

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1907.

No. 23.

NEW OPERA HOUSE ONE OF THE BEST

Our Playhouse Being Overhauled and Made one of the Most Attractive in the State.

Grants Pass is going to soon have an opera house of which every citizen may well be proud, for the old structure is being thoroughly overhauled and remodeled. And in fact it is being made into practically a new playhouse and when it is completed it will be right up-to-date in every sense of the word.

Manager H. C. Kinney piloted a Courier representative through the new building and showed him all the many new improvements which are being inaugurated. The new theater was more than pleased with all the many indications of improvement which he there beheld.

At the head of the stairs and in a convenient place is to be found the ticket office and leading from it is a large hallway, which takes one to either entrance to the main part of the building or to the two wide stairways leading to the balcony. Among the many innovations inaugurated is the balcony, which has been neatly and usefully planned. Then there are some very sightly boxes on the floor below, and the floor of the main part of the playhouse has been raised and nicely graded. With these many changes every one of the 678 seats in the house will be excellent, a condition which is seldom found in the average opera house in cities of this size.

The big stage is also undergoing some very radical changes and it will have an entirely new set of scenery. The stage has been leveled with an entrance built in the rear and six new dressing rooms have been built below it, making nine in all.

To insure the comfort of its many patrons the building is to be heated with hot water and handsome, new opera chairs have been ordered and the lighting system will be neatly arranged throughout, giving the desired three-light effect for the stage red, white and green. The ventilating apparatus and the means of egress and everything throughout will be modern and as complete as can be desired.

When the new house is painted, calomined and made ready for occupancy, it certainly will compare most favorably with anything of the kind to be found in Oregon.

Manager Kinney has a large force of workmen busily engaged in rushing things, hoping to have the building as nearly ready as possible for the holding of the big irrigation convention, next week. Although it will be very incomplete, yet chairs will be put in and thus the meetings will be held there and while the chairs are still in the house, the first attraction of the season, Richard & Pringle's Minstrel troupe will hold forth there on the night of the 12th inst. Many other very creditable companies have been billed for the coming season, the management planning to give the people of this vicinity the best to be had along this line.

County Commissioners Meet.

The County Commissioners held a two days' session this week and transacted a considerable business. Among other things it was decided to have the road viewers to meet Monday, September 16, to pass upon the new county road petitioned for by H. O. Williams, et al., at Placer. A similar order for Tuesday, September 1, on the petition of W. S. Bailey, et al for a new road in the Applegate valley, near the Williams Creamery. These reports will be passed upon at the next meeting of the board. The bond of County Surveyor H. C. Perkins, in the sum of \$5000, with the American Surety Co., as surety, was received and approved. A large grist of bills were passed upon and ordered paid. This list will be printed in the next issue of the Courier. A \$1000 insurance policy on court house, building with the Royal Insurance Co., expires on September 20th, it was ordered renewed. A license to sell liquor in quantities less than one gallon at Kerby for one year was issued to George Manrer. An appropriation of \$500 for the Josephine county fair was ordered and the clerk was directed to draw a warrant in favor of R. W. Clark, chairman of the finance committee of the fair. The clerk was directed to destroy 41 county

THINKS THIS IS THE BEST MELON DISTRICT

Government Expert Finds that Yield Here Surpasses that of Other Localities.

Prof. W. A. Orton, who holds the important position of pathologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, came here from Washington, D. C. for the purpose of making a careful examination of the disease which has been playing havoc with the melon patches. He makes a specialty of dealing with plant life and is well fitted to cope with all the troubles which come to growers along these lines. After a thorough and careful examination, he agrees with Prof. Cordley, the able O. A. C. entomologist, that there is no known way of coping with this disease, which is commonly called the "wilt," except to stop the growing of the melons on the infected ground for a season ranging from three to 10 years owing to the condition of the soil. He knows of no spray that will touch the pest nor has he heard of any manner in which the plague may be stopped. So insidious is the pest that the winds and birds and even wagon wheels carry it from patch to patch. That it is a matter of vital importance to the growers of this region is apparent, when it is known that the yield of the growers near Grants Pass has decreased the past year or so, from 80 to 80 cars per season to not more than 10 and unless some heroic action is taken at once to stay the dread disease.

