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THE CRATER LAKE RAILROAD EXPANDS

Buys the Jacksonville Road—W. G. Donnell Secured as Superintendent.

Medford now has every certainty of getting a railroad up Rogue river and to Crater Lake and possibly on to Klamath Falls, and also a road up Applegate river to the Blue Ledge copper mines. The receiver's sale of the Medford & Crater Lake road was confirmed last Friday in the circuit court by Judge Hanna. The price paid was \$82,500 and the purchasers are George Estes and Dr. F. S. Striker, of Portland. Saturday these men bought the Medford & Jacksonville railroad of Barnum & Sons paying \$50,000 for the five miles of road and the equipment that consists of two small engines, two passenger cars and three freight cars and a gasoline motor car. The Jacksonville road is one of the best paying pieces of property in Southern Oregon for the amount of money invested, and Barnum & Sons had no inclination to sell until threatened with the building of a line parallel to their road. On the Medford & Crater Lake road there are 14 miles of track laid, extending from Medford to Eagle Point, but the Company had no rolling stock. A new corporation has been formed by Messrs. Estes & Striker, known as the Pacific & Eastern Railway Company, and the two roads have been taken over by it and will be operated as one line. For this year the Medford road will be extended to the big timber belt on upper Rogue river and the Jacksonville road to the Blue Ledge mines. While no statement has been given out as to the extension of the road beyond the Blue Ledge district, yet the report is out, to which color is given by the Pacific part of the name, that it will eventually be built on to a point on the Pacific ocean. It was by a mere chance that the Oregon California, now the Southern Pacific, was not built through the Applegate pass in the Siskiyou mountains on the same route that the Pacific & Eastern will take.

The work of ballasting the new track from Medford to Eagle Point is to be begun at once and it is expected to have the road in operation by the first of July. The extension of 20 miles to Butte Falls will be made this year. An operative force is being gathered up from among the best railroad men in Oregon. Among them is G. W. Donnell, road master of this division of the Southern Pacific, who will be superintendent and also have charge of the extension work. Mr. Donnell has the credit of being one of the most skillful and efficient road masters in the employ of the Southern Pacific. While regretting his removal from Grants Pass to Medford, his many friends in this city are pleased with his promotion and wish him well in his new position. Mr. Estes himself is an old railroad man and was at one time train dispatcher at Ashland. He is an energetic, thorough business man, and the Pacific & Eastern under his management will be likely to become a railroad of importance in the transportation system of Oregon.

This sale of the Crater Lake road is a most fortunate ending to Medford's railroad troubles. Two years ago the enterprising citizens of that town organized the Medford & Crater Lake Railroad Company and paid in \$25,000 in cash on the stock. With this and

\$47,000 borrowed money the Company put in the roadbed and track as far as Eagle Point. Then all operations were stopped through the lack of funds and the greed of some of the officers who wanted to gobble up the road and freeze out the stockholders who had put in most of the cash. Matters dragged along until this Spring when in order to secure the stockholders and get the road in operation Edgar Hafer, of Iowa Lumber Company, and other stockholders had it put in the hands of a receiver.

Dr. J. F. Reddy was put in receiver by Judge Hanna and through his energy and thorough business methods he got railroad men to bidding on the property until the price was forced from \$62,700, the first bid of Dewing & Company to \$82,500, the bid that gave the road to Estes and associates. The Medford people have thus got their money back with fair interest and a railroad that will be a big factor in the prosperity of that town. Had Grants Pass made as much of an effort as Medford this town would now have a railroad to the Illinois Valley and be in a position to put a road up the Applegate to Blue Ledge and get the trade from that rich valley and big mining district.

