

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS SCHOOLS LEAD SOUTHERN OREGON

Enrollment Increases and Twenty-Two Teachers are Now Employed.

The Grants Pass schools opened Monday with an enrollment of 583, which is 34 more than for the first day of the term last year. The attendance will be greatly increased during the next two weeks by the return to the city of the families who went to the hop yards and by those who moved to the sawmills and mines last Spring. The corps of teachers numbers 22, while Ashland has 21 and Medford 14, thus giving Grants Pass the lead of Rogue River Valley towns in the size of its schools.

The enrollment in the High School has made a satisfactory increase and City Superintendent R. B. Turner hopes the number of graduates for this year will be double the number of last year, thus keeping up the ratio of increase for the number of graduates last year was just double that of the previous year. A number of additional students are expected to enter the High School but Prof. Turner does not anticipate that they will increase materially the size of the graduating class as it is the rule in all high schools that fully 80 per cent of those who enter after the first drop out before the close of the term. The cause is that a student who has not ambition to start with the class lacks the energy to keep up with his studies. The High School is a county high school the fund for its maintenance being raised by both Grants Pass and Josephine county, so that it is open free of tuition to all residents of the county. Heretofore the county has contributed \$1100 each year for its support the city putting up the balance. At the request of a number of leading taxpayers the county board of education composed of County Superintendent Lincoln Savage, County Judge Stephen Jewell and Commissioners J. T. Logan and M. A. Wertz at their session Wednesday increased the High School fund to \$1200 a year. This with the increased amount that the city provided for in its tax levy for this year will give a maintenance fund for the Grants Pass High School not exceeded by any similar school in the state in a town of the size of this city.

The course of study in the schools of the city has been enlarged and made more in keeping with the demand of the times to have the school work practical and to fully fit boys and girls to take up the ordinary vocations of life without the further expense and time and the necessity of leaving home to attend a distant school. In addition to the usual classical and English branches taught in the best high schools, bookkeeping and stenography are taught and the board intends to add typewriting in the near future. That this latter study has become a necessity is apparent in the correspondence that a business man receives, for a very large per cent of the type written letters show a gross lack of knowledge by the writers of the most common rules of spelling, capitals, punctuation and arrangement of the matter. In a written letter these essentials can be hidden by poor chirography but the printed characters of the typewriter bring them out in embarrassing prominence. It has come that every person having even a reasonable amount of correspondence uses a typewriter and as it is not possible for all to have the benefit of a training at a business college the high school should fill this need as much as possible.

The board is considering having drawing taught in all the grades for this is another necessity to a well-rounded education. Not that all should be or could be taught to be artists, but every man and woman should have sufficient knowledge of drawing that they could, if occasion required, draw the plan of a house, make sketch of any article that they desired to more fully explain. The board is able to get a highly competent teacher at a reasonable salary for this position. Mr. O'Brien, who conducts the art classes in the Masonic block, having agreed to take charge of the work. Mr. O'Brien is a teacher of drawing and painting of years experience and was one of the leading artists of Chicago, before coming to Grants Pass last year for his health. The adding of this study would make no great increase in expense in providing the books, etc., as the outfit for a scholar costs but little. There is a likelihood that vocal music may be taught in the grades to give the children some training in singing.

RAILROAD WAR IN EASTERN OREGON

Harriman and Hill Interests are Striving to Get Control of That Section.

The San Francisco Chronicle of Saturday says that the recent announcement that the Weed railroad was to be extended by the Southern Pacific and the Weed-Natron branch made a main line for traffic between Portland and San Francisco, was to conceal the real meaning of its purchase by the Harriman people. The Chronicle says: A railroad war of the keenest interest to Californians, and having as the prize the control of the heart of Oregon, is now being waged by two huge interests. The Hill people and the Harriman interests are battling for the control of the rich lands of Oregon and the vast stretches of country to be opened up by the irrigation projects in the Klamath country.

The war is none the less deadly because of the quietness with which it is being conducted. No plans are heralded, but both sides are going into the matter with the grim determination to win. The first intimation of the struggle that came from the citadels of the two forces was the announcement made by the Southern Pacific Company that it had purchased the California Northeastern. In order to veil the significance of the purchase the officials intimated that in time this road would be used as one of the main lines for the traffic to the north, and that the Shasta route would pass over the proposed line of the California Northeastern.

