

Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXII.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1906.

No. 13.

A FRUIT CANNERY FOR GRANTS PASS

Preliminary Organization Effected and Committee Appointed to Form Company.

A meeting was held Monday evening at the office of the Oregon Timber, Mining & Investment Co. to organize a company to establish a fruit and vegetable cannery in Grants Pass. A temporary organization was effected with W. M. Hair as chairman and R. L. Coe secretary. It was decided to organize a stock company, to be known as the Grants Pass Canning Company. The amount of the capital stock and the value of the shares was left for the committee on incorporation to decide. On this committee H. D. Norton, Judge J. O. Booth and R. L. Coe were appointed. To solicit stock a committee made up of H. C. Kinney, L. E. Hall, Charles Meserve, George S. Calhoun, Frank Fetsch and W. R. Nipper was appointed. The stockbook will be prepared this week and the committee will at once begin to solicit stock. To ascertain if a cannery venture could be handled in Grants Pass Messrs. Nipper, Crane & Smith, of the Oregon Timber, Mining & Investment Company, have made a preliminary canvass of the city and they have secured pledges from the business men to take stock to the amount of \$2800. These subscriptions range in amount from \$50 to \$300 each and a number of the subscribers stated they would increase their holdings if it was necessary so as to finance the undertaking. The committee will make a complete canvass of the city and every person who is interested in the upbuilding of Grants Pass will be asked to take stock, if only for a \$5 share. A canvass of the farmers of the county will be made and they will be asked to take stock in the cannery, as it will make a cash market for their fruit, vegetables and corn.

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of Chairman Hair and so soon as the committees have their work accomplished, which is expected to be not later than the last of next week, a meeting will be held of the stockholders to elect officers. It is the intention to put in the cannery this Summer and to have it in operation in time for tomatoes, corn, peaches, apples, pears and vegetables. Only a small plant will be installed for this season, as it is best to start in a small way and demonstrate the success of the business. With the cannery ready for operation next Spring contracts can be made with farmers for large acreages of vegetables and corn and they will be encouraged to take up the planting of small fruits. Nothing definite has been done in regard to a location for the cannery. Only a small amount of power will be required but a large amount of steam and hot water will be needed, thus making it necessary to have a large boiler in the plant. Among the places being considered is the building of the Pine Needle Factory, and also the erection of a building adjoining the Cold Storage plant or adjoining the Grants Pass flour mill. The Pine Needle Factory, now idle, has ample space and has a large boiler and engine, and it could likely be bought or leased at a reasonable price. The

Cold Storage location would be desirable, if satisfactory arrangement could be made for ground upon which to erect the building and for power, steam and for placing perishable fruits and vegetables in cold storage so as to extend the cannery season. The flour mill, now run by electricity, has a large power and steam plant that would be available for cannery purposes. Each of these three locations are on sidings so that cars could be loaded or unloaded direct from the cannery and they are also easily accessible for teams.

Correspondence is now being had to secure an expert processor to take charge of the canning work and it is proposed to select only a man who can give first-class references as to his skill industry, integrity and sobriety.

It was expected by the promoters of the venture to secure the services of Glenn Applegate, of Portland, who has been here for the past month assisting in getting the project under way, but he has accepted another position. He had several very flattering offers with big canneries that would have a long season's work and as they insisted on closing a contract at once, he signed up Tuesday with the Woodland Canning Company of Woodland, Wash. That company is to pay him \$150 a month and he left Wednesday to take his new position. Mr. Applegate is troubled with asthma when living in a low altitude and a damp climate and as he has the best of health when in Grants Pass he is desirous of residing here and to that end he would take a position with a cannery here at a less salary than he could command at other places. Mr. Applegate was for several years processor in the big cannery of the Oregon Packing Company in Portland and he holds the credit of being one of the most thorough cannerymen in Oregon. He may yet return to Grants Pass and in the meantime he will assist the local company in securing a competent man to run their cannery.

BIG PRICES HAD FOR ORCHARD LAND

Ten Acres of Pears Sell for More than the Average Farm of 160 Acres.

That orchard land is a profitable investment is proven by the big prices that Rogue River Valley fruit farmers sell for. The Ashland Record, telling of a recent sale in Jackson county, says: "S. G. Simon, who recently sold his dairy ranch at Gazelle, Siskiyou county, Tuesday purchased J. Hartley's place of 280 acres, two miles west of Phoenix for \$92,000. The farm is composed of 40 acres in fancy pears, 20 acres in apples, 20 acres in prunes, 80 acres in grain, 65 acres in alfalfa and the balance in pasture land. The new owner takes immediate possession and the stock, implements, tools, crop, household goods, etc., go with the deal."

Another sale of an orchard is mentioned by the Medford Tribune which says that G. A. Hoover, who has a large orchard near Phoenix, has purchased 10 acres of the George Morse pear orchard, two miles west of Phoenix, for a consideration of \$5250 or \$525 per acre. This is the highest price ever paid for fruit land in Jackson county.

