

Rogue River Courier.

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COMMERCIAL CLUB TALKS IRRIGATION

It Means Great Development of Valley

ALL ARE ENTHUSIASTIC

Plan Suggested for Utilizing Old Power Plant to Irrigate 1200 Acres.

The regular monthly meeting of the commercial club Tuesday night was the most interesting and enthusiastic session of the club that has been held during the present year. There was no special new business scheduled but the subject of irrigation came up and everyone present took a decided interest. An unofficial rumor had gone out to the effect that there was some sort of an irrigation project on and this considerably increased the regular attendance.

After the disposition of some of the routine business Mr. G. I. Brown, a former resident of the city but who is now vice-president of the Jersey City Central Traction Co., at Keyport, N. J., was called on, and after noting the improvements of the city since his residence here some eight or nine years ago, and the enterprise manifested by the commercial club, he took occasion to remark that the adoption of irrigation here meant the salvation of the Rogue River Valley country, which statement was greeted with hearty applause.

As stated in these columns last week Mr. Brown as the agent of Morris Brothers of Portland, who own the old dam and power plant just below the bridge at the foot of Sixth street, has during the past few weeks been endeavoring to interest a number of farmers in an irrigation project whereby the old power plant can be utilized in furnishing water for the irrigation of about 1200 acres of land along this side of the river below the power house. Mr. Brown and his people have proposed to the farmers who would be under this ditch that they organize a company among themselves and construct the ditch and Morris brothers will furnish them the necessary water at the rate of \$5 per acre per annum for a period of 10 years, at the same time giving the farmers an option to buy the power plant at a price to be mutually agreed upon, at any time within the 10 years. The farmers are also to have entire supervision and control of the distribution of the water during the life of the contract. Mr. Brown further stated that in the event the farmers did not have the ready funds with which to construct the supply ditch his company would build it for them and allow them to pay for it in 10 annual payments.

Mr. Griffin, one of the recent newcomers who has already purchased a small tract in the city and will make his permanent home here, was another warm advocate of irrigation. R. L. Coe expressed it that we of Grants Pass and Josephine county are virtually on our oars until this action is under a thorough system of irrigation and said that we are just now starting on a proposition which we should have consummated years ago. E. E. Blauhaard who arrived here a few days ago with his family from Montezuma, Iowa, with a view to locating, also concurred in the opinions of those who had already spoken and said he felt sure that if this section of Rogue River Valley was under irrigation many families from his state would soon locate here.

It was at once apparent that the business men of the city have become thoroughly aroused to the imperative need of irrigation if the land of Josephine county shall produce any where near what the soil is capable of. And it would seem that an interest was aroused at Tuesday night's meeting of the commercial club which should result in the early construction of a supply ditch which will reclaim a large acreage which is now idle, whereas it should be yielding an income of from \$100 to \$500 per acre annually.

In disposing of the routine business

including the reports of committees H. C. Kinsey stated that the Southern Pacific officials had given permission to the Ladies Auxiliary of the commercial club to decorate and otherwise improve railroad park and the vacant lots on the north side the track at either side of Sixth street as proposed by the ladies some time ago, and for which purpose the auxiliary has already accumulated a small fund. President Calhoun of the club suggested the propriety of the railroad company cleaning up these grounds before the ladies began the work of improvement.

Secretary Andrews called attention to the unusual amount of paper, sticks and other refuse matter which has lately been allowed to accumulate about the depot grounds and in the gutters and it was suggested that a general cleaning up be instituted. The matter was referred to the Municipal committee. In this connection President Calhoun suggested the need of the enforcement of the city ordinance making it a misdemeanor to spit upon the sidewalks. When this ordinance was first passed placards posted about the city calling attention to the fine for its violation and it was thought that a renewal of these cards might have a wholesome effect.

The secretary stated that there was still due the Sunset Magazine for the publication of the Grants Pass booklet a balance of \$550 and suggested that the county be asked to appropriate \$500 toward the payment of this balance as under a law of the state each county is allowed to appropriate \$1000 per annum for judicious advertising along this line. On motion the president of the club was authorized to appoint a committee of five including the secretary to take the matter up with the county court at its next session on the 19th of the present month. In support of this contention for the appropriation Mr. Andrews called attention to the benefit the whole county derived from the publicity gained in the issuance of the booklet and the point was well taken.

