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J. Pardee, The Grocer
Front Street Grants Pass

THE ROGUE RIVER COURIER GRANTS PASS, OREGON.

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W. E. WILLIS, EDITOR

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1907.

Here is a nice remark by the "Oregonian": "Grants Pass opened its new theatre with a free performance. Let us rejoice over one community in Oregon that puts art above the dollar."

With delicious, ripe strawberries in the Grants Pass market all the time, it is little wonder that the easterners who are daily arriving are simply dumbfounded. They can hardly believe their optics, as they behold the remarkable fruit.

The Oregon State Dairy Association will meet in Portland December 19-20. The Commercial Club offers two gold medals, one for butter and one for cheese, while the Portland Flouring Mills put up a purse of \$100, in cash for the best general display.

Rev. C. T. Hurd, president of the Oregon Christian Endeavor union, announces that the state convention will be held in Eugene some time next February. It is likely that there will be something like 150 delegates to be entertained by the four Eugene societies.

Theater Magazine:

The first aim of the modern playwright is to please the women in the audience. The second thought is for the female characters in the play. If a play finds favor with the women, it is bound to be a success. The men will go if only because she is there or to act as her escort.

Commenting upon affairs in Josephine county, the Eugene register has this pertinent remark to make: "It is generally predicted that Josephine county will go dry at the June election. The day seems not far distant when Multnomah county will do the same unless it adopts regulation under high license. When Multnomah goes on the water wagon, Oregon will have state prohibition."

If the great interest being taken by fruit growers in the most important matter of spraying and taking the

best possible care of their orchards means anything, it surely means that we may expect a very large increase in the amount of fruit this favored section will produce next season. And what is of far greater importance is the fact that the quality will be greatly improved.

There is a move on foot to get a state organization of Spanish War veterans. There are a number of camps all over the state, but as yet no effort has been made to centralize into a state organization. If this were secured they would stand a much better chance to secure the home travel pay which has been withheld so long and which they were so faithfully promised.

We note with pleasure that the Commercial Club of Portland has wisely retained "Tom" Richardson, for another year, as manager of that aggressive organization and the people of Oregon will be glad of this fact, for Mr. Richardson has clearly demonstrated that he is working for the whole of this state and not merely for the northern metropolis. He is in a position to do each locality a vast amount of good, and what is more, he is not hesitating to boost for all parts of this great commonwealth.

Barring the bit of fog, we can boast of some exceptionally fine weather, these days and we have been having some of the same kind for many months past. The newcomer in the land is simply astonished, for he left cold, inclement weather in the east and little dreamed that he was going to find this land of flowers and sunshine.

The disclosures made before the New York Public Service Commission in regard to the plundering of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company by men who were in control would be simply astounding if the public had not come to the point where no revelation of the iniquities of "high finance" can surprise any well informed person. It remains to be seen whether these wrong doers of exalted rank and station shall be permitted to go unpunished. Some of the men involved are dead; it is not too late to apply the rod of justice to the living.

It is truly remarkable how few people young pass away in this valley. Of late we have had some deaths to record, but for the most part they were of people who were far advanced in age. In fact, for the most part they were persons who had reached a ripe, old age, near the three score and ten years commonly allotted to mankind, as the age limit. What better proof of the healthfulness of this region could possibly be desired.

One of the leading papers south of the Mason and Dixon line gives expression to this idea, which is one of interest to us people of the North:

"We have been reflecting lately on one difference between the customs of the North and of the South. Here, we spend much money on the table, and always have a plenty to eat. In the North the ordinary food, from day to day, is much plainer and less expensive. That which they save on the table they expend on books. Are they wiser? Ought we not to buy more books?"

Slowly and surely is the stability of our financial institutions being regained. Locally there has been no question about their soundness for with the wise and conservative management which has characterized their affairs all along, they were prepared for the flurry which came upon them so suddenly and unexpectedly. This bit of undesired experience will only serve to create more faith in them than we have heretofore had and we are glad to note that the people have never wavered in their belief that these local banks were sound to the core.

