

# Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXIV.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1908.

No. 7.

## A RICH STRIKE ON WILLIAMS

Harrison Brothers Have Taken Out \$30,000.

\$7000 SECURED ONE DAY

Have Been Taking Out From \$200 to \$500 a Day for the Past Month.

One of the most exciting mining reports which has stirred the Rogue River Valley country for many years, and which at the same time has every appearance of reliability, was brought into Grants Pass Monday of this week by Robert Harrison of Harrison brothers, who have been prospecting and mining out on Williams Creek since early in February.

Mr. Harrison reports having himself taken out one pan of dirt Thursday of last week which contained six pounds and three ounces of gold, aggregating something over \$1,800.

Mr. Harrison says that their first big strike was made on Easter Sunday when they took out a pocket containing between \$500 and \$700 in the one day. They have since been taking out pockets of from \$50 upwards. Mr. Harrison says that for the past 30 days he and his brother have been taking out from \$300 to \$500 per day. They now have an apparently well defined vein on the water shed of Butcher Gulch running from one to nine inches in width. They have opened up a 100 foot chute on this ledge and Mr. Harrison said Tuesday that, at a very conservative estimate they had \$75,000 worth of ore in sight.

Since the Harrisons went out to Williams Creek in February, they have taken out close to \$30,000 worth of the yellow metal.

As a matter of fact the information which Mr. Harrison gave out here this week is a verification of the rumor current here a couple of weeks ago but which at that time, owing to the reticence of the people in the neighborhood, could not be confirmed.

It now turns out that the rumor was the real thing and that there must be a lot of good mineral on Williams creek which only awaits intelligent development to make a good camp. Many lesser strikes in Colorado, Nevada and other mining sections have received many times the amount of publicity and attention.

There are now 14 other prospectors at work in this same district where the Harrisons are operating including miners from Colorado and other states. Only one of these, however, a Mr. Cooper, who came here from the north, is reported to have struck anything big. Mr. Cooper took out a pocket one day last week containing something over \$1200.

C. C. Jones of Jones Brothers, who have a marble quarry near this mine, who is in partnership with Benjamin Harrison who are said to have discovered a rich claim on which they are now working. No figures have been given out as to the amount of gold they have taken out.

It is the opinion of many in and about Grants Pass that the mining resources of the Rogue river valley have only been scratched over, and that it is only a question of time when the mines will be intelligently developed and given the prominence which the industry merits.

Robert Harrison and his bride, they were married Tuesday night, accompanied by Dan Johnson, returned to Williams Creek Wednesday.

## A HEALTHFUL CLIMATE AND A FERTIL SOIL

The Courier, desiring to secure the opinion of men who have recently come into the country regarding impressions as to soil, climate and productions of this part of Oregon, approached C. G. Contant who came here with his invalid wife during March last and who since his arrival has made a study of the country by visiting many sections of the Rogue River valley. He visited this city for

the first time last November on which occasion he became acquainted with some of our citizens which led to his return here this spring.

"Yes," said Mr. Contant "I can say a word for this country for it has been good to me and mine. My wife has greatly improved in health and the whole family are glad they came. Like the country? That don't half express it, for there can be no more healthy locality, nor is there a place where the sun shines brighter or where the people have greater cause to be happy and contented. All this has been said regarding health, let us speak of the producing capacity of the country.

"It can be said that nearly every farm product will reach perfection on the rich lands of this section. We are told of men 'Ye shall know them by their fruits,' so these rich valleys are and will continue to be known by their fruit. The vine and the tree will make the husbandman wax fat. Enough has already been accomplished to convince the world generally that the apple and the grape reach here their highest perfection and they command the highest prices in our home and foreign markets.

"I have been asked if anyone and everyone can grow grapes and apples. I always reply, yes; after they learn how. Observation teaches me that fruit growing must be learned. The man who would succeed in it must be a worker and to such a man success comes as a matter of course. These things were not new to me when I came to Grants Pass, but what I have seen here convinces me anew that fruit growing demands intelligence of the first order, and if men will learn the business, success will crown their efforts. Nature has produced here the soil, climate and surroundings

of simple life and the emolument of reasonable industry. The Rogue River valley, aside from the euphony of the title, as well as the western activity which that revered name might suggest to future generations, is favorably known beyond both the Atlantic and the Pacific, for the fruit products of its splendid soil have tickled the palate of both the Briton and the Celestial, followed by a strong demand for more Spitzenburg and Newtown apples and Tokay grapes from the orchards of the Rogue River valley in Southern Oregon.

Josephine county is the Mecca of this splendid section, upon which God and nature have smiled so lavishly; where the expenditure of industry, sobriety, and the exertion of inherent religious instinct have combined in the transformation of a once volcanic region to that of peace, plenty and good will toward men. Josephine county is the center of the sugar pine district in Oregon; the center of the richest mines in Oregon; the center of the fruit industry of the famous Rogue river valley; it is unequalled in its possibilities for diversified farming, stock raising and dairying.

