

# Rogue River Courier.

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## HOPGROWERS FACING A CRITICAL SITUATION

### Brewers Insist That They Turn in and Assist in Fighting Prohibitionists.

Consternation reigns supreme among the hopgrowers of Josephine county, who find that their troubles are apparently not all over. As though the fact that they have been growing the hops at a loss for the past few seasons was not already enough discouragement, now comes word from the brewers, organization, warning them that if they want their hops to be taken, they must get in and fight the temperance movement, which bids fair to annihilate the beer making and beer drinking business all over the country.

But the Josephine growers do not propose to be coerced after any such fashion. In fact some of the leading growers have declared that rather than be dictated to after any such fashion, they will dig up their hop yards and go into the fruit growing business, instead.

It is a well known fact that hop land is also exceptionally good for the cultivation of fruit and that it makes ideal alfalfa land. So it would seem that the hop industry in Josephine county, at least is likely to dwindle to small proportions, from existing conditions.

This sentiment not only seems to prevail hereabouts, but all over the state there seems to be a disposition on the part of growers to give up the industry and turn their lands into other and more profitable products.

Can it be possible that Oregon is thus getting prepared to swing into line as a prohibition state? Will the Beaver state join the already large procession which is wending its way along towards the no-saloon goal?

## PROPOSES TO SPRAY OR CUT DOWN FRUIT TREES

"Spray 'em or cut 'em down," says Secretary Williamson, of the State Board of Horticulture, in discussing the care of fruit trees and vines. He is now engaged in sending out the formula for spraying for San Jose scale, woolly aphis, codling moth and other things that prey on the fruit crop of Oregon.

"Now is the time for winter spraying, and it should be done right away," he said. "Where the trees are not worth spraying, they should be cut down and burned, so as not to remain breeding places for the various pests. Even rose bushes should be sprayed, in order that they may not harbor the San Jose scale."

His circular says, in regard to lime and sulphur spraying: This is the spray to use in winter for killing San Jose scale, and all other insects which are on fruit trees in winter. It is also one of the best fungicides. For destroying San Jose scale on fruit and other trees and shrubbery, use at any time during the winter at full strength of the formula given below. For preventing apple tree anthracnose (dead spot or canker) spray with full strength of formula about the first of November. For preventing peach leaf-curl, apply just before buds open in spring.

Formula: 15 pounds of unslaked lime, 15 pounds of flowers of sulphur, 50 gallons of water.

Place part of the water in the vat or kettle and start the fire, and when the water comes to a boil add the lime and sulphur. Boiling should be continuous for at least an hour and until the sulphur has been dissolved. The liquid will then be red. It must be stirred while the boiling is going on.

Commercial preparations of the lime sulphur spray are on the market in liquid form and are extensively used. Those which are properly made are efficient. Purchasers of the liquid forms of this spray should require a guaranty from the manufacturers that when such sprays are diluted according to manufacturer's directions they will contain at least 15 pounds of sulphur in solution in each 50 gallons of spray.

ATENTION! ATENTION!! All members of Azalia Circle are requested to be present at the next meeting, February 17, 18, for the purpose of transacting important business. L. L. CALDWELL, G. N. M. J. DAVIS, Clerk.

## EARL DOTSON KILLED BY OVERDOSE OF MORPHINE

### Coroner's Jury Finds Wm. Feibly Mining Man, Guilty of the Deed.

Thursday morning this community was startled by the announcement that Earl Dotson, a young man 28 years old and a member of a highly respected family, had been poisoned by an overdose of morphine and died from said cause.

The investigation held by Coroner Stricker and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney E. S. Van Dyke, in Hall's undertaking parlors, Thursday afternoon, revealed a bad state of affairs around town, some of the saloons coming into the limelight in a not very creditable manner.

The jury, composed of the following prominent citizens, H. C. Kinney, Geo. H. Parker, L. L. Jewell, H. L. Andrews, Elmer Hayes and R. S. Wilson, went into the matter very thoroughly and after hearing all the evidence, rendered a verdict that "The body upon which the inquest is held is that of Earl Dotson, who died at the Layton hotel, the cause of his death being morphine, death being caused by an overdose of morphine and we find that the same was furnished and supplied by one Wm. Feibly, and that said Wm. Feibly, is guilty of a crime thereby." This morning an indictment was accordingly entered in the court of Justice Jas. Holman, by Prosecuting Attorney Reames and this afternoon Feibly had his preliminary hearing.