The secretary read a letter from the state fair association relative to the preparation of a suitable exhibit of the products of Josephine county for the state fair at Salem this fall. The letter also suggested the economy and desirability of turning this exhibit over to the management of the American-Yonkon-Pacific Exposition, which opens in June of next year, at the close of the state fair. In the matter of the exhibit for the Exposition at Seattle attention was called to the necessity of selecting grains, grasses, fruits, etc., from this season's crop since the American-Yonkon-Pacific Exposition opens in June which will be too early for next year's crops. On motion of L. B. Hall the chair was authorized to appoint a committee of three to look after the preparation of a suitable exhibit for both the fair and the exposition.

G. A. Collins of the Rogue River and Southern Oregon Railway, the new electric line now being surveyed into the Illinois valley, was called on to tell about his road and stated that while the preliminary survey was progressing somewhat slowly that everything was moving along as well as could be expected and that the surveyors were now out beyond Willderville.

It was suggested that every Grants Passite should remember when writing eastern friends to call their attention to the excursion rates that go into effect at the first of September and remain in force until October 31st and it was also suggested that a copy of the rates be enclosed with each booklet sent out.

THE GILMAN BED ROCK MINING MACHINE ARRIVES

Passed Here Tuesday for Merlin and Will Be Set Below Galice Creek.

The mining machine which has just been built at Sacramento, Cal., for the Gilman Bed Rock Mining Co., passed through here Tuesday morning en route to Merlin where it will be unloaded and hauled to the place of its initial setting at a point below Galice Creek on the Rogue River. Some days will be required in which to set up the machine and get it in readiness for operation, but Mr. Gilman expects to have it in operation some time the early part of next

Josephine County Cherry Tree That Has Borne Fruit Half a Century



Josephine county's largest cherry tree for nearly one-half century has stood in the farm yard of "Uncle" Sam Cook, at Missouri Flat. It measures 102 inches in circumference, with limbs reaching out over a surface of 40 feet. This tree has never failed to bear fruit since maturity, and each year there is gathered from its branches a wagon load of cherries. Near this tree, in the same yard, stands a

each tree 45 inches in circumference, and 49 years old. With its heavy laden boughs of fruit it looks as healthy and in as perfect condition as the day it began to bear. In one corner of the yard opposite these two aged trees is a grape vine as large as an ordinary man's body, which sends out its new vines each year. The area over which it spreads is fully one-eighth of an acre, thereby forming

an arbor nearly 100 feet long. The annual product of this one vine amounts to one ton of grapes. From these pioneer producers Mr. Cook's family has long enjoyed each year, cherry pie, peach cobbler and luscious grapes, and his children and great grand-children are yearly going to his home to eat from the same old tree and gather from the same old vine.

week. Mr. Gilman is the inventor and patentee of this machine, and it is the first machine yet built for mining gold from the river beds.

Its operation will, therefore, be watched with the greatest interest by old miners and others throughout the Rogue River Valley. Should it prove to be the success which Mr. Gilman confidently predicts it will completely revolutionize river bed mining and result in a great impetus to the efforts of the gold hunter, as it is a well known fact that many of the rivers of Oregon and California as well as other states contain untold millions of the yellow metal, which up to this time it has been impossible to secure except at such excessive cost as to render most of the operations impracticable.

Who Knows Perry A. Penn.

City Marshall McGrew received a letter a few days ago from Virginia Stewart, R. F. D. No. 1, A. Laketon, Ind., enquiring as to the whereabouts of her son, Perry A. Penn, who, it appears from the letter, she has not heard from since September 13th, 1907, when he was at Silver City, south Dakota, where he was stopping with a man by the name of Charles Shepherd. The letter states that Penn left the Shepherd home at Silver City in company with three other men for Grants Pass, Ore., to cut timber and that Penn expected to invest in land. The distressed mother states in the letter that she had written here before, relative to the whereabouts of her son, but that she had received no reply. Any person reading this item will doubtless confer a great favor on the grieving mother by writing her at the address given above.

