

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1908.

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OBSERVER'S INSINUATIONS ARE ENTIRELY REFUTED

Local Organ of the "Ring" Seems to Be "Seeing Things" These Days.

Editor Courier:

The Observer of this week contains the following statement: "It is easy to understand the motive of Judge Jewell in this sort of secret transaction, but Commissioner Wertz, who figures county expenditures very closely and has no ax to grind, must have been asleep when the little Courier job was put through."

Now I have no disposition to notice the ungentlemanly reflection that is here cast at the County Court, but lest some who read the editorial alluded to may not fully understand our work in the matter referred to, it may be proper to make it plain.

The article in question purports to be a criticism of our appointment of the Courier as the official paper of Josephine county.

Article 2636 of the [Statutes of Oregon] provides that the County Court shall, at the January term of each year, designate a county official paper which shall be the one having the largest circulation in the county.

The Observer says that the court was opposed to naming an official paper last year. This is not true. Not having sufficient evidence at the time to enable us to determine as to which paper had the largest circulation, we failed to act in the matter.

This year, however, we found that the Courier had a circulation of about 300 more than the Observer. So, under the law we could do but one thing—obey it. There was no secret about it as the Observer well knows. I think that this is the first time that I have ever been accused of official dishonesty, and if it were not for the contemptible littleness of my accuser, there might be a reckoning. Every attorney and business man in Grants Pass can testify to my disposition to distribute patronage equally and impartially. The Observer has had the publishing of the delinquent tax list for three years. This of itself shows that no partiality has been shown. I have treated the Observer man in the past just as I have tried to treat all other persons—kindly and courteously.

STEPHEN JEWELL.

The safe of the Merlin Mercantile company was blown open by burglars Sunday night. The thieves secured about \$200 and two certificates of the Glendale Lumber company, for \$10 each, numbered six and 18, and also took one gent's Waltham and two ladies' gold watches. The work appears to have been done by professionals.

At Kelso, Wash., an anti-treating society has been formed. As the pledge includes ice cream, soda water and lemonade it promises to develop great popularity among the young men next summer.

GRANTS PASS CANNERY MAKES FUTURE PLANS

Much interest has been taken in the success which has been coming to the promoters of the new industry known as the Grants Pass Canning Co. Although but one year old, yet its growth and development have been almost phenomenal and have far exceeded the sanguine expectations of those who were backing it up.

At the first annual meeting, held in the Commercial Club rooms, Wednesday, Manager H. C. Sampson made an account of his stewardship, which was very satisfactory to the stockholders. When it is taken into consideration that the plant was opened rather late last season and the additional fact that the equipment was not any too elaborate, the showing made was very gratifying.

It is proposed to enlarge the plant and be prepared to handle a vast amount of fruit, vegetables and the like this coming season.

The following directors were duly elected: H. C. Kinney, Geo. S. Calhoun, L. B. Hall, Joseph Moss, O. S. Blanchard, G. W. Donnell and R. S. Wilson. These in turn assembled and organized, with the following officers: H. C. Kinney, president; L. B. Hall vice-president; Joseph Moss, treasurer; O. S. Blanchard, secretary and H. L. Andrews, assistant secretary.

'RAH FOR GRANTS PASS HIGH SCHOOL DEBATERS

They Carry off High Honors by Defeating Roseburg and Klamath Falls.

The members of the High school debating team won great honors, Friday evening, in defeating the Roseburg representatives. The contest occurred in the Opera house, and the question debated was: "Resolved, That the Naturalization Laws of the United States Should be Made More Stringent." Grants Pass speakers had the affirmative and the judges gave them their unanimous decision.

The judges were: W S Crowell and W M Colvig, of Medford and Dr G A Martin of Tekoa, Wash.

Roseburg's debaters were: Miss Ruth Gibson, Will Thornton and Carson Spencer, while Miss Olwen Hughes, Randle Hood and Errol Gilkey so ably spoke for Grants Pass.

And again, Wednesday evening the same Grants Pass orators achieved a remarkable victory, by defeating the Klamath Falls team, which had previously vanquished the Medford debaters.

This time the judges all hailed from Jacksonville and were Hon. B F Mulkey, F. M. Calkins and C. L. Reames. They were unanimous in their decision, awarding the Grants Pass team the prize. The names of the visiting orators were as follows: Vincent and Carlisle Yaden and Alexander Martin, three of Klamath Falls' brightest young men.

