

Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXII.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1906.

No. 17.

BIG FLOW CONTINUES AT ARTESIAN WELL

Talent Gusher Irrigating a Big Orchard—Another Well Being Bored and Others Soon.

Though it is now a month since the artesian well was opened on the fruit farm of M. L. Pellett, near Talent, yet the flow of water is as strong as it was the day it first began to gush forth. J. S. Howard, the veteran civil engineer, formerly a resident of this county but now of Medford, has made a personal examination of this famous well, that bids fair to inaugurate a new era of irrigation in Rogue River Valley, and he gives the first accurate description of the gusher that has been published in the papers of Jackson county. The following is Mr. Howard's report as published in the Medford Mail:

"I visited the Pellett orchard last Sunday," said Mr. Howard, "and while I expected to find a flowing well, I was surprised at the volume of water coming therefrom. The 10-inch hole is 900 feet deep and from it flows a stream which I estimate as closely as possible to equal 40 miners' inches, or about 480 gallons a minute—over twice the capacity of the Medford water system when working on full time, and this well works 24 hours a day. The water is carried in a ditch 30 inches wide—the water being about four inches deep and moving at the rate of two feet a second—along the south side of the orchard, and laterals carrying the water between the rows of trees. You can readily see the improvement in the appearance of the trees. They look strong and thrifty and the foliage is healthy in its color. The water is soft, pure and clear, and its temperature about 60 degrees. This well, in my opinion, proves that what the geologists have been telling us about this country is not borne out by the facts. The wise men have been instructing us that this country had been so badly broken up by volcanic upheavals that there would be little if any likelihood of artesian water being found in the valley. The difference between the flow of the well at the Ashland depot yards and that at Pellett's seems to prove the theory I had formed. That is: That at one time this valley was a lake, perhaps an inland sea. A convulsion of nature occurred, which resulted in the surface formation being broken up, at the same time the gap through which Rogue river runs was made and the lake was drained. The surrounding hills were shattered by this internal convulsion, but the basin of the ancient lake remained intact. Figuring from that standpoint, the small flow from the Ashland well and the larger flow from the Pellett well, confirms the theory. Ashland is nearly 300 feet higher than Pellett's place and, assuming my idea to be correct, would be very nearly at the upper rim of the original rock basin of the prehistoric lake, naturally reducing the pressure. If an artesian well should be sunk in Medford we might be compelled to go deeper than Mr. Pellett did, but I think we would have a stronger pressure, as according to my idea, Medford is located very nearly the center of this ancient lake basin. I am willing to contribute my share toward the capitalization of a company formed for the purpose of sinking a well in Medford or its vicinity. Three thousand dollars would be ample capital and I am of the opinion that it would be a paying investment."

The day following that water was

struck in the Pellett well E. K. Anderson made a contract with the drillers to put down a well on his farm, which adjoins that of Mr. Pellett. Good progress is being made and it is expected to have the well to the 800 foot level, the depth at which water was struck in the Pellett, orchard, within the next month. L. B. Warner, who has a farm a mile west of Medford, on the Jacksonville road, has made a contract with the drill men to sink a well on his place as soon as they have the one completed at the Anderson place. Several other large farmers and orchardists of Jackson county are planning to have wells drilled in the expectation of securing an artesian flow of water. Medford having both an inferior and limited supply of water a number of the citizens of that place are considering the advisability of forming a company to put down a well in the hope of securing an adequate and pure supply of water for the town. Both Central Point and Jacksonville are considering the proposition of making an effort to secure artesian water. At Jacksonville it is proposed that the town stand the cost of sinking the well. If a flow of water is secured it will be used instead of the present very limited supply from Jackson creek of giving a service to all parts of the town. Those favoring the town claim that it would be a very profitable investment to Jacksonville, for if artesian water should be secured it would lead to a large number of other wells being sunk in that section for irrigation purposes that would greatly stimulate fruit raising and farming and thereby increase the trade that would come to the town. The Opp mine now running but half of its 20 stamps for lack of water would then be encouraged to try for a supply of artesian water.