GRANTS PASS SCHOOLS CLOSE SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Number of Graduates Double Each Year and Standard of Work Higher

The commencement exercises will be held at the Opera House on this Friday evening and the address to the graduating class will be by Prof. Joseph Schafer, of the State University. The students to whom diplomas will be awarded are C. Frederick Dean, Wilma Olive Gilkey, May Esther Holloway, Amy Myrtle Isaacs, Annabell Leith, Mary Elizabeth Leith, Carl Nina Paddock and Ella May Savage. It is an interesting coincidence and one that is highly complimentary to the efficient work of City Superintendent R. R. Turner and the other teachers of the High School, that the graduating class for '07 is 100 per cent larger than that of '06 and the class of '06 was just 100 per cent larger than was the class of '05, which was the first year that Prof. Turner had charge of the Grants Pass schools. That there were but two graduates two years ago showed a low ebb in the work of the Grants Pass High School, while the gain to four last year and to eight this year proves that a new and vigorous energy has been infused into the school. This is further proven by the fact that the graduating class for next year, barring no loss by students removing from the city or by a gain from other high schools, will be just 100 per cent larger than the class for this year, for it will number 16. With the thorough work that is being done and the addition of a full business course, that includes typewriting, shorthand and bookkeeping, to the scientific and classical courses, and that the school is free to all scholars of Josephine county, is certain to put the Grants Pass High School in the very front rank of the high schools of Oregon in the number of graduates and the well rounded education that they will be given.

Laura Thomas Gannell the popular Southern Oregon elocutionist, will give a reading of "Mrs. Wings of the Cabbage Patch" at Opera House, May 31st.

GRANTS PASS CANNERY NOW BEING BUILT

Construction of Buildings Rushed and Machinery Ordered.

Grants Pass will have a cannery and it will be in readiness to handle the fruit and vegetable crop for this season. Manager Herbert C. Sampson, after spending a week in Portland in company with his father, C. H. Sampson, in looking up information on the cannery industry and interviewing implement firms in regard to machinery for the cannery, got matters in shape for starting work on the building, and Thursday the beginning was made. The cannery will be located in the east part of town between the S. P. stockyards and the Standard Oil Company's oil tank. The tract of land purchased by the Cannery Company is 100x235 which gives ample space. On the ground there is a planing mill building 32x48 feet that will be fitted up for a warehouse. There is also a well built cottage that will be fitted up and rented to some one of the employees. The cannery building will be 40x60 feet, two stories, well constructed and on concrete piers. The order for the machinery has been placed, and it is the plan to have the cannery in operation by the first of July. While only a small plant will be installed now, yet it will be of the best, and so arranged that the cannery can be readily enlarged as the business warrants. As with the fruit growers unions, the rule of the Grants Pass Cannery Company will be to give quality rather than quantity in putting up the pack, and the purpose is to build up a reputation for Rogue River canned fruits that will equal the high standing now had by the green fruits of this Valley.

The Cannery Company has taken over the vinegar and spray factory operated for the past year by Sampson Bros., and the plant will be added to the cannery equipment. The Sampson vinegars has met with a ready sale owing to its absolute purity and fine color, and now that the national and state pure food laws are being rigorously enforced, the cheap acid vinegar, that would eat the lining out of a stove, will be debarred from the market, thereby making a better sale for pure, wholesome vinegar. When fitting up for the manufacture of lime sulphur spray solution last Fall Sampson Bros. expected that it would be a difficult matter to get the farmers to use the factory-made solution instead of the home-made article. The farmers, though, were quick to note the superiority of the solution made in an airtight retort under a heavy steam pressure that gave a higher degree of heat than is possible to get in an open kettle, and which so thoroughly melts both the sulphur and lime that a perfect chemical union is made of the two substances and held in perfect solution with the water, and orders came in so fast that the Sampson Bros. had to run their factory much of the time day and night. Each year, since they first came, the pests have steadily increased in the orchards of this county until this present season, when the farmers ceased using the open kettle spray and got the Sampson solution. The result is that such a killing of the pest was made that the trees will compare in vigor and fine appearance with those of the best districts of the state, and the percentage of good and bad fruit will be reversed this season, for instead of 15 per cent and 85 per cent imperfect, as was the case last year, there will be 85 per cent or more marketable fruit and scarcely 15 per cent that will be unsalable. The Sampson solution was also largely used by the fruit growers in Jackson and Douglas counties, they are as well pleased with it as are the orchardists of this county. With this strong endorsement of the fruit growers the sales of the Sampson solution will be certain to be more than double this year over last year, and this and the arsenate of lead that is also to be manufactured, will do much toward making the cannery a financial success.