Here are a few editorial squibs from "back east," showing how they think about present conditions: "The failures are but a drop in the bucket compared with the size of the scare a few days ago." "Nobody seems able to explain or define what is called 'the panic.' It may go into history with the qualifying word 'alleged.'" "A reduction of 10 per cent in the price of dressed meats is the silver lining to the dark cloud in the financial sky." "The Standard Oil Company ought not to object to having the light turned on. Mr. Rockefeller's concern always derives some benefit from every illumination."

One of the most hopeful signs of the times in Josephine county is the widespread interest that is being taken by the people of all classes in the matter of fruit growing. Even the teachers in the public schools have not been immune and they are going to do much towards putting the industry on a scientific basis. They can do a vast amount of good in stirring up the people to renewed efforts in this line. It has been demonstrated, beyond a peradventure that this is one of the best places on earth for the successful growing of apples, pears and the like and now all we need to make this a veritable paradise is that the people go into the business with an intelligent understanding of what is to be done to grow the best fruit. We will not be content with growing good fruit, but we want only the best fruit and it has been shown that here is the very place for carrying out such an idea. Let us aim high and then not stop until we have reached our highest ambition.

In all its vain endeavors to throw discredit upon any good report that may emanate from Grants Pass, the Medford Mail basely insinuates that Postmaster Harmon, in giving the Courier the receipts of the home office for the past year, included five quarters, instead of four! The very idea! But we are not much surprised, after all, for those Medford people are so much given to thinking that they are the "whole thing," and that there is nothing good to come out of any other nearby locality, that they can hardly make themselves believe that we are ahead of them in the matter of postoffice receipts, as well as in many other very important essentials. And what is more, we do not have to be continually blowing our own horn in order to convince the world that we have a fine county and a good class of people. Now that the people at large are beginning to discount much of the wild rumors that are sent out from Medford and classify it merely as "hot air," we may not be surprised that they resort to almost any means to discredit any good word that is spoken regarding Josephine county, in their desperation.

A former Oregon farmer who went to Nebraska a year or two ago to engage in farming in that state, wrote back to Oregon friends, recently, as follows: "I believe in diversified agriculture. An exhibit of my crop report for 1906 is as follows: I have raised one acre of baked potatoes, 50 bushels of dried peaches and apples, 25 acres of parched corn, one acre of roasted peanuts, and if the weather continues dry I will have about two acres of melon preserves. I have also operated a dairy for some time but I can't distinguish the difference between a cow and a steer and I had to give that up. The balance of my crop consists of Chinich bugs, grasshoppers and jack rabbits.—X."

The deeds, contracts and agreements are to be received to the subscribers to the \$100,000 railroad bonds fund by the Klamath Development Company. This will not occasion very much surprise, for it is in line with the policy pursued by the corporation ever since it entered the field. At the expiration of the date

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set for the completion of the road in to this city, the trustees were notified not to reconvey the deeds, contracts and agreements to the subscribers. No explanation was made at that time, or since, and the idea seemed to gain ground that the Klamath Development Company was going to insist on the collection of the bonus. But subsequent events proved this conclusion to be erroneous.

The low colonist rates, which have been in vogue ever the western roads will be continued until the first of the year, after which date the rates will be materially advanced.

A peculiar accident occurred in the S. P. yards at Ashland, Monday, when a caboose got away and ran down the track almost to Medford, and in endeavoring to hit one of the big mogul freight engines off the track it was second best with not a sign of its former shape in evidence. As Grants Pass has the largest and most level yards in Southern Oregon, no such accidents occur here, although there are frequently from 150 to 200 freight cars on the side tracks here.

Victor A. Peterson and family left Monday for San Diego, Cal., where they will probably make their future home.

An important change in business circles took place this week, when W. L. Ireland, the successful real estate man concluded to leave that line of business and take an interest in the Hair-Riddle Hardware Co. Mr. Ireland has been very successful and has made many warm friends by his uniformly courteous treatment and fair dealings with his customers. He finds he cannot afford to miss such a fine opening as that which the Hair-Riddle people offered him and that progressive firm is to be congratulated upon having him join their ranks, for he is in every way well fitted to take hold and push the excellent business that has already been built up.

My Jewelry and Silverware department is the largest ever.—Letcher. 11-15-07

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