they hope to find a climate more satisfactory than that of Michigan and to have the advantages of the many openings for investment and business that are to be had here.
Guitars, mandolins, banjos, organs, all good instruments at your own price at the Davis', dealer in everything, South Sixth street.
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Cold Storage Meats
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10 pieces Scotch Lawns, 27 inches wide, fast colors worth up to 10c per yard. Just to start the hot weather lawns, 5c choice patterns per yard.

15 pieces Batiste Sheer Lawns and organdies 32 inches wide, all fast colors. Just the thing for house dresses, kimono, etc., worth up to 20c per yard. While we have this lot you can buy them for 11c

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No. 550—EXTRA HEAVY 25c HOSE 18c—Boys extra weight ribbed school hose, guaranteed as to wearing qualities, strictly fast black; any size, 6 to 10. You never bought a better hose for 25c, per pair 18c.
Beautiful, high grade, Lace Hosiery worth 35c, per pair 25c. A large assortment of most beautiful designs. Some are full lengths lace effects and some ankle styles. You will find our stock of hosiery to be the most complete in Southern Oregon.

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