David Bodwell, who recently arrived from Illinois, has purchased through W. L. Ireland the Mary C. Hildreth place on Iowa street, comprising four acres with orchard, house and barn and other improvements. This is a good place and will make Mr. Bodwell and his family a splendid home.

FRUIT GROWERS HOLD EXPERIENCE MEETING

Discuss Important Points in Their Industry—Next Meeting to Be a Picnic.

The fruit growers meeting held at Court House last Saturday, while not so large in attendance, for there were only 28 fruit raisers present, besides a number of other persons, was one of the most profitable and interesting meetings held in this city. The topics considered were discussed in an informal manner, the fruit growers giving their successes and failures in their orchard work. All were free to talk and to ask questions, and so interested did they get that it was 5 o'clock before the session closed.

The meeting was called to order by Charles Meserve, secretary of the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Union, and on motion J. H. Robinson, the well known fruit grower and nursery man of Wilderville, was chosen to preside. The first topic considered was "Are Bees Helpful in Pollenization of Fruit Blossoms?" J. H. Robinson opened the discussion and gave facts that proved that bees had much to do with the pollenization of fruit blossoms. Mr. Robinson stated that in the 19 years that he had been raising fruit on his Applegate farm that he had never had but one failure and but two partial failures of crops and that this year his trees are well loaded. This success he attributed to the energetic work of a number of hives of bees that he kept in his orchard. He told of an orchardist who placed a netting over half of the top of an apple tree and kept the bees from the blossoms. That half had very little fruit while the other half bore a big crop. The failures that he had were in Spring, when there was a long rainy spell that prevented the bees from working. He had found bees profitable for the honey they made, but if he got no honey at all he would yet consider the bees profitable for the pollenization work that they do. J. T. Morrison was confident that the work of bees made a big strawberry crop more certain. He had observed that a small yield and the presence of many misshapen berries was certain when, through heavy rains and the absence of bees, the pollenization of the blossoms was interfered with. E. N. Provolt thought bees made a yield of fruit more certain. O. H. Perry, lately from Michigan and who is interested with his brother, W. T. Perry, in the planting of a vineyard near Murphy, asked if spraying killed the bees or injured the honey. Mr. Robinson answered that no spraying should be done until the blossoms had fallen, and as the bees were then through feeding on the flowers there was no danger to the bees or the honey.

"The Strawberry as a Money Maker" was the topic that J. T. Morrison took up. Mr. Morrison stated that he had found strawberries the most profitable of the fruits that he grew. The crop never failed and the prices had been good and there was every indication that they would continue profitable. The Grants Pass cannery, now building, and the local demand will make a good market, and as Rogue River strawberries are as good shippers as those grown at Hood River, profitable prices can always be had by shipping. Mr. Morrison said that strawberries should be planted in the fall on ground that had been in cultivated crops, such as corn, potatoes or vegetables. The ground should be plowed deep and thorough, harrowed until perfectly mellow and then rolled. On dry land, irrigation greatly increased the yield. When cultivating never let the cultivator blade go nearer than six inches of the plant, as the roots spread on the surface and cutting them injured the plant. As to the kind to grow, Mr. Morrison stated that a grower would have to test and find which variety was best suited, as soil, location and climate greatly affected strawberries. He had fruited over 50 kinds and had found the Magone, New Oregon and Wilson as best suited to the hill land and high altitude of his place. Rev. J. E. Day, of Woodville, thought it would be more profitable to have a number of varieties, so as to have a succession of berries both for the market and home use.

"The Wind One Cause for the Ruining of the Fruit Industry in the East" was the subject for an interesting talk by A. T. Martin. It is very largely the wind that enables the pests