Grants Pass is the county seat of Josephine county and the most picturesque and substantial city in the Rogue River valley. Vague local tradition has it that the revered warrior and president of the nation, while crossing this section in the early '50's stopped on the site of the present prosperous city and while engaged in a social game of poker with his staff officers, beloved Ulysses S. "passed," and this, some people say, was responsible for christening the town Grants Pass. Its scenic grandeur, pure water, sunshine and climatic tonic have lured the statesman, the literateur, the esthete, the artisan, the tradesman—all to her cozy limits as the ideal place for a permanent home; and few indeed are those, who, once ensconced within its corporate limits, have

thought more of temporal blessings. In this connection it is only pertinent to suggest a few of the natural advantages which make Grants Pass a haven of joy, peace and prosperity. Among these Grants Pass enjoys the distinction of being the "healthiest city of its size in the United States. It is a growing city of 5000 people, and is the only town of more than 300 population in a vast territory of rich and varied industries of an area equal to Delaware or Rhode Island. It has more miles of sewers than any other city in Oregon of less than 10,000 population. It has more and better school buildings than any other city in Oregon of less than 10,000 population. It has more churches than any other city of its size in the state.

It has more solid brick business blocks than any other city of its size on the Pacific coast. It has two beautiful parks, one on the opposite bank of the Rogue river just east of town and another, Tuff's park, still more ideal, of Tokay county and the Rogue river valley have been picking strawberries for the past two or three weeks. One of the most important features of the fruit industry in Josephine county, however, is the culture of the grapes.

The soil about Grants Pass seems to possess all the essential elements for the production of the ideal Tokay, the one grape above all others which is most sought and command the highest price in the eastern market. As is well known perfect color is the principal consideration when it comes to marketing the Tokay. The Tokay grape raised on the southwest slope of Josephine county within 30 minute ride of Grants Pass present a color and perfect cluster exceeding those raised in California and unequalled in any other country.

Grape culture in and about Grants Pass affords the most remunerative and interesting industry in the valley. Within four years after planting the Tokay will net the raiser from \$300 to \$500 per acre, and at a less cost than that involved in the production of apples or any other fruit. The easterner or middle westerner can adopt no more desirable or money-making business than raising Tokay grapes right here in Josephine county.

The possibilities of the unfermented grape juice industry are also worthy of consideration. Five tons of Concord grapes can be raised on an acre of ground. The Concord, unlike the Tokay, may be raised on any slope or soil in the valley. These grapes will make 300 gallons of unfermented grape juice per ton or 1000 gallons per acre and this juice, which has found a popular sale at the soda fountains wherever known, brings from \$2 to \$2.25 per gallon.

There is one grape vine not far from

## JOSEPHINE, THE LAND OF PLENTY

Apples, Pears, Grapes and Small Fruits Produce Abundantly---Gem of Rogue River Valley.

That the Pacific Northwest and Southern Oregon in particular is the goal of western emigration, is daily confirmed by tourist travel west of the Mississippi river and the emigration which is pouring into the Rogue river valley. There is a reason for this influx of new blood, energy, brains and active capital; and this reason is not difficult to discern by those who have been here for even a few weeks. We have a climate unexcelled, a soil so sensitive to the touch of husbandry that the most skeptical are won't to marvel at its productivity, while the scenic grandeur of this section is akin to the sublime, and beyond a commendable description of either tongue or pen; and the educational and intellectual standards of its present population are second to none.

By reason of the assiduous industry, thrift, enterprise and public spirit of the people of Southern Oregon, the Rogue River valley has come to be a household word in the homes of eastern and central states whose people are coming here in increased numbers each year to get close to nature; to enjoy the wholesomeness and sublimi-

ty of simple life and the emolument of reasonable industry. The Rogue River valley, aside from the euphony of the title, as well as the western activity which that revered name might suggest to future generations, is favorably known beyond both the Atlantic and the Pacific, for the fruit products of its splendid soil have tickled the palate of both the Briton and the Celestial, followed by a strong demand for more Spitzenburg and Newtown apples and Tokay grapes from the orchards of the Rogue River valley in Southern Oregon.

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There is one grape vine not far from

the product of 14 sawmills. It is directly on the line of the cross state railroad that most ultimately be built across Oregon from the sea. It is the center of the best grape producing section on the Pacific coast.

The Rogue River valley and particularly that section of which Josephine county and Grants Pass are the center, is known throughout the United States for its wonderful fruit production. Its Spitzenburgs and Newtown apples and Comice pears, as well as Tokay grapes bring top prices in the New York market while many of the apples are sent to England and the Orient where they have established a lucrative market.

Strawberries, Logan berries, black berries, raspberries and other small fruits are prolific bearers in this section and many fruit raisers are now giving special attention to these varieties. And while the people of the east and middle west have been shivering with the cold, and frosts have devastated many of their orchards and berry fields, the people of Josephine

county and the Rogue river valley have been picking strawberries for the past two or three weeks. One of the most important features of the fruit industry in Josephine county, however, is the culture of the grapes.

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## COUNCIL CALLS BOND ELECTION

Asks \$60,000 for Street Paving Improvement.