GRANTS PASS FRUIT GROWERS UNION FORMED

Starts Off With Encouraging Prospects—Will Sell Fruit by the Car Load

In response to the invitation of the Courier a number of the leading fruit growers of Josephine county met at the Courier office last Saturday afternoon and perfected the preliminary organization of a fruit growers union.

Fred D. Eisman was made chairman and Charles Meserve secretary. A committee, composed of J. H. Robinson, R. A. N. Rymer, and F. D. Eisman, was chosen to draft a constitution and by-laws and rules and regulations for picking, grading and packing fruit. The secretary was authorized to procure copies of the constitution and rules and regulations of the Hood River and the Medford fruit growers unions, they being recognized as two of the most successful unions on the Pacific Coast. A committee on membership, composed of R. A. N. Rymer, Lee district; R. M. Robinson and E. Erickson, Wilderville; E. N. Provolt, Provolt; S. M. Sams, Woodville; Charles Meserve and J. T. Morrison, Grants Pass, were appointed to solicit members. The initial fee for joining was placed at \$1 but the regular membership fee when the union is fully organized will be fixed at either \$2.50 or \$5. The name of the organization is to be the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union. The Josephine County Fruit Growers Union was also suggested as a name, but it was thought best to take the name Grants Pass instead of Josephine county. The reason for this is that Grants Pass is far more widely known than is Josephine county. Very few maps have Josephine county on them while every map, big and little, railroad and government, give Grants Pass a place on it. The fruit boxes will all bear the union's label and the name Grants Pass will advertise the location of the fruit district covered by the union much better than the name Josephine county. The words Rogue River Valley could not be used as that is the name of the union at Medford. The union at Ashland is known as the Ashland Fruit Growers Union. As Rogue River fruit is getting an established reputation in the leading markets of the world the label on each box shipped will state that it contains Rogue River apples, pears, peaches, grapes or whatever it may be. A label will read as follows as the case may be: Grown by Packed by Newtown Apples Eisman Bros No 12 3 Teir, 128 to Box Rogue River Apples Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union Grants Pass, Ore.

Shippers of Guaranteed First-Class Fruit. If this Box of Fruit is Not Up to Standard Notify Secretary of Union. It will be the fixed purpose of the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union to build and to maintain a reputation for having every box of fruit handled by it to be strictly as represented by the label. The picking, grading and packing will be done in accordance with rigid rules. The packing will all be done by experts and their boxes will bear their number so that if there is fault found with the contents the Union will know who is to blame. Packing crews will do the work at the large orchards but for the small orchards the fruit will be packed at the Union's warehouse at the shipping point. The principal shipping point will be Grants Pass, but fruit will be shipped from Merlin, Woodville, or wherever most convenient to the grower.

The question of having a county fruit tree inspector appointed for this county, as the law permits, was discussed briefly at the meeting last Saturday and it is the plan of the Union to have the county court appoint an inspector for Josephine county. Owners of diseased fruit trees will then be compelled to spray them or cut them down. The half dead fruit trees in the neglected orchards of this county and in the yards of the towns are breeding places for countless millions of pests that migrate to orchards of farmers who are striving to raise good fruit and thereby greatly increase the expense of keeping the trees in a healthy condition.

The next meeting of the Union will be held this Saturday at the Courier office at 1:30 p. m. at which time the constitution will be adopted and permanent officers elected. From the interest that is being taken by the fruit growers there will be a large attend-

ance at the meeting Saturday and a strong union will be effected and which will embrace every orchardist in Josephine county and in the Woodville and Applegate sections of Jackson county. The Union will make it possible for the farmer who has even 25 boxes of first-class fruit to realize the same price per box as the farmer who has 10,000 boxes. And the Union will be able to handle the fruit at less cost and get higher prices than can individual growers. The difference in the local and the car lot freight rates will of itself be a saving sufficient to make a fair profit on the crop of an orchard. Then the Union selling in large quantities in the big Eastern and European markets will be able to secure a price fully double that had in the local markets of this Coast.

The prospect for a good yield in Josephine county is reported certain and by reason of the better care given to orchards and the coming into bearing of new orchards the crop will be the largest ever harvested in the county. In an informal talk on market conditions President Eisman stated that he and his brother had received many inquiries, some from big New York and London buyers. Already they have been offered \$2 a box for their apples. In reply to a London firm Mr. Eisman quoted the price for their crop for this year, which they expect to reach 12,000 boxes, at \$3, \$2.75 and \$2 per box according to grade. At this rate the Eisman Bros. will realize about \$35,000 for the fruit crop of this year. As more than half will be clear profit it means that their orchard is more profitable than the average gold mine. The time is not distant when the orchards of Josephine county will bring more gold to the county than all of its mines will produce.

BIG CROP YIELD FOR ILLINOIS VALLEY

Is Stated by Mr. Meissner, a Scientific Farmer of That Fertile Section.