There is a probability that an artesian flow of water could be had in and about Grants Pass for the geological formation of this section of Rogue River Valley and the slope from the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains is the same here as it is about that part of the Valley around Talent. The proposition is being considered by a number of citizens of this city as well as several big farmers and it is likely that a well will be sunk this Fall to demonstrate if a flowing well can be had or not.

"Better Fruit."

The Courier has received copy of Better Fruit, the latest venture in Oregon journalism. It is published at Hood River and is devoted strictly to the fruit industry, being in the fullest sense a technical publication that will deal with every phase of the fruit business from the growing of the nursery stock to the marketing of the fruit. Its publishers are E. H. Shepard and E. A. Franz both Hood River fruit growers. Mr. Shepard is manager and secretary of the Hood River Fruit Growers Union and is a recognized authority in Oregon on all questions pertaining to growing and marketing fruit. Mr. Franz is a practical newspaper man and for several years past was one of the most successful growers of famous Hood River.

The publishers plan to represent every section of the Northwest and to have contributors from all the fruit districts to furnish articles that will be of general interest. The paper will be illustrated with views pertaining to the fruit industry, the first number containing a large number of fine half-tone pictures. The subscription price is but \$1 and as the paper will be practically a text book of reliable instruction in the raising and marketing of fruit every grower should take it. Send a dime for a sample copy and see if it is not the best paper published dealing with the fruit industry of the Northwest.

RAILROAD BUILDING ERA IN OREGON

Many Surveys Being Made for a Network of Lines Over State Soon to Be Built.

That Oregon has entered on an era of railroad building, the greatest ever known in the history of the state is proven by the large amount of construction work now carried on in various parts of the state and by the much greater amount of railroad building that is being definitely planned to be done next year. In Eastern Oregon Hood River is having a railroad built through that valley from the O. R. & N. to the big timber belt at the base of Mt. Hood. The road will also bring out fruit for shipment from the orchards in the upper sections of the valley. The Dalles is having a line built south to bring trade to that enterprising little city. A survey is being made for a railroad up the Deschutes river. A half dozen other lines are being projected in that part of the state, which is sure to be covered with a network of railroads within five years.

In Western Oregon a great activity in railroad building is going on. It is expected to have 17 miles completed by Fall of the line from Hillsboro to Tillamook. Construction is under way on the electric road from Portland to Salem which is to be extended to Eugene and eventually to be a part of a system of electric roads that is to connect all the towns of the Willamette Valley. An electric line is to be built from Oregon City to Molalla and on to Willhoit Springs, a distance of 30 miles. The railroad project for a road from Medford up Rogue river has taken new life, Michigan capitalists having bought the 14 miles of completed road from Medford to Eagle Point and will begin shortly to extend the railroad to the big timber district on the upper Rogue river.

The Southern Pacific has over 100 men in various engineer parties making surveys and setting grade stakes on its line from Drain to Eureka and from there to San Francisco. The depot grounds at Drain are piled full of heavy steel rails and construction work is to be begun probably in September. Last Spring the Southern Pacific sent a reconnaissance party of surveyors to examine the county from Natron on up to head of the Willamette river and thence on across the Cascade mountains into Eastern Oregon. That the Southern Pacific has determined to build this line is indicated by the following from the Portland Journal of Tuesday:

"An army of surveyors is being rushed into the field on the proposed Harriman line from Natron through Central Oregon. It is said Mr. Harriman has determined to forestall plans of rival companies in this region at all costs, and that the road from Natron over the Cascades will be the first construction work to be done this Fall by the Southern Pacific company in Oregon. It is believed Harriman has learned the plans of two or three other syndicates having intentions on this route, and he has given orders to push the Central Oregon line ahead of all other work."

"More than 60 Southern Pacific surveyors are now making headquarters at the Herbert ranch, on the upper Willamette river, 60 miles east of Eugene. A party of eight more engineers who arrived at Eugene yesterday from San Francisco departed at once to join the camp. They are but a small portion of the total force of engineers who are now trying out every route and pass and following up the preliminary work with the setting of permanent grade stakes."