Prof. Orton says that there is need for energetic action on the part of each individual grower, in order to suppress this pest and he finds that the only sure method to be employed is to stop all growing of melons on ground now infected by the trouble and then to rotate in crops. He remarked that the disease is becoming quite prevalent in the Southern states and that it originally was brought to this country from Africa.

Melon growers of the Rogue River Valley should arise to the importance of the occasion and see to it that the laws governing such things are so amended as to provide a penalty for the carelessness found on the part of any grower in this matter which is of vital importance to one of the best paying crops in this region. It is for them to say what shall be done to exterminate this pest, which, unless it is completely eradicated, will eventually destroy all the melons grown hereabouts.

Prof. Orton took occasion to say that he had visited all the famous melon growing districts in Georgia and South Carolina, where they are supposed to grow the best melons to be found in the world, but he finds that the patches right here, near Grants Pass, are more productive than those in that section and that the fruit here is really of a superior quality. There the yield averages about a car to three acres, while here there is easily a car to two acres. Here the soil is rich and productive, but there they are compelled to use fertilization in order to produce the proper quality of melon desired.

A melon that is immune to the fungus growth disease has been found by the government experts, although it is of rather inferior quality. Prof. Orton says that it is now being experimented with and if it should prove to be the success which is now hoped for it, he will see to it that the growers of the district in and around Grants Pass receive a generous supply of the seed, just as soon as the experts are convinced that it will be the proper thing to sow such seeds.

warrants which have been drawn over seven years, as provided by law. J. T. Logan was granted \$32, per diem and mileage, as commissioner and M. A. Wertz, \$26.80 for like services. J. C. Smith was appointed secretary of the county board of health.

Mrs. Howard Mitchell and her friend, Mrs. Rice arrived from Klamath Falls, Thursday to be the guests of Mrs. Chas. Mitchell, for a few days.

Monday, September 16, Miss Emma Telford's Kindergarten opens.

Prices on Edison Phonographs advance September 16. We still have a few in stock at the old prices. Photo and Music Store.

FIRST INDUSTRIAL FAIR TO BE GREAT SUCCESS

Every Indication That It will be Even Better Than Its Promoters Dared Hope For.

Things are rapidly assuming shape in and around the convention and fair headquarters and everything will likely be in good shape when the dual event comes off next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Nothing is being left undone that might add to the success of the occasion and the management of both the irrigation convention and of the industrial fair are quite sanguine over the outcome of their untiring efforts. Even the weather promises to be of the best, although Jupiter Pluvius has been dodging around some of late and causing the fair people to wonder if Old Sol would be compelled to keep his face from sight for a time. But just now the indications are most excellent for nice weather and that will add much to the success of the big affair.

Judge Stephen Jewell, one of Grants Pass' representatives at the National Irrigation Congress, which has been in session at Sacramento has returned home and he brings glowing accounts of the event. He says that there are fully 2000 registered delegates present and that the state of Oregon sent 40 delegates and of these Grants Pass had four—a pretty good showing. Judge Jewell is confident that many of the delegates will work hard for the success of the Rogue River convention and he thinks that there will be a large number of visitors stop off to take in the convention and fair here.

The following program of exercises has been arranged for the three days' doings:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10.
9 a. m. Balloon ascension.
10 a. m. Opening of Oregon Irrigation Convention.
2 p. m. Session of Irrigation Convention.
4 p. m. Baby show.
5 p. m. Automobile parade.
8 p. m. Session of Irrigation Convention.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11.
9 a. m. Stock parade.
10 a. m. Session of Irrigation Convention.
2 p. m. Session of Irrigation Convention.
4 p. m. Aquatic sports on Rogue River, and girls basket ball game at high school grounds.
8 p. m. Session of Irrigation Convention.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12.
9 a. m. Stock parade.
10:30 p. m. Auction sale of stock and goods.
2 p. m. Base ball game at A. A. C. grounds, Roseburg vs. Grants Pass.
8 p. m. Minstrel troupe at the Opera House.

The following reception committee has been appointed to meet trains: South Bound Train.