At the preliminary examination held before Justice Jas. Holman, this afternoon, a large crowd of spectators assembled to hear Deputies VanDyke and Reames conduct the case on behalf of the state, while Attorney R. G. Smith looked after Feibly's interests. There were some 14 witnesses examined and then the state rested, whereupon the defense asked for more time to plead and the court adjourned to meet again Saturday morning, at 9 o'clock, when the matter will be resumed.

Feibly, who is a morphine fiend, testified to having 120 grains of the drug on his person, and that he had been in the habit of giving young Dotson doses every little while, but he tried to shield himself by saying that Dotson had taken four grains of cocaine, Wednesday night. However, the testimony of witnesses seemed to fix the guilt very conclusively upon Feibly and the Coroner's jury found accordingly.

The funeral of the unfortunate young man took place at 1:30, this afternoon, County Judge Stephen Jewell, conducting the same at the Christian church, the interment being at the Granite Hill Cemetery.

"That inquest was an eye opener to me," remarked one member of the body, who continued, "It showed that many of the young men of the town are going to the dogs and that a most deplorable state of affairs exists. To my way of thinking this affair will put another nail in the effort to close up all the tough joints of the city. It was dreadful to hear the disgusting testimony and was enough to shock any citizen who has the best interests of the community at heart."

"It was indeed a mighty bad nest we stirred up," said Coroner Stricker, to the reporter. He was amazed at the awful conditions that were found to exist in the quarters thus investigated."

Announcement has been received of the first Oregon reunion which will occur at Los Angeles, Cal. February 10th inst. There will be a banquet, musical and literary program, in addition to bits of oldtime hospitality and impromptu entertainment. Mrs. Martha Jane Garrison Olds, a pioneer of 1846, is to be president of the day, and five minute table talks are expected from Ex-Governor Moody, Capt. A. A. Fries, U. S. A., and many others, interspersed with songs and sentiment, exchange of personal cards, and the adoption of measures looking towards a permanent organization of the many Oregonians in that locality, who in number are sufficient to make the proposed movement an unqualified success, and in which laudable endeavor the friendly Californians are leading a helping hand.

You can have your bicycle cleaned and repaired at Cramer Bros.

## COUNTY FRUIT INSPECTOR SOUNDS NOTE OF WARNING

### Finds Some Pear Blight and Advises Growers to Take Every Precaution.

Quite a flurry was caused among local fruitgrowers, the other day, when it was noised abroad that some real, "for sure" cases of pear blight, that much dreaded fruit disease, had been discovered in orchards hereabouts. This created consternation among the growers, who were at a loss to know how general the pest was to be found. But later developments have indicated that the growers were more scared than hurt.

But County Fruit Inspector, H. D. Eismann informs the Courier that while the blight has not gained anything of a foothold, that there is need of the greatest precaution on the part of every grower in Josephine county, if they would effectually prevent its spread. He states that cases of pear blight were found in the Eismann, Wimer and Allen orchards, but that thus far no other cases have been encountered. He proposes to make a most thorough investigation all over the county and he will take great pains to ascertain where the pest is to be found and then leave no stone unturned to eradicate it.

But Mr. Eismann does not think that Josephine county can afford to employ an inspector all the time. Under the present order of things, he puts in a portion of his time, being compensated for just what time he puts into the work. He thinks that the taxpayers would object to the county commissioners employing a man at a good salary to spend all his time in this work.

As to keeping the "fad" of the pear blight quiet, Inspector Eismann thinks that it would be a mistake to do so, but prefers to have the facts set forth and then the growers will realize the importance of the matter and the need of persistent, concerted action in ridding the county of this obnoxious fruit disease.

## Rogue River Valley Fruit Output.

In an article in the New York Fruit Trade Journal of January 7th, an estimate is made of the income derived by Hood river growers from their apples this year, the amount being placed at \$200,000, about the same as last year, in spite of a shortage of 20,000 boxes in the output, owing to the better prices realized.

Rogue River Valley can beat that \$190,000 on the income from fruit, as by a conservative estimate the income from fruit shipped from this section this year has reached the grand total of \$290,000. It is not possible to get accurate figures, owing to the fact that there are so many different shippers, but the estimate may be regarded as fairly accurate, and not excessive.