ELECTION THE 3D OF JUNE

Ordinance Providing for Pavement and Outlining Paving District Passed.

At the adjourned session of the city council last Monday night, there being no quorum the meeting was again adjourned to Wednesday night when the mayor and all members except Fetsch and Tuffs were in attendance.

The report of the street committee with estimate and a list of property benefited by improvement of sidewalks as provided by ordinances 301 and 312, providing for pavement of District No. 1, was read and placed on file.

A similar report by the same committee on improvements provided for in ordinances 303 and 313 was also placed on file.

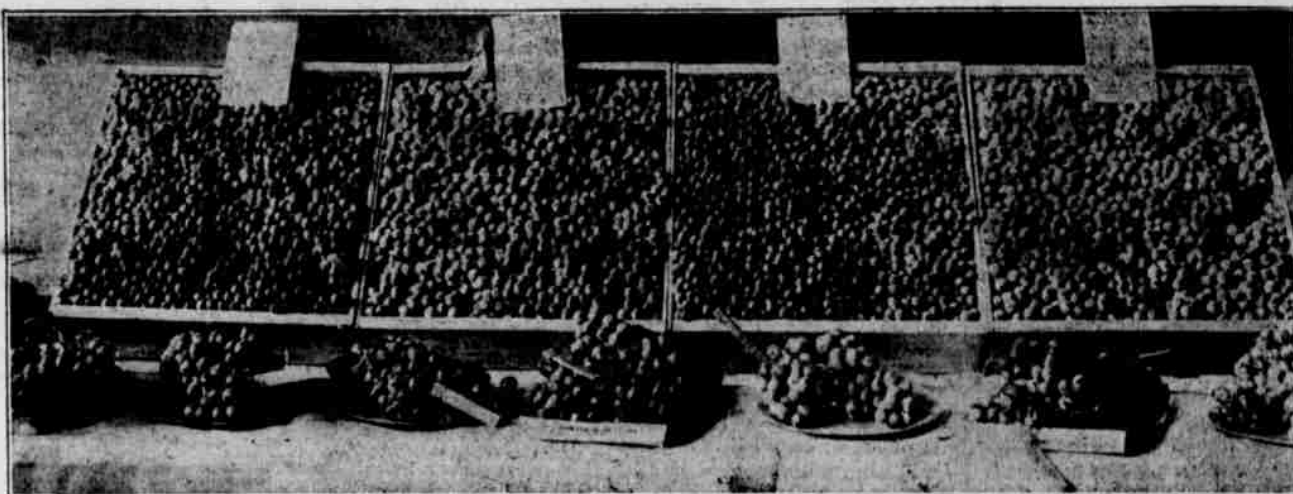
Ordinance No. 305, calling for a special election to vote upon the proposition of the issue of city improvement bonds in the sum of \$60,000, in accordance with the city charter's provisions, the proceeds of said bonds to be used only for the grading and paving with bitulithic pavement, of what will be known as Improvement district No. 1, and repealing ordinance 302, was read in full the first time and the second time by title. An emergency was then declared and the ordinance was read the third time in full and finally passed, all present voting in the affirmative.

Wednesday, June 3d, is designated as the date for the special election provided for by ordinance 305. Following are the polling places and the clerks and judges of election appointed: First ward—Guild hall, J. B. Paddock, R. D. Cole and J. D. Fry, judges; J. E. Peterson and G. H. Slover, clerks. Second Ward—Court house; J. C. Campbell, N. B. Meade and W. H. Freed, judges; E. S. Van Dyke and J. H. Nelson, clerks. Third Ward—City hall; Harry Smith, W. E. Dean and W. M. Hard, judges; Lincoln Savage and P. P. Proctor, clerks. Fourth Ward—Polling place, southeast corner of G and Fourth street; Geo. Cronk, Jas. Woodson and John Niday, judges; T. G. Y. Dean and Joe McKinney, clerks.

Paving and improvement district No. 1, the section to be improved under this ordinance, is as follows: Sixth street between the north line of the intersection of B and the south line of the intersection of L street; G street between the west intersection of Fourth street and east intersection of Seventh, and F street between the west intersection of Fifth and east intersection of Seventh.

Ordinance No. 313 providing for the numbering of buildings and naming streets within the corporate limits of the city was read the first time in full and second time by title and referred to the judiciary committee.

(Continued on last page)



JOSEPHINE COUNTY TOKAY GRAPE DISPLAY.

Grants Pass which is 60 feet long, is as large in diameter as a man's body and its branches cover a quarter of an acre of ground. This vine produces from one to two tons of grapes per year.

W. B. Sherman, who came here some six or seven years ago from Trera City, Mich., has recently surveyed and platted one of his large tracts, consisting of 330 acres and adjoining the city of Grants Pass on the north and east, into residence and acreage properties which he is now placing upon the market. These residence lots are located on Tokay Heights, commanding an ideal view of Grants Pass. A greater portion of the tract is on a beautiful hillside at an elevation from 100 to 300 feet above the city and gradually sloping to the south and

Continued on Third Page.

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