This announcement was to conceal the real meaning of the purchase. It is the plan of the Southern Pacific to build the California Northeastern to Klamath Falls, which was the route of the proposed road. But the Southern Pacific will not stop at that point. If the route of the California Northeastern from Weed, on the main line of the Southern Pacific, is produced it will be found to run in a northeasterly direction and meet the Oregon Short Line of the Southern Pacific at Huntington. This road will completely open up the heart of Oregon.

This move on the part of the Southern Pacific has completely outwitted the Hill outfit. The plan of Hill was to build a road called the San Francisco, Idaho and Montana, which is to start at Butte, Mont., and run in a southwesterly direction through Salmon City, Boise (Idaho), and on down to San Francisco. This line would open up a new stretch of territory and would afford a decided cut-off for travel from the Northwest, now reaching San Francisco by way of Portland.

ROGUE RIVER A SECOND HOOD RIVER

Says a Hood River Apple Grower Who Was Well Pleased With This Valley.

The Oregonian of Tuesday gives the subjoined interview with A. I. Mason, the Hood River apple grower who with Dr. James Withycombe and Prof. C. I. Lewis, of the State Agricultural College, conducted a series of six fruit growers meetings in this section of Rogue River Valley. Mr. Mason, in the interview paid an appreciated compliment to this Valley which he says is a second Hood River. Of the destruction of salmon in Rogue river at the dam of the Water Works Mr. Mason made a personal observation and he thinks it a gross neglect and cruelty to the fish that no ladder is provided for their getting over the dam:

"Professors Withycombe and Lewis, of the Oregon Agricultural College, accompanied by A. I. Mason, of Hood River, have returned from a trip into the Rogue River country, where they went upon experimental work connected with the Agricultural College.

"Mr. Mason, who returned to his home last evening, speaks in the highest terms of the undeveloped resources of the Rogue River country, and says the people of that section are just awakening to the possibilities of the region for fruitgrowing as well as other important industries.

"According to Mr. Mason, one of the finest marble quarries in the country exists in the vicinity of Grants Pass, the product of which ranks with the best in the United States. Both black and white marble are mined in abundance, the supply being more than sufficient to supply immediate demands in this state, and he deprecates the fact that such an important industry is overlooked to a large extent, and money sent away for an inferior grade of this kind of building material.

"While Mr. Mason is a great admirer of the Rogue River Valley region, his loyalty to Hood River is still paramount in his nature, and he considers that the greatest compliment he can pay to the southern fruitgrowing belt is that it is a second edition of Hood River.

"He thinks the State Fish Warden should look after things a little more carefully in connection with the dam in Rogue River, near Grants Pass, which, he says, is deficient in fish ladders, with the result that salmon are dying by the score in the effort to get up stream and spawn.

"Out of 20 large-sized fish," said Mr. Mason, "I counted only four that got over the falls. The rest perished in the attempt, their bodies floating along as a mute denunciation of the neglect to provide proper facilities for the salmon to reach their spawning grounds."

COMMERCIAL CLUB AND MINERS ASSO. MERGE

Commercial Club Will Maintain Exhibit Rooms Formerly Kept by Association.

A special meeting of the Grants Pass commercial club was held at the mining exhibit rooms Monday evening at which a merger of the Commercial Club and the Miners Association was effected, the Miners Association turning over their exhibits and effects to the Club who will maintain the exhibit room as heretofore. The Miners' Association has for nearly three years past kept an exhibit room open, the expense of its maintenance being borne by business and mining men who subscribed toward its support.

The club now has a membership of over 40 and an effort is being made to increase the number. Three new departments were added to the club and vice-presidents elected to the head of the departments as follows: Department of mines, Frank South; department of timber, H. L. Gilkey; department of irrigation, Geo. S. Calhoun.

The matter of Southern Oregon advertising was brought up and a committee which had previously been appointed was instructed to appear before the county court and ask for an appropriation for advertising pur-

poses. In consideration of the fact that all property would be benefitted alike by any advantages accruing from advertising, it is unfair to leave this burden on the shoulders of a few of the business men who will be no more benefitted than the balance of the people of the county.