to make such headway and such havoc in the orchards of the East. Mr. Martin, who came here two years ago from Illinois, stated that in all the states of the Mississippi Valley the wind blew nine days out of 10 each Fall and Spring and much of the Winter. In the Winter spraying could not be done as the solution would freeze before it would reach the tree, and in the Fall and Spring the wind would blow it into space and lose it. The result is that the San Jose scale, anthracnose and other pests, that can only be fought during the season when there is no foliage on the trees, are rapidly killing the orchards in the prairie states. As the pests are spreading all over the United States fruit will only be grown in commercial orchards, and these will be located in valleys protected from the winds, in the hills and mountains. In all his travels Mr. Martin stated that he had never been in a section having as little wind as Rogue River Valley. This great advantage, together with the very favorable soil and climate was certain to make fruit raising very profitable here. With no wind to contend against and surrounded by mountains, it would be no difficult matter for fruit growers to keep their trees free of pests and have clean fruit that would bring fancy prices. Charles Meserve stated that the entomologists of the Department of Agriculture had identified over 100 pests that feed on fruits and vegetables in the United States. Of this number there were not over a dozen in Rogue River Valley. Chairman Robinson remarked that while it was not the proper spirit to have, yet it was a fact that the fruit growers of Rogue River Valley could look upon the pests as their best friends, provided they kept them out of their orchards, while the Eastern farmer, busy with his Fall plowing and corn husking and with Spring seeding, could not take advantage of the few favorable days there for spraying.

"Are Cherries Profitable in Rogue River Valley?" was answered by C. W. Triplett, who stated that his half-acre of cherries paid him better than any other like plat of land in his orchard. Cherries came into bearing early, and when three years old frequently bore a gallon or more. There is a big demand for cherries, and the price good. He sold for five and six cents a pound last year, but could have had 12 cents a pound in Salt Lake and some of the other markets, but the high express rates precluded shipping. When there were sufficient cherries grown here so that the Fruit Growers Union could ship in car lots, then this fruit would be one of the most profitable for Rogue River orchardists to grow. The land that he had found best for cherries was a deep clay with the water table well down, for water was death to cherry trees. There were few pests to trouble cherries, the only diseases here being gummosis, scale and scab. The two latter can readily be killed by spraying, but the former is hard to eradicate. If a cherry tree escapes the ravages of gummosis for the first three or four years, then it is good for years of profitable bearing.

(Continued next week.)

MISS MARION WALTER GIVES VIOLIN RECITAL

Assisted by Miss Palmer, Pianist, and Miss La Costa Mangum in Reading.

Another young girl upon whom Grants Pass feels some claim of ownership in that it was once her home and who has gone forth into the larger life of one of our greater cities to win there success and a degree of fame in the keen competition of life is Miss Marion Walter, now of San Francisco, and the lovers of good music here are very grateful to her in that she possessed so pleasant a memory of her earlier years in this city that she gave us the pleasure on Monday evening of listening to an hour or more of delightful violin playing. She was assisted in her recital by Miss Ethel Carolyn Palmer, a talented pianist whom we are all proud to claim as one of us and who never fails to give keen pleasure in her work at the piano, and La Costa Mangum, who as a young girl, gives promise of ability as a successful reader.

Miss Walter plays with a broad deep, sweet tone rare in one of her years while her technic bespeaks earnest and persistent work in her chosen profession. It is easy to see that the violin is the great love of the young performer's life and it responds under her sympathetic and loving touch to all the affection she showers upon it. At times it had in its fibre all the pleading emotional power of a great contralto voice singing its way straight into the depths of the soul, while at other times it was as bright and gay and brilliant as the trilling of some happy bird. The Paganini number tested her execution very strenuously, yet she made it a very pleasing part of her program. The arrangement of the sextet from "Lucia di Lammermoor" is a marvelous transcription from that famous work, reproducing as it does upon the violin the combined work of six instruments. It is full of depth and glorious harmonies. It seemed to us that Miss Walter was playing right up to the limit of her execution in this number, but at the same time it showed admirably how excellent the technic and temperament are for an embryo artist. Miss Walter has a very winning and simple stage presence and bearing and makes her audience feel a great deal of sympathy in her high hopes for a future so bright with promise. One feels that she has awaiting her not only the passion and the fine feeling necessary to artistic playing, but also that she is fired with a splendid ambition and a capacity for hard, earnest work, which will go far to win the laurels from the hand of fortune. Miss Palmer played with an inspiration, and never during all her public work among us has she given a more fitting expression to the splendid harmonic dreams of the great masters, for her playing of each number was a perfect riot of motion.

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