Now Grants Pass will try conclusions with the Marshfield team, at that Coos Bay city, February 15, and if successful there, they will have to contend with some other team which has been successful in its district and finally, if there successful, have a final tryout with the team which stands up after all but the two have been defeated. It would be a great honor if Grants Pass team could win out and carry off the final honors, and such a thing is entirely within the range of possibilities and here's hoping that the home forensic artists may win the highest honors and thus give Grants Pass some mighty valuable advertising, to say nothing of reflecting great credit upon themselves and the Grants Pass High School.

COMMERCIAL CLUB'S ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday evening the Grants Pass Commercial Club held its annual meeting for the election of officers and to transact important business, the attendance was good showing most conclusively that the people of this community realize the great importance of having such an organization in this locality.

Secretary Andrews gave a comprehensive review of the past year's work, and also gave a detailed statement of the financial standing of the club. The membership was shown to be 104.

When it came to the election of officers, it was unanimously decided that the present efficient corps had done good work and that as an endorsement of its administration that should be retained in office, which was accordingly done.

A request was made by the Club of the city council, that the Seventh street sewer be extended, so as to give the Riverside public school better sewerage.

Attorney A. H. Austin, of Kerby addressed the Club, and among other matters of importance, he mentioned the proposed new bridge across Rogue River, here in the city. His remarks were followed by others, the interchange of ideas regarding such matters proving to be quite interesting.

After many minor matters had been discussed, the organization adjourned until the next regular monthly meeting.

Register Benjamin L. Eddy, of the Roseburg Land Office writes the Courier to the effect that "the plats of survey of tp. 41 s, r 1, E, secs 4 to 9 and 16 to 18, inclusive and tp 1 s, r 1 W, sec 1, 12 and 13, will be filed in this office on February 8, 1908, at 9 o'clock a. m., and on and after such day we shall be prepared to receive applications for the entry of the unappropriated and unreserved lands in such portions of townships."

THEY'ER HEARING ABOUT STATE OF OREGON

Many People all Over the Country Writing About Our Attractions.

Special Correspondence
Portland, Ore., Jan. 6, 1908.

Never in the history of Oregon was the state receiving such an enormous amount of advertising as at the present time. The writers who are contesting for the 80 prizes (\$5000) offered by the Portland Commercial Club, have seemingly been busy in every state in the Union. Some of the contestants have written a series of articles covering several editions of the same newspaper, thoroughly discussing the attractions and resources of the state. Governor Chamberlain will be requested to name his three judges and they will begin their work February 1.

On the last day of the old year, the Portland Commercial Club wired its greetings, on behalf of the city and state, to President Roosevelt, and within a few hours received a most cordial reply in which the Chief Executive wished the people of Oregon a happy and prosperous New Year.

Oregonians will be busy attending conventions to be held in this city during January. The list includes:

Jan. 13 and 14: The Northwest Retail Harness & Saddlery Manufacturers' Association.

Jan. 14, 15 and 16: Oregon Horticultural Society.

Jan. 17 and 18: Oregon State Press Association.

Jan. 21 and 22: Retail Grocers' Association.

Jan. 21 and 22: Oregon Retail Hardware & Implement Dealers' Association.

Jan. 23, 24 and 25: Pacific Federation of Implement and Hardware Dealers.

A big excursion from the "Inland Empire" through Oregon and California, under the special auspices of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce and the Walla Walla Commercial Club, will spend all day Saturday, February 8th, in Portland, where they will be given a ride over the city, luncheon and dinner and reception by a special committee of the Portland Commercial Club. Their itinerary also calls for brief stops at Roseburg and Medford. The chief purpose of this excursion is to interest the thousands of tourists now gathered in Southern California so that they may return to their Eastern homes by way of the Pacific Northwest.

The colonist rates, which resulted in bringing such a vast immigration to Oregon during September and October, 1907, will be in effect for March and April of 1908.

The rate applies on all railroads, to all rail points in Oregon, on the same basis as before \$25 from Kansas City, Minneapolis and Duluth; \$30 from St. Louis; \$35 from Chicago; \$50 from New York. The fare is \$2.50 less on each ticket sold to a point East of Umatilla. An effort will be made by all the commercial bodies throughout the state of Oregon to make these two months add 20,000 to the population of the state.

No convention ever held in Oregon has received the liberal national notice accorded the recent meeting of the Oregon State Dairy Association. Pages have been devoted to it in the agricultural and dairy journals of the country, at a season when the Eastern dairyman is most strongly impressed with the climatic advantages of the state.