J. F. Meissner, who has a fine farm in the Illinois Valley on the opposite side of the river from Kerby, arrived in Grants Pass Monday evening and remained over Tuesday to sell a load of produce and make purchases. Mr. Meissner was credited by the Agricultural College professors when here last Winter holding farmers institutes, with being one of the most practical and thorough farmers they had met in Rogue River Valley, as proven by the fine condition of his farm. Mr. Meissner is an educated man and realizing the value of knowledge sent his boys to the Agricultural College and now they are home putting into practice the modern, progressive methods of farming they learned at college. As an instance of the value their college training has proven in enabling them to increase the productive capacity of their farm is in reclaiming a section of land that had been cultivated by the previous owners for years and yet was counted almost worthless by reason of yielding such small crops. Mr. Meissner and his boys discovered by a series of experiments that the soil held an excess of acid, which poisoned to a degree the vegetation. Knowing how they proceeded to eliminate this acid condition and now the land is producing abundant crops. And in other branches of farming Mr. Meissner has found that it is highly profitable for a farmer to have the scientific and practical knowledge that is taught at agricultural colleges and he is strong in the belief that every young man who expects to be a farmer should take a course at an agricultural college.

Mr. Meissner stated that crops were never better in Illinois Valley and that there would be a record crop of hay, grain and fruit. He is growing as one of his forage crops sandvetch and he finds it a profitable crop, as it will yield two to three tons to the acre of hay on land so poor and dry as to not produce a crop of alfalfa or grain. He also has the Fall vetch, which gives a big yield as he sows it very early in the Fall.

A. A. C.'s Defeated.

Sunday afternoon the American Athletic Club went down to defeat before the Jacksonville battery in a score of 5 to 2. The boys played fast ball and it was evident after the first inning that the game was Jacksonville's. The A. A. C. boys have been most successful heretofore in winning and holding the championship of Southern Oregon, but they were not quite up to their standard of good playing in this game and were forced to give up their laurels.

Another game will be played between these teams at Jacksonville this Sunday and on Wednesday, July 4th, the A. A. C. will play the Medford locals at Medford.

GRANTS PASS AND TAKILMA RAILROAD

Certain of Construction and Work to Be Begun in Near Future

The prospect for the construction of the railroad from Grants Pass to Takilma are encouraging and there is every certainty that by a year from this Fall that trains will be running from this city to the copper smelter. As to when grading will be begun is problematical but while no official information is given yet the indications are that construction work will be begun at least by September.

The right-of-way has all been secured except through the Southern Pacific lands, which embrace every other section for most of the way. Negotiations are now being carried on and Colonel Draper is now in the East to arrange terms with the officials of the Southern Pacific. No ties or other material have been purchased nor has men or teams been hired as currently reported of late. The Company has an office in the Grants Pass Banking & Trust Company block that is in charge of John L. Richardson, the Company's resident engineer. Mr. Richardson has been busy since early in the Spring resetting the grade stakes, that have been destroyed since the survey was made two years ago, and in preparing the estimates for grade and bridge work for the use of contractors. There is little likelihood that work will be commenced until Fall. Owing to rush of work at the sawmills, farms and other places men and teams cannot be readily hired nor so cheaply as in the Winter when other work is shut down. In hot weather the men and teams will not do the work that they will do in cool weather. In the mild climate of Southern Oregon railroad construction work can be carried on as well in the Winter as in the Summer and wages are much lower, a matter that railroad companies fully consider.

The citizens of Medford see a possibility now that work is to be resumed on the railroad that is to run from that place up Rogue river to Crater Lake and thence on into Eastern Oregon. Work was begun on this road last Summer and grading was completed and track laid to Eagle Point, a distance of 14 miles. The company having expended the \$25,000 that the Medford citizens took stock for and also what money they could raise the enterprise came to a standstill and has been awaiting capitalists to take hold and extend the road and put it in operation. The financial assistance required seems at hand as the following from the Medford Tribune would indicate:

Terrace and Charles Fee of Cowlesport, Pa., the owners of 51 per cent of the stock in this railroad have given a 30 day option on the same to G. H. and H. B. Webber, wealthy bankers of Michigan. The latter are men controlling ample means and if they choose can advance the money necessary for the completion of the road, which they undoubtedly will do. The Messrs. Webber have spent several days in examining the country through which the road will run and were enough impressed with the country and its resources to enter upon the deal to the extent stated.

The opinion is freely expressed that the matter will now be brought to successful conclusion. The price to be paid the Fee Brothers for the controlling interest is in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

Announcement comes that the Southern Pacific will soon have construction work begun on its branch line from Drain to Coos Bay. The survey is complete and the right-of-way has been secured and several thousand tons of rails have been shipped this Spring to Drain ready for use. The superintendent of construction recently arrived at Drain and has opened an office and has a force of six men at work making plans and estimates for the contractors. It is expected to have trains running into Marshfield by next Spring. The Southern Pacific has extended the run of the local train, heretofore run between Portland and Eugene, on to Cottage Grove. The train will make the round trip each day leaving Cottage Grove early in the morning and arriving back in the evening. Report is current that a small change will be made in the arrival and departure at Portland of the through trains for San Francisco. As to whether this new schedule will change the train time for Grants Pass is not known.



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A " " " " " " 1.50— " 2.00

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Large No. 2 Reflector Lanterns \$1.50

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