CARD OF THANKS.

We, the undersigned husband and daughters of the late Mrs. Nancy Brown, desire to express our sincere thanks to the neighbors and friends who so freely administered to our comfort during our bereavement. J. B. BROWN, MRS. A. B. BROOKS, MRS. VICTOR REYMER.

MUSIC AND DRAWING IS ADDED TO THE COURSE

Competent Teacher to Be Employed to Take Charge of New Department.

The board of education at a regular monthly meeting held Tuesday decided to add to the curriculum of the Grants Pass schools the department of music and drawing, and a competent teacher will be employed at a salary of \$5 per month to conduct these courses. This is a feature of our school system which will doubtless meet with the hearty approval of patrons as well as pupils. Arrangements have also been completed for the inauguration of commercial geography, commercial spelling and penmanship and a postgraduate course in trigonometry. It will thus be seen that the Grants Pass schools are keeping abreast of the times and are second to none in the Rogue River Valley. This fact is of great importance as the schools are one of the first things that the average newcomer asks about if he contemplates permanent location.

CHICAGO BALL GIRLS HOLD LOCALS LEVEL

Feminine Twirlers of the Sphere Played Here Monday—Score 8 to 8.

In accordance with the large colored posters hung in the stores last Friday, the Chicago Ladies Base Ball Club graced the local diamond Monday afternoon in a contest with a nine picked from the home swarm of fans. The aggregation from the Windy City, however, were not all women. Of the nine, four were of the female gender, two were feminine in costume only, while the remaining three, masculine without disguise.

While there was some little quibble as to the exact score, at the end of the ninth inning, it was called 8 to

CITY DADS MET LAST THURSDAY

Relief Asked from High Water Rates.

CITY MAY BUY THE PLANT

Lincoln Park Water Company Granted a Franchise for a Plant in Lincoln Park

The city council convened in regular session last Thursday night with Mayor Smith and all members in attendance except Alderman Fetoch. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting, the petition of the Grants Pass Canning company asking that a street light be established on F street about 100 feet east of Ninth street was read and referred to the light committee.

The petition of J. S. Scoville and others asking that north Seventh street and Scoville alley be opened up was read and referred to the street committee. The petition of J. C. Randle and 286 others asking for relief from excessive charges for water was read, when C. E. Hanson in behalf of the petitioners addressed the council, and Attorney A. C. Hough represented the water company. At this point G. I. Brown, representing the Rogue River Water company, presented a proposition from the company to sell its water system to the city for \$94,000, as against \$110,000, the price submitted in the early spring, stating that the company was willing to stand half of the deterioration of the plant as embodied in Engineer Kelsey's report when he estimated the probable cost of the construction of a complete new water system for the city.

In response to a petition signed by nearly 300 taxpayers the council, in disposing of the matter, decided to submit the question of purchasing the plant by the city to a vote of the people at a special election and the city attorney was authorized to draw ordinances to cover the same.

A communication from Assistant Postmaster W. A. Newell asking for a map of the city showing the various streets of the city to aid the postoffice inspector who is expected here soon to look over Grants Pass preparatory to the inauguration of free mail delivery, and the council ordered them furnished.

The finance committee reported favorably the following bills and warrants were ordered drawn in payment for the same:

C E Wolfolk, brick	\$ 8 40
D P Love sal city health officer	8 65
Williams Bros Door & Lumber Co	3 10
A G Long, fire hose	450 00
Grants Pass Hdw Co, hdw	96 15
F E Hobson, engineering	5 00
W F Woodson, labor on street	54 00
W H Huggins, labor on flush tank	1 75
Gordon Land, automatic flashing devices	59 00
H J Bacher, painting street signs	65 25
C E McLane, freight	4 10
D E Dotson, house numbering	87 50

Continued on last page

O'Neill Leads—Never Follows

This is the big, bright, busy store—never sleeping but always forward marching. Never before have we sold so many

HAMMOCKS

as we have this season. We have a few left and to close out, we will sell any Hammock we have

At Cost

To show you how different and better our values are, we ask that you look around before coming to our store.

Dont Forget we are Selling them at Cost

O'Neill The Homefurnisher