"HOLY ROLLERS" HAVE ENTERED WOODVILLE

Word comes from Woodville, to the effect that the "Holy Rollers" are endeavoring to secure a foothold in that neighboring town to the south. But, from all accounts, it would seem as though the residents of that peaceful and law abiding community have no desire to see this sect begin its outlandish practices in that vicinity.

The report goes that the people are very much averse to this new sensational crowd invading the quietness of the place. Just what steps may be taken to put a stop to such foolishness, should the persons try to push it upon the innocent citizen, remains to be seen. If reports be true the unwelcome visitors may be given a ride on a rail out of the town, with instructions to seek other and more congenial surroundings.

MUCH BUSINESS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

Court and Jury Attending to Many Cases of More or Less Importance.

Judge Hanna and the jury have been dealing out bunches of justice, in the circuit court, with the following results: H Wittrock vs Gold Pick Mining Co., dismissed upon motion of plaintiff.

F A Pierce vs S P Co., dismissed by consent of both parties, without cost to either party.

J W Baker vs W J Stovall and W E Cudrey, dismissed, being settled out of court.

Nina B Lathrop, vs Modern Woodmen of America, verdict for \$3000, as prayed for in complaint.

Robert Brown vs Geo. W. Lewis, order to enter mandate from supreme court.

Rolla S Knapp vs Edgar T Wallace et al., same order.

Willis Kramer vs H L Wilson et al., same order.

City of Grants Pass vs. Rogue River Water Co., demurrer to answer, over ruled and case referred to M Calkins.

Frank Dessinger et al., vs J T Cochran, confirmation entered.

State Land Board vs Wm Sovereign, default and decree granted.

G P Banking & Trust Co., vs. J F Wiscarver foreclosure decree entered for \$350.

C E Wade vs Amalgamated Metal Exploration Co., default and decree.

When the case of the State vs Charles F Parker was called, the defendant was allowed his freedom, the prosecution not having sufficient evidence to convict.

This afternoon the court sentenced Irving Medley and Ed Wetzel, the young fellows who "touched" a mining man, here in Grants Pass, on Christmas day, for a neat sum, to the state penitentiary for one year.

The case of the State vs Joe Hendricks, the party accused of having shot Night Watchman Swearingen, of this city, last fall, is on trial, before a jury, as the Courier goes to press.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN LOCAL BANKING CIRCLES

This week an important change occurred in local financial circles, when Hon. L. L. Jewell tendered his resignation as cashier of the Grants Pass Banking & Trust Co., which place he has held for several years past.

At the regular annual meeting of the stockholders, held Tuesday, this resignation was acted upon, but no successor has yet been selected.

Mr. Jewell informed the Courier that this action was due, largely to his health and that for some past he had been contemplating the action, as he felt that the work was entirely too confining. His many friends will regret to miss him from this important place, but all will join in hoping that he will soon regain his wonted strength.

The stockholders, at Tuesday's meeting elected the following directors: Geo. R. Riddle, E. P. Dixon, Lincoln Savage, J T Tufts, Frank Mashburn, Ed Lister, and Claus Schmidt.

The directors held a meeting and chose the following officers: J. T. Tufts, president; E. P. Dixon, vice-president. The cashier was not chosen, but will be announced later.

City Attorney Clements seems to be getting his reputation up as a pugilist. Here's what the Eugene Guard has to say, regarding the little pugilistic encounter which occurred at the courthouse one day last week: "C. H. Clements, the newly appointed city attorney, and Oliver Brown, a Grants Pass lawyer, who presented the two sides of a saloon case before the county court, passed hot words back and forth, and not being able to settle the argument in the courthouse with words, attempted to reach a settlement in the old-fashioned way out in the street. Brown called Clements a liar, and Clements knocked Brown into the gutter, sitting upon him until bystanders interfered. Neither was damaged much. Clements, who is a powerful, athletic fellow, has settled several arguments by the muscle method lately. A few days ago he tossed an obstreperous citizen out of his office and downstairs."

MAKES CITY OFFER OF THE WATERWORKS

Morris Bros. Tender Plant to Grants Pass People on Rather Liberal Terms.

One of the important matters considered by the city council, last evening, was the formal offer of Messrs. Morris Bros., to sell to the city of Grants Pass the Rogue River Water Co.'s business and plant outright.

These gentlemen, according to promise, submitted an offer in writing, agreeing to take \$110,000, either in cash, or in city bonds, bearing 5 per cent and due 20 years, or whatever time agreed upon, mutually. They set forth that, basing the estimated revenue for '08 upon the income for the past three months, the income would be \$13,600, and with the monthly expenses figured at \$355, it is estimated that the net income should be about \$9340, which the would-be-sellers think would not only give the city free water for fire and such purposes, but also pay interest on the bonds and then leave the neat sum of \$3000, to be added to the city's revenue.

