

# Rogue River Courier.

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## Two Big Events to Be Held in Grants Pass

**OREGON IRRIGATION CONVENTION AND ROGUE RIVER VALLEY INDUSTRIAL FAIR WILL OPEN NEW EPOCH OF PROSPERITY.**

**Experts of National Reputation to Speak at Convention—Big Attendance Expected**

Arrangements for the annual meeting of the Oregon Irrigation Association and for the Rogue River Valley Industrial Fair that are to be held in Grants Pass on September 10, 11, 12 are being perfected and the two events each promise to be a success. The Irrigation Convention is to have by far the best array of talent ever had at a similar gathering in Oregon, and in fact at any state irrigation convention. There will be a larger number of government experts at the National Irrigation Congress than has ever before been sent to such a meeting, and there will also be many other prominent men, specialists in lines bearing on the agriculture and forest wealth of the country. Charles Meserve, who has been placed in charge of the arrangements for the irrigation and for the fair that is to be held in this city, called on Secretary Garfield, Mr. Newell and Mr. Pinchot as they passed through here recently on a tour of the West examining the various government irrigation projects and forest reserves, and was assured by them that they would heartily co-operate to make the convention a success and to be the means of inaugurating an extensive and more practically handled irrigation system for Rogue River Valley. Mr. Newell, who is at the head of the government reclamation service, and Mr. Pinchot, who is at the head of the forest reserve service, will attend the convention and each will make an address. Secretary Garfield gave the assurance that all the experts of his department who will be at Sacramento will come to Grants Pass and assist in the convention here. Secretary Garfield will also send an expert from his department who will examine all the samples of clays, shales, lime, marble, etc., that will be brought to the fair held here, to ascertain if the material is in the Rogue River Valley for the manufacture of sewer pipe, vitrified brick, fire brick, pressed brick, pottery, etc. Through Secretary Wilson two experts from the department of Agriculture will take part in the program for the meeting here, and speak on topics of special interest to the fruit growers, stockmen and farmers. The program will also embrace a number of prominent persons of this state, who will present subjects for consideration that have an important bearing on the development of the resources of Oregon.

The conservation and use of the water and timber supplies of the United States is attracting widespread attention and the forthcoming National Irrigation Congress at Sacramento promises to have a much larger attendance than any such previous gathering. There will be prominent persons at Sacramento from all sections of the country, even New England is to be represented, and it is expected by the officers of the Congress that the attendance will be 3000 or more. A strong delegation from Oregon will be there and all will work to secure as many as possible of the

Eastern delegates to return by way of Oregon to their homes and take a look at Rogue River Valley and stop off at Grants Pass and attend the Irrigation Convention and visit the Rogue River Valley Industrial Fair.

It is also planned to have a business men's excursion to come by special train from Portland. This will be arranged for through the commercial organizations of Portland and the officials of the Southern Pacific. It is expected that 500 or more can be had to come by this excursion from the various sections of the northern and eastern part of the state, and after they have spent a day or so in Grants Pass their train will be run as far as Ashland and on the branch roads to Jacksonville and to Eagle Point that they may see a goodly part of Rogue River Valley. There will be every likelihood that there will be in Grants Pass at the time of this convention more persons of national and state prominence than were ever before in Rogue River Valley at one time and it is certain that the irrigation convention and fair will draw to this city a larger crowd than ever has been in Grants Pass at any celebration or other public event.

There will be some 15 or more state irrigations conventions held this year, and as is the rule heretofore, at each place where a convention is held an exhibit will be made of the products of that section and a showing of the resources and advantages that interest home seekers and investors. This feature will be carried out at Grants Pass and the Rogue River Valley Fair will be an attractive and profitable adjunct to the Oregon Irrigation Convention. The purpose will be to especially make a complete showing of the fruit, dairy, stock, hops, vegetables, minerals, timber, manufactured and other products of Rogue River Valley. But the display will not be restricted to this valley, for if the other sections of Southern Oregon want to exhibit their products they will be given space. Pioneer and Indian relics and Rogue River Valley photographic views will be features in the fair that will be of special interest to our visitors from the east.

While we are proud of the capacity of Rogue River Valley for producing the best of fruit, stock, lumber, mineral and similar products, yet the babies of this wonderful Valley, by their attractiveness and intelligence would certainly elicit the heartiest of commendation from our baby loving president. To give our Eastern visitors an opportunity to see the future hustlers of this Valley and who will be able to hold their own with the best of the country, a baby show will be held. The judges to be three of the most popular bachelors of Rogue River Valley.