"The road will follow the Willamette river and cross the Cascades at or near Crescent lake, where two routes have been surveyed over the summit. Reaching the east slopes of the range a branch of the road will go to Klamath Falls while the main line will proceed eastward to meet the Oregon Short Line's projected extension from the Snake river."

"It is believed that the contracts will be let for this road ahead of contracts for the Drain-Coos bay line, despite the fact that rails have been delivered and right-of-way is being cleared for the latter road. The announcement that bids are wanted on the Oregon Central is expected any day."

Fine commercial printing at the Courier office.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY TO OWN POOR FARM

Present System Too Expensive—Inmates to Help Support Themselves.

One of the big expenses on the taxpayers of Josephine county is the care of the paupers, it costing last year close to \$7000 to care for the homeless in the county. That there should be so many indigent persons in a county of but 10,000 population and a new county at that is a surprise to those not familiar with local conditions. The unusually large percentage of the poor, which almost equals that of European countries is due to the large number of prospectors and miners who spend a life time in the hills searching for gold, many of them making fortunes but losing them through putting their money in worthless mines, or by drinking and gambling. When age makes it so these unfortunates can no longer go to the hills or the streams and make a raise then to become a county charge is their only recourse.

About the first thing that County Judge Stephen Jewell took under consideration after his election was the problem of properly caring for the county poor and of lessening their expense on the tax payers. He brought the matter up before the recent session of the county court and both Commissioners Logan and Wertz fully agreed with him that the present system of hiring the paupers kept by private individuals was a greater expense than was warranted. The plan proposed by Judge Jewell and which the commissioners approved and authorized him to carry out is for the county to buy at least 10 acres of good farm land not over two or three miles distant from the county seat and erect suitable buildings on it and equip it with a team, tools, cows, hogs and poultry and make it the home for all the county charges. A competent man and his wife would be hired to have charge, he to attend to the outdoors work and she to be matron. Most of the men who would be inmates would be able to do some work, and they would be required and encouraged to assist in the labor of caring for the stock and in cultivating the garden, berry, orchard and farm tracts, so as to raise all the produce required on the premises. A small hill tract of woodland would also be a part of the county farm property and the inmates would cut and haul the fuel required for the establishment.

With this plan of Judge Jewell's the expense of keeping the county poor would be lessened fully one-half. Now the paupers are scattered all over the county, some of them being distant fully 30 miles from the county seat. Should they be sick to have a physician called costs \$1 a mile for day service and \$1.50 per mile for night calls. Having them near Grants Pass the cost of medical attendance would be greatly reduced. As heretofore the custom has been for merchants and others furnishing supplies to persons getting county aid to send a bill for the gross amount leaving the court to guess whether the account was correct or the articles supplied were necessities or luxuries, for tobacco and chewing gum are quite as likely to be on these bills as flour and bacon. Hereafter all bills against the county will be thrown out unless itemized in full. A careful investigation of the subject has convinced Judge Jewell that within five years by the county owning its poor farm that a saving could be made over the present expense per capita of indigents sufficient to pay for the land and all improvements. The inmates could have a better home than they now get and be where they could have baths and those inclined to be slovenly could be made to bathe and be clean and respectable in appearance. It is often the case that a county charge is treated more like a slave than one whose board is paid for, and among this unfortunate class there are many who have been better and prosperous days and were well raised and it is but true humanity that they be treated, considerably. Judge Jewell has looked over a number of tracts of land suitable for the purpose and at the next term of court he will have a selection to recommend to the other members for the county to buy. The work of erecting suitable buildings would be begun at once and at the earliest date possible all the county

charges would be placed in a home that would be comfortable and where they would have an incentive to work and thereby contribute very materially toward lessening the expense of their keep. This undertaking of Judge Jewell will be heartily commended by the taxpayers of Josephine county for it is a practical economy in county finance that will suit every property owner.

ANOTHER RURAL MAIL ROUTE

Inspector Looks Over Route That Is to Cover Valley Below Grants Pass.