Morris Bros. say they value the plant at \$200,000 and declare that its total cost of construction has been upwards of that figure. They agree to stand the cost of the issue of the bonds, legal and otherwise, in case the people vote to take the plant over.

In concluding their offer they say: "The price quoted the city on this plant is without prejudice and is only made for the reason that we are and have been disposing of all our outside interests and devoting our time exclusively to the bond business." Appended to the offer is a detailed statement from Engineer G I Brown, an employee of the company, setting forth at some length the apparatus of the plant and its estimated value, which he placed conservatively at \$188,103.13, after deducting for poor pipe and the like. His figures were verified by W B Chase, an able and experienced engineer, who has wide experience in such matters and who is a recognized authority in all such matters. Engineer Chase has been called in to figure an almost every plant of any consequence in the Pacific Northwest and his word has much weight in all such matters.

Those skilled in such affairs pronounce the plant as good as any in the state, considering the size of it and regard it as very complete in every particular.

In addressing the council, at the last meeting, Mr. Morris stated that his firm would stand all expenses of securing an able and capable engineer to go over and ascertain whether or not the estimates of Messrs. Brown and Chase are correct, if, in case such work is done and the report does not verify the figures given out by these two engineers.

At last night's council meeting, it was decided to call a mass meeting of the taxpayers of Grants Pass, to be held at the Court House, Friday, January 24. Good speakers will address the meeting and an expression of the people as to the advisability of the council's calling a special election for the passing upon this question of purchasing the waterworks is earnestly desired.

HEARD ABOUT ROGUE RIVER IN OLD WORLD

Seeing That Our Apples Were Bringing Good Money, He, Writes for Facts

L. C. Gillette, the well known real estate dealer that certainly good proof of the fact that Rogue River is becoming noted, the world over, as the place where the finest of fruits are raised.

Mr. Gillette is in receipt of a communication from F. R. Faber, who wrote him from Constantinople, and among other things he says: "I saw an article this evening in the latest received London Daily Telegraph, that your Newtown Pippins were selling in England at six pence (12 cents) each."

He had been in correspondence with Mr. Gillette and was very much interested in this section as the place for growing grapes and apples. An article on the fact that this region grows nice figs also attracted his attention and he wrote Mr. Gillette, asking more about the matter. In speaking of the growing of figs he remarked: "The little article on figs presents perhaps possibilities of which the Rogue River Valley has not dreamed. The fig tree will grow anywhere in a climate not too hot nor too cold for it, and will bear some kind of fruit; but that is not the commercial aspect of the case, and while they grow on any southern exposure around Constantinople yet they are not good for packing. They are in consequence eaten as fresh, and if dried become hard, this I am led to believe is on account of a lack of sugar in them. The first quality layer fig comes from Asia Minor where the soil and climate are suited to it, while the same trees planted in other localities do not produce fruit that can be packed with the same success and with the same treatment as the Asia Minor or so called Smyrna fig."

Mr. Faber states that the printed matter sent him by Mr. Gillette gave him much valuable information, regarding people who are on the move and the possibilities of securing a place already started. I will leave here next year and as far as I have seen Oregon descriptive literature, I have developed a sympathy for your valley. The climate does not seem to differ much from that of the Asia Minor fig lands, and if a favorable soil can be found an industry as fine as any you have can be developed.

"Any pamphlets or literature on fruit culture will be very acceptable, that you can conveniently send. They will further the theoretical part of the enterprise before the practical is begun."

It is needless to add that Mr. Gillette was able to provide this inquirer from the far off land much valuable and interesting information regarding the matters in hand and he had secured for him lots of data that will be right to the point and enlighten him not a little.

Mrs. C. H. Sampson underwent a successful operation for tumor, at the South Pacific Hospital, Wednesday.

Something Extraordinary

The big sale of Graniteware is still on

20 per cent off of Marked Prices

Furniture and Carpets, Linoleums, Lace Curtains, Portieres, Mattresses, Pillows, Cots, Wall Paper, Clocks, Mirrors, Window Shades, Pictures, Picture Moulding.

R. H. O'Neil

THE HOUSEFURNISHER

Front St., bet. 6 and 7

Stoves and Ranges, Graniteware, Ageware, Tinware, Woodenware, Willowware, Cutlery, Crockery, Lamps, Glassware, Fancy China, Go-Carts, Baby Carriages.