A large tent will be secured in which to place the fruit and similar exhibits. To meet the expenses of the fair and the irrigation convention will require fully \$2500. To raise this amount there is available, a state appropriation of \$1200 for a Rogue River Valley district fair, and an appropriation of \$500 will be

asked of Josephine county. The Grants Pass city council will grant the fair management the licenses derived from the street shows that will flock to the city during the fair and which will yield about \$100. The admissions to the fair will bring in \$250 or more. Only residents of Southern Oregon will be charged admission, as is the rule at the Hood River fair, while all visitors will be given a souvenir badge that will be a pass to all departments of the fair. To see that the funds of the fair association are properly expended the executive committee has chosen R. W. Clarke, Joseph Moss and R. H. O'Neill, three of the most prudent business men of Grants Pass to be the finance committee. H. L. Gilkey, cashier of the First National Bank, has been chosen treasurer.

A feature which Manager Meserve has proposed and which the farmers all say will be a drawing card to them will be a stock and general auction sale to be conducted each day of the fair. There is not a farmer in Rogue River Valley but what has stock, tools or other things that he would like to sell, and he is also ready to buy other stock or tools that might be sold. A first-class auctioneer and a competent clerk and a sales manager will be secured, and a warehouse and stock yards rented. A nominal commission of 5 per cent will be charged which will be enough to make the auction pay its way.

### HOME GROWN CANTALOUPE LOUPS ON MARKET

**Fruit Growers Association is Now Ready for Shipping Fruits. Pears Ripening.**

The Grants Pass Fruit Growers Association has all arrangements completed for shipments of fruit and melons for this season. The warehouse of the gristmill has been rented of H. A. Corliss and the Association will now have the exclusive use of a large packing room and have the use of a siding where the cars are not kicked about every few hours. A supply of paper and boxes is now ready for peach and pear shipments as also crates for melons. The shipping of peaches and cantaloupes will begin the first of next week, the local market now taking up at a good price all peaches and cantaloupes brought in. The grower to have the first ripe cantaloupes was Lynn D. Allen, on the River road below this city, who picked the first from his field on July 19. C. E. Russell, another big melon grower picked his first cantaloupes but two days later than did Mr. Allen.

Unless a cool spell of weather comes to hold back the ripening of fruit the picking of Bartlett pears will commence on Monday, August 12, and all unpacked pears must be delivered at the Association's warehouse by noon the following day and packed fruit by 5 p. m. This is absolutely necessary as the car will be started for New York that night and unless there is enough for a second car the pears left over will be shipped to Portland and take the chances of a low market. The first pears in the Eastern markets bring the fancy prices and every day's delay means a decrease in price. Last year picking was begun on Tuesday morning and owing to the slowness of the farmers in getting their pears in the loading of the car was delayed until Friday, causing a loss of 25c a box on the pears as the drop was that much in the New York market. This season the car will be loaded within 40 hours after picking has begun and if it is delayed by non-arrival of pears the late comers will be fined 10c a box for each day they cause the car to be delayed. Pears must not be picked when hot as they will wilt and will not stand long shipment. Picking must begin at daylight and stop so soon as the heat of the day comes on at 12 or 10 o'clock. The hauling can be done during the day but the fruit must be carefully covered from the sun and dust and the boxes kept perfectly clean. Pears are ready to pick so soon as the point of the seed begins to turn brown. They must not be dropped even one

inch in the basket or picking sack, as the very smallest bruise will rot the pear during the 12 days in the car for New York. Shipment will positively be refused to growers who handle their fruit roughly. Don't pick a pear less than 2 1/4 inches in diameter, leave the small ones to grow for the second picking, and only perfect fruit will be received. Get extra help so the picking can all be done in one morning if possible. Pears will be received in quantities from one box up and for this year from any person whether a member of the Association or not. All desiring to ship pears through the Association must notify me at once. All pears within convenient distance to Grants Pass must be brought to the warehouse for packing. Growers at a distance and having 50 boxes or more will have packers sent them and they must get their boxes and paper at once. Small lots had better be taken to the neighbor who has a packing crew, but if not convenient then be brought to the Association's warehouse. Pears are so tender and having to be shipped 2000 miles to market they must be hauled to the warehouse in a spring wagon. If on a common wagon then put on high sideboards and fill with hay and set the boxes on their hay and drive with the greatest care and walk the horses. Small lots can be brought in loose in boxes, but it is best to wrap each pear in old news or other paper, for if there is any of the pearst all bruised the lot will be refused as we shall take no chances with a bad lot that will endanger the sale of the careful grower's fruit.