There is a reasonable certainty that Grants Pass will soon have the second rural free delivery mail route. This new route was petitioned for some time ago and last week C. H. Clements, inspector of rural mail routes for the Pacific Coast made an examination of the roads over which the carrier would drive and an estimate of the number of patrons to be served. Postmaster C. E. Harmon of this city accompanied Inspector Clements on the trip and while the latter made no statement as to its opinion of the route yet Mr. Harmon thinks that he will make a favorable report to the postoffice department and that the route will be established. The service will be inaugurated probably by September. So soon as the route is approved then Inspector Clements will hold an examination in Grants Pass to select a carrier and a substitute carrier. The salary will be \$80 a month and the carrier will furnish his team and vehicle.

This new route will leave Grants Pass by what is known as the hill road along the north bank of Rogue river down which valley it will run to the new ferry established on Rogue river near the mouth of Shan creek. There the route will cross the river and go up the Rogue river to the mouth of the Applegate and thence up the latter valley to the Wilderville bridge where it will cross the Applegate river. At this point the route will leave the stage road and come to Grants Pass by the Jerome Prairie road. The total distance will be 26 miles and the road is a fairly good one for Josephine county. There will be about 125 families to get their mail by this route and its establishment will be a great benefit to a large and growing farm community as well as to the business men of Grants Pass.

ENLARGED EQUIPMENT FOR DEEP GRAVEL MINE

This Famous Placer to Have Additional Pipe—Past Season a Profitable One.

J. W. Wimer, manager of the Deep Gravel Mines, one of the big placers near Waldo, was in Grants Pass Monday. Mr. Wimer stated that they furnished their clean-up two weeks ago and it yielded sufficient gold, which with what they heretofore secured to make their season's run quite profitable.

Manager Wimer has begun work putting the mine in shape for next season's work. He now has a force of men moving the elevator that lifts the tailings to the large race that carries them to the dump. As it is from 50 to 70 feet to bedrock and this elevator is one of the most powerful in a mine in Southern Oregon, but so successfully does it do its work that it keeps the mine clear and the boulders and gravel are shot out of it by the terrific force of the water as though mere paper balls. Owing to this mine being located on the low bottom adjacent to the Illinois river the handling of the tailings by gravity could not be accomplished so it was necessary to install a powerful hydraulic elevator. Heretofore the entire banks have been cut down by the giants in the mine, necessitating the lifting of vast quantities of earth and gravel to race to carry it to the dump. Where they will pipe this next year the upper 30 feet of the bank will be above the race so that it would be possible to use a surface pipe and cut off the top section of bank and drive it direct to dump. That would leave only 20 to 40 feet of the lower section to be handled by the elevator. Mr. Wimer has not decided on the installation of a surface pipe to lessen the work for the elevator but may do so. The Deep Gravel mine has one of the largest and most constant water supplies of any placer in Southern Oregon. Two large ditches bringing in the water from the Illinois river and as this stream heads in the Siskiyou mountains the snow keeps up a steady flow of water until late in the season.

M. T. Utley and J. Harper are putting a new roof on the Tuffs block. The former roof was of galvanized iron but the hot weather each summer so expanded the iron as to break the solder in the seams and cause the roof to leak. The new roof is of paper painted and sanded.

Satisfaction
Guaranteed
Our
Motto

Thomas & O'Neill
The House Furnishers

Money
Back
If You
Want It



Some of our citizens are at Newport or in the mountains having a good time—for those who are at home we have arranged a

Grab Sale

Commencing Saturday, July 28, and continuing for one week we hold a

GRAB SALE

The articles in the window are samples only of what is for sale in the

BIG BOX
in the store. You pay

25C

Then go to the Box and help yourself to an order for the goods—it may be a Rocker or a Boiler.

All kinds of Crockery ware, Granite and Tin ware, Wooden ware, China, Glassware, Rocking Chairs.



**I Sell Real Estate
AND
Rent Houses**

W. L. IRELAND,
The Real Estate Man.
Ground Floor, Courier Bldg.
GRANTS PASS, OREGON.