Train No. 15, 9:05 a. m., W. B. Sherman, Dr. Flanagan, P. H. Harth.
Train No. 13, 11:15 a. m., Geo. S. Calhoun, W. F. Herr, Mr. Churchhill.
Train No. 11, 10:30 p. m., O. S. Blacchard, T. B. Cornell, Ed VanDyke.
North Bound Trains. Train No. 12, 6:23 a. m., Dr. E. P. Dixon, Ed Lister, Geo. W. Lewis.
Train No. 14, 11:45 a. m., J. O. Booth, H. Hornung, W. T. Coburn.
Train No. 16, 6:30 p. m., H. L. Gilkey, Mr. Gillette, W. C. Hale.

Wm. Hebermas, prosperous Applegate farmer was in Tuesday and reported much interest in the fair out his way and said the people would be here in full force and that they would also send in some nice exhibits.

J. D. Wimer was in from near Morphy to join the Grants Pass Fruit Growers' Association, as he has a nice lot of apples to ship this season. He tells of how the folks out his way are taking a lively interest in the coming fair and convention.

Cotton plants in full bloom will be shown by Mrs. Frank Dorman, grown on her home place on West Main street. Mr. Dorman will make a nice showing of valuable Indian relics.

The rare "Fly Catcher," or "Pitcher" plants are to be found in large

numbers on the place of Postmaster Harmon, on Deer Creek and he will have some at the fair for inspection.

W. J. Wimer will make an interesting display of platinum from the mines near Waldo and his process by which the valuable product can be saved.

Wild and tame grapes are grown very successfully hereabouts and although it is a bit early to make any fine showing, yet L. M. Mitchell and Thos. Lewman of Applegate Valley will have a novelty in the shape of a wild vine some 150 feet long, with luscious fruit, while H. S. Wymant also of the Applegate valley has a vine but one year old, grown on granite land and without irrigation, which measures 34 feet and seven inches long, which he will place in the fair.

John Williams has grown a fine article of broom corn which competent judges pronounce equal to the best and he will let the people see at the fair just what he can do in this direction.

Postmaster Kubli of Kubli will show how he grows cane and makes a fine article of syrup therefrom. He has been able to clearly demonstrate the feasibility of the undertaking.

W. S. Bailey, the postmaster and merchant at Davidson was in Wednesday and said that his team would bring in exhibits to the fair free of charge. He lives in the Missouri Flat, which is famous for fine apples and he will see to it that that section has a very fine display at the fair.

Lester Bailey, whom some of his friends have dubbed as the "reformed" photographer, is growing fruit very successfully and he proposes to show the Hood River fellows at the fair that real Spitzenburg apples can be grown nicely in Rogue River Valley.

Rev. J. E. Day, of Woodville is an enthusiast over the vast amount of good which will likely come to the whole of the Rogue river as a result of the convention and fair. He was in the city, this week making arrangements to bring in a lot of fine vegetables for the affair.

Lynn D. Allen will have his fine Gurnsey cow from the Ladd herd at the fair.

Postmaster W. O. Henry of Hugo is one of the committee to rustle exhibits from his section and so is Daniel Peterson and both of these gentlemen are doing valiant work, putting in hard licks for the fair. The horticultural and agricultural exhibits will be in the pavilion, with H. D. Eismann in charge of the same. The stock and manufactures will be given in the rear of the pavilion, as well as the pens for the poultry, with A. T. Martin caring for the same. In the Commercial Club rooms will be the mineral displays, in the keeping of Frank South. The art, photo, and photo displays will be held in the Churchill store room, Mrs. Conklin in charge, while the domestic science showing will be presided over in the Hall building, with Mrs. Hall in care of it.

L. B. Akers who has a fine herd of Brown Swiss, known as "Hill Jerseys," will make a nice exhibit of his blooded stock, bringing some of his fine animals. He used to be a Jersey enthusiast, but now he prefers the animals imported from Switzerland.

W. R. Powers who is a convert to dairying wants to make a good showing at the fair and while here he hopes Dr. Withycombe and others of the O. A. C. specialists will arrange to hold a farmers institute in Deer Creek this coming winter season.