For instance there were at least 140 cars of pears shipped from the valley this season. It is safe to say that these cars would average \$500 to the car, and several of them brought over three times as much, and very few of them less. That makes the tidy little sum of \$210,000. Of the 180 cars of apples and small fruit 75 cars of apples are estimated at \$1500 to the car, which would total \$112,500, and 80 cars at \$800, totaling \$68,000, making in all for the apples \$180,000, or a grand total of \$390,000, leaving 25 cars of peaches, berries, etc., unaccounted for. Besides this there is the prune crop which is not placed in this estimate, as we were unable to get figures upon it.

It is safe to say that the fruit crop of Rogue River sold for over \$400,000 in 1907.—Medford Mail, Jan. 24.

## Business Change.

J. L. MYERS has sold his barber shop on east Front street to M. Stanton, of Eugene, who will continue the business.

Mr. Myers has bought the half interest of Nate Bates in the barber shop on West Front street, next to Schmidt's cigar store, formerly owned by Myers & Bates, and is now sole proprietor. He will conduct the business and equip it in first class style. Mr. Myers will run three chairs, and will have N. Bates and M. Luckett for assistants. 1-31 tf

Next Thursday evening the city council holds an important meeting. Among other matters to be considered will be the question of street paving.

## STREET PAVING NOW CLAIMING ATTENTION

### City Council is Very Likely to Take up This Most Important Matter.

There is a very strong probability that Grants Pass may soon boast of paved streets, for it is reported that the city council is likely to seriously consider this most important matter.

The Courier representative found that there is a sentiment growing in favor of taking such a step, all over Oregon. Many other municipalities have already taken the initiative in the matter and others will soon do so.

Here in Grants Pass the business men and taxpayers seem to look with favor upon the idea and should this sentiment become much stronger, the city fathers are more than likely to bring the matter up for formal action.

However, judging from what one business man, D. A. Harmon, has to say, it would seem as though the streets of Grants Pass are exceedingly fine, when compared with some of our nearby neighbors. For instance, Mr. Harmon had occasion to visit Medford, the first of the week and he was amazed at the condition of the public thoroughfares there. He said the main business streets must have been about a foot deep in mud, while those in the residence portion of the city were not even graded up. He said Grants Pass streets were amazingly in much better condition.

The Box Factory closed its doors last Friday evening, the company having declared its inability to pay either the employees or the creditors. The affairs of the concern are reported to be in a sad tangle and the courts will endeavor to clear up several shady looking matters. Mr. Andrews, the vice-president, and his family have gone to Portland.—Gleendale News.

## SPLENDID TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE GRAPES

One of the Portland papers recently had this good bit of advertising for Josephine county: "Charles E. Short, formerly of Portland, but now located at Merlin, Josephine county, was in the city yesterday on a business trip. In speaking of the bright prospects for the future of that district, especially in the fruitgrowing line, he said:

"The demonstrated adaptability of the soil for producing the best Rogue River fruits is attracting wide attention in the east and several parties from Nebraska, Montana and Michigan have recently purchased homes and are actively engaged in improvements. The principal enthusiasm is in grape culture, the red hills surrounding Merlin last year produced such wonderful clusters of the Flaming Tokay variety that there is no longer any doubt as to the yield.

"There are several large tracts suitable for apple raising, which can be irrigated, and these will soon be out in cultivation and sold to small holders. The price of land around Merlin is lower than at any other point in the Rogue River valley, it being an exceptional thing for unimproved land selling for over \$10 per acre, while the orchards in bearing run from \$500 up.

"The owner of the principal peach orchard in the district refused \$5000 per acre. In mining there is but little movement, owing to the financial conditions and the low price of copper, that metal predominating in the ores.

"The legal fight on the Oricle group having been settled, that property will soon open up in full blast, while the Alameda, Golden Wedge and Mt Pitt mines are beginning to show life. Workmen on the Copper Standard report the opening up of a large vein of very rich ore, and the talk of a smelter at Merlin has again broken out. The placer mines have had an exceptional supply of water and some good cleanups are looked for in the spring."

Mr. Short says that Merlin is in need of a drugstore, doctor, box factory, creamery and canning factory, and that the townsite company stands ready to give free sites for any industry that will tend to help the town.

Call at Cramer Bros. on Saturday, Feb. 15th, and see the chicks hatching in the Petaluma.

## MERLIN IS LIKELY TO HAVE BUILDING BOOM

### Eastern Capitalists Going to Buy up Large Tract of Choice Realty.

"Our town and locality are getting along nicely, thank you," was the way Merchant Chas. E. Short of the Merlin Mercantile Co., talked to a Courier reporter, as he was at the county seat, Monday, looking after some important business matters. "Yes," he continued, "things are moving along nicely, out that way. True, times are a bit slow, but we find that they are thusly almost every other place. So we are no exception.