This Association is going to attain the Medford prices for pears and the Hood River prices for apples and growers who will not conform to its rules will have to sell where they can and get swindled as they have almost every year or loose their pay entirely as many of the farmers did last fall who sold to a dishonest local buyer. Three dollars a box for apples and \$5 a box for pears will yet come to the fruit growers of Josephine county if they will but be thorough in their orchard work, honest in their pack and stand loyally by their Association. Every other industry and vocation is organized and if the farmers don't unite and co-operate they may be able by hard work and close economy make a scant living. With the small beginning that the Grants Pass Fruit Growers Association made last year and with a very small membership the members realized better prices for their fruit than did the growers who sold to dealers and they got their cash promptly and did not have to place attachments on cars of fruit and close an absconding dealer out of the state. On the shipment of Bartlett pears to New York the Association netted \$1.10 a box after freight and sales commission had been made. The farmers who sold to local dealers got .50c a box. The previous year, before the Association had been organized, the best price paid by the dealers was .40 a box. On Newtown apples the Association netted \$1.79 a box and on Spitzenburgs \$1.60 and \$1.65 a box. On fall apples that were selling in the local market at .25 a box and were a drug in the Coast markets the Association got \$1.00 a box on shipment sent to Honolulu. But the Association did not fare so well on a shipment of the common kind of apples that I had sold to a San Francisco firm at \$1.10 f. o. b. Grants Pass. These apples were to be free from scale, worms and blemishes but owing to the carelessness of some of the packers and some of the growers the shipment was turned down by the buyer sent by the firm to examine the fruit and he regraded the lot and fixed the price ranging from \$1.10 down to .70 a box. Had the pack been honest and uniform the firm, which is one of the best on this Coast, would have paid the contract price of \$1.10. When the Association is able to have all the grading and packing done by its own crews of trained, reliable hands then will such losses to the growers be avoided. But this little loss was nothing to that sustained by some of the fruit growers outside of the Association who did their own shipping. One of the big growers of this county got a flattering offer from New York for two cars of fancy

Newtowns. Not having the means of knowing the firm's standing as does the Association he sent the apples and lost over \$400 on the shipment. One of the biggest growers in Jackson county was taken in by the same firm on seven cars of apples and pears and lost so heavily that he did not make a dollar on his orchard last season. The Fruit Growers Associations all over the United States all stand together and when one finds a buyer bad all the other Associations are notified and that firm goes on the blacklist. When a farmer is swindled he does not write to all the other farmers in the country, but he pockets his loss and his wrath and proceeds next year to sell to another dealer who likely as not has swindled other farmers, and thus the endless chain goes on and at last the poverty-stricken farmer declares that farming does not pay.

**CHARLES MESERVE, Manager Grants Pass Fruit Growers Association.**

### STRUGGLE FOR A RICH GALICE MINE

**Testimony in Oriole Will Suit Soon Be Taken—Claims of the Plaintiff.**

Testimony in the pending suit of John Robertson against F. N. Mitchell and J. C. Mattison, for a one third interest in the "Oriole" mining claim, Galice district, will be taken at Grants Pass on Thursday, August 8th before Court Referee Calkins. This suit is attracting more than the ordinary share of attention because all the parties to the action have long been residents of Josephine county and are well known. A large number of witnesses are being subpoenaed by each side and the suit promises to become a cause celebre in the annals of mining litigation in Southern Oregon.

When Robertson first filed his action he received an injunction restraining the defendants from further operation of the "Oriole," or shipping the rich ore that it has lately been producing, pending a determination of the suit. This injunction is still in force, despite the most determined efforts of the defendants to have it dissolved. In furtherance of this attempt they ransacked the Galice district and other sections for the affidavits of alleged witnesses, but these were of no avail,

the court holding in effect that the interests of all parties would be best conserved by keeping the mine in the hands of a receiver until the questions at issue are finally adjudicated.

In his complaint Robertson alleges that he has been deprived of his rightful interest in the "Oriole" by reason of a conspiracy entered into by Mitchell and Mattison. It appears that Robertson bought the claim in 1901 and had, at that time, undisputed title to the whole of the property. An agreement was entered into with Mitchell whereby the latter was to do the assessment work for a one-half interest. At about that time Mrs. Robertson, wife of the plaintiff, became ill and Mr. Robertson was compelled by force of circumstances to quit his employment in Galice and take her to a hospital in Portland to secure needed medical attention. He left the district relying upon Mitchell to do the assessment work in compliance with the agreement made between them. Mitchell failed to do this work. The year had nearly closed before Robertson learned the fact and then, poor in purse because of the unusual financial strain that had been laid upon him, he found himself personally unable to attend to it. In these circumstances Robertson entered into a further agreement with Mitchell, who had, by this time, formed some kind of a partnership with Mattison. This agreement, in brief, was that Mitchell should re-stake the claim on January 1st, in the names of all three, each man to share alike.

The claim was re-staked, but John Robertson was not named as one of the locators. He avers that the conspiracy of Mitchell and Mattison to defraud him of his just share was conceived by them at the time Mitchell was supposed to be doing the assessment work and that the claim was allowed to lapse as a result of that conspiracy. The deception was kept up by Mitchell for some time after the claim had been relocated, as Robertson has letters from that defendant, which will be produced at the trial, saying that all was well and that his (Robertson's), interest was safe. Nearly a year elapsed before Robertson became aware that he had been tricked. When he did learn of it he tendered payment of his one-third of the assessment work, making this tender in the presence of witnesses. The money was refused and the man who had bought

(Continued on last page)

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