C. H. McCann, the Cheney creek stockman has a fine span of yearling mules, which he believes will carry off the highest honors at the fair. Marshall Stiles was in from Williams valley and he is greatly pleased over the fair outlook. He says that the people out his way are going to be here in full force and are going to make some fine displays at the fair.

J. H. Hart brought in a fine lot of

(Continued on last page.)

NEW FISH HATCHERY BEING CONSTRUCTED

Government Expert Kelley Now Busily Engaged in the Important Undertaking.

Uncle Sam is doing the proper thing by the people of the Rogue River Valley in more ways than one and perhaps one of the most important ways in which he is looking after the future welfare is in providing more adequate means for caring for the fish industry of this region. As is becoming more apparent every season, this is one of the most promising industries of the Valley and it is growing in magnitude every year, until now it is beginning to assume large proportions.

H. L. Kelly, a representative of the United States Fish Bureau has been detailed to look after this important matter and he is giving it his undivided attention. He has, after looking the field over carefully, decided to build a fish hatchery at what is known as "Findley Eddy," located on the Rogue River, some 14 miles west of Grants Pass and he now has a force of some eight or ten men engaged in putting in the dam and in making all the necessary preparations for the installing of the important equipment for propagating the finny tribe.

Expert Kelly confidently expects to be able to have everything in readiness this fall for the baking of salmon eggs and possibly he may succeed in getting the big hatchery completed throughout, although he is not so certain as to this latter matter. However, the work is to be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible and as soon as it is in shape it will be put to a good use.

R. D. Conley, who has been located with the Elk Creek hatchery and who has had ample experience in the conducting of such matters, has been transferred from the Elk Creek plant to take charge of this new venture and he will proceed to put things in excellent shape as soon as the work is completed.

This is the third fish hatchery which the government has seen fit to have built in this part of Southern Oregon, one being located on the Illinois river and the other being situated on Elk Creek, at its emptying into the Rogue River.

The Mountaineer Restaurant, Front street, between Sixth and Seventh, will be open every night until 1 o'clock.
8-30 ft.

GRANTS PASS MAY PUT LID ON NOW

Attention Toward the Strict Observance of Sunday Closing Ordinances.

It begins to look very much as though Grants Pass might soon join the growing list of cities and towns where the "lid" has been put on. In other words, it is reported that a determined effort is to be made by the law-abiding citizens of this community to strictly enforce the law governing the closing of the saloons on Sunday.

"I tell you it is a shame to have Grants Pass experience such a condition of affairs," remarked a prominent member of the Law and Order League to the Courier representative. And then he continued, "Why, Portland, Oregon City and even Astoria have closed up the saloons on Sunday and as there is both a state law as well as a city ordinance which strictly forbid anything of the kind, it is high time that we were calling a halt."

"Here the mayor has been sworn to enforce the laws governing the city and it is certainly his duty to attend to this matter at once and if he cannot see it in this light, we propose to see that he does his duty. In the name of progress, can't we of Grants Pass, where the moral tone is recognized as being so much higher and stronger than in many places where the law is enforced, have this crying evil promptly attended to? We believe we can and to that end we will put forth every effort to have this a law abiding community.

"The enforcement of the laws governing this municipality is the sworn duty of the mayor and anything short of that would be purely anarchy. So, I say, it is not only the proper thing, from a moral standpoint, but it is establishing a very bad precedent to have any of our city ordinances willfully violated, without putting forth a strenuous effort to remedy the evil and that is just what we are wanting to do."

Just what will be the mode of procedure has not been made known to the general public, but it is certain that some decided steps are to soon be taken in this matter and soon the workings of these men who have the best interests of the community at heart will doubtless become more evident.

Dance records for disc talking machines at the Music store.

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Sizes given above is the bed of Hammock only.

ONEILL'S HAMMOCK TALKS

Now that warm weather is here let us get down to business. I want to talk HAMMOCKS to you.

I think I have the biggest assortment of Hammocks ever shown in Grants Pass. I was tempted by the low price at which these Hammocks were offered and I bought heavy. They are worth more money in the market today to buy than I am selling for. The goods are perfect and price low. My advice is to order now. Better send in your order today by mail, or if in Grants Pass, come in and see us.

Yours truly,

R. H. O'NEILL

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