"We are anticipating somewhat of a stir in real estate circles, if a big deal that is now on should be consummated, as now seems more than likely. I refer to the fact that a wealthy Michigan capitalist has been looking our country over and as he expresses himself as greatly delighted with our locality and does not care to look elsewhere, we believe that he will take the 720 acres which he has picked out. And if he does take it, he will proceed to subdivide it and then will sell tracts to many of his friends and acquaintances back east. In which event, we have every reason to believe that many of them will come out and make their future homes with us. Of course this makes us all feel happy, for we are glad to welcome desirable homeseekers and I might add that never before have there been so many inquiries regarding desirable farms in our section, as we are having these days. So, you see, things do have somewhat of a rosy hue for us and our favored section is gradually coming very much to the front.

Mr. Short stated that no clue as to who perpetrated the bold robbery in his establishment, a short time ago, when the safe was blown open and money and valuable papers were stolen, had ever been discovered.

Ben Simpkins, one of the leading citizens of Merlin is dangerously ill, with pneumonia, having taken down last Saturday. His many friends are fearing that he may have a serious time of it.

Another prominent citizen, in the person of Judge Ladd has been on the sick list, but now he is on the mend and he will likely soon be able to be up and around again.

Some of the Merlin lovers of "tripping the light fantastic toe" are planning to come to the county seat and enjoying one of the select dances which the understand are occurring nowadays.

Tuesday evening three persons were killed and injured in a wreck of the westbound Pacific passenger train, known as the Sheridan a local, at a point one mile west of Forest Grove. The accident occurred at 5:48 o'clock on a shallow trestle from a cause unknown, but believed to be due to a broken rail. Three of the five cars in the train turned over onto their sides. The dead are John McDonald, McMinnville Mrs. J. E. Bates and baby, Forest Grove.

## DARING ROBBERY OF GRANTS PASS SALOON

### Secured Some Cash and Gun—Left no Trace Behind Them.

A very bold holdup took place in the Eagle Saloon, located at corner of Front and Sixth Streets, Thursday night, about midnight. Three strangers entered the door, just as Bartender Ackerman was about to close the place and two of them, repairing to the back room, engaged in a noisy row.

Hearing the fight, Ackerman stepped in to quell the disturbance, leaving his "gun" inside the bar and just as soon as he had left the room, the third party stepped behind the bar and proceeded to tap the cash drawer, securing \$13 and carrying off Ackerman's revolver.

Ackerman could give no description of the men, having not the faintest idea of their personal appearance and so the officers have not even the slightest clue as to the perpetrators of the deed. Other daring attempts of a like nature are reported to have been frustrated in various parts of the city, during the past few weeks, but this was the only one to be successfully carried out.

Manager A. T. Marshall, of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., this week received a nice order from the Red Bluff Rural Telephone Co., and another from the Grange Telephone Co., both Wilderville organizations, as well as from the Applegate Telephone Co., for phones, and he reports that the work of installing these Josephine county lines will be rapidly pushed to completion and will bring all parts of the county much more closely in touch with the county seat.

## NEW PLAN IS IN VOGUE FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

There will be no more advertisements of delinquent tax sales now, according to the new law passed by the last legislature, in the interest of speculators in tax titles.

The practice now is to issue certificates of delinquency on delinquent property. When the taxes on any piece of property have not been paid by the owner, they may be paid by the first person who applies, and to him is given the certificate of delinquency. This certificate may be redeemed at any time within three years by the owner of the property.

Interest at the rate of 15 per cent must be paid by the owner to the holder of the certificate of delinquency before he is permitted to redeem. Under the old law the highest rate of interest that could be charged was 10 per cent.

At the expiration of three years, the holder of the certificate secures a deed through decree of the Circuit Court and the owner must appeal within 30 days from the date of the decree, or he can not appeal. The effect of the new law is believed to be that purchaser of a tax title secures a title that cannot be annulled.

## Big Reductions

ON

## WALL PAPER

To make room for Spring Stock

New Goods on road from Factory

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

### R. H. O'Neill

THE HOUSEFURNISHER

Front St., bet. 6 and 7

Stoves and Ranges, Granite ware, Agate ware, Earware, Woodware, Willoware, Cutlery, Crockery, Lamps, Glassware, Fancy China, Go-Carts, Baby Carriages.