Roy S. Wilson, delegate to the Irrigation Congress at Boise, made a very interesting report of the meeting and expressed belief in the probability that Josephine county might share in the irrigation work carried on by the government. Mr. Wilson and County Judge Jewell were in conference with the heads of the officials' reclamation service and laid before them the needs and possibilities of Josephine county and particularly the section of land south of Rogue river, in which thousands of acres of land could be covered by a ditch, which according to a map of watersheds and elevations, could be accomplished at a minimum cost. It is probable that some of the officials in the reclamation service will visit Josephine county later on.

Mining Men Return

A. L. Smith, the well known mining man, returned Saturday to Grants Pass accompanied by Mrs. Smith to again take up their residence in this city. They left last Spring and Mrs. Smith has been with her parents at Neodesha, Kan., while Mr. Smith has been looking over the mining districts of Missouri, Colorado and Nevada. In the latter state he located some claims that are very promising, and he thinks Southern Oregon has a good future and will yet be a big mining district and that as a desirable place of residence it is far ahead of any state he has lived in.

S. H. Otts, a well known mining man of Cripple Creek, Colo., accompanied Mr. Smith to Grants and will look over this district with a view of locating here. Mr. Otts thinks that a section that has so good a showing as Southern Oregon will prove to be a rich mining district.

Miners' blanks at the Courier office.

FRUIT GROWERS TO HOLD MEETING

Will Meet Saturday, September 22 to Take Steps to Have State Law Enforced.

A meeting of the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Association will be held at the Courier office on Saturday, September 22, at 1:30 p m Every member of the Association is expected to be present as there are several matters of importance to be acted on. The meeting will be open to all fruit growers and every person who has an orchard, even of but a dozen trees, is invited and expected to be present.

One of the principal matters for action will be the adopting of a petition to the county court asking for the appointment of a county fruit inspector and the recommending of a suitable person for the position, to enforce the new state law that makes it obligatory on all owners of diseased fruit trees to either free them of pests or destroy them under penalty of it being done by the inspector and the cost becoming a lien upon the land.

As every fruit tree owner will be forced to spray and as the first spraying will have to be done so soon as the leaves are off the trees spray material will be in demand and the union will supply it at cost to all fruit growers in order to assist them in cleaning up their orchards. All who will require spray material will be expected to give in at this meeting the amount they will require.

It being impossible to rent a suitable warehouse in Grants Pass in which to handle this year's crop of apples it is necessary that the Association build a warehouse. At the forthcoming meeting this matter will be considered and arrangements made to secure suitable grounds and the erection of the building. As this will require a legal organization to properly carry on the business of the

Association and enable funds to be secured with which to pay for the warehouse and fitting it up it will be necessary to incorporate.

In order to have a basis on which to negotiate with dealers for the purchase of the apple crop it is expected that every farmer, who will ship through the Association, will submit at the meeting to be held next Saturday a careful estimate of the first grade apples in his orchard. As there is a likelihood of there being a cider and vinegar factory erected in Grants Pass this Fall an estimate is wanted of the non-shipping apples and also of pears and prunes.

The success of the Association means the placing of the fruit industry of this section of Rogue River Valley on a profitable basis. To that end it is in the interest of both farmers and business men to aid the organization all possible in its efforts to get the pests eradicated from the orchards of this section and of securing better market facilities and better prices for fruit.

At the meeting on the 22d all the fruit growers should attend for it will be to their financial advantage in many ways.

Alex Watts, the veteran miner and one of the few left residing in Josephine county of the men who opened up the mines at Sailor Diggings, now Waldo, in 1851-2, where the first permanent mining camp was established in Josephine county, was in Grants Pass Monday from his farm and mine near Provolt. Mr. Watts was accompanied by his wife and their daughter, Mrs. A. J. Schrimpf of Santa Paula, Cal., who is here on a visit. Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Schrimpf left by the evening train for Roseburg, where they go by stage to Myrtle Point to visit Mrs. W. Harrington, a daughter of Mrs. Watts, who resides there. They will then go to Riverton to visit Mrs. A. S. York, another daughter and George Elliott, a son.

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