

Rogue River Courier.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1908.

No. 28

TIMBER MEN WANT NEW GAME LAW

Seek To Protect Forests From Destruction.

BLAME THE DEER HUNTERS

Organized Effort Will Be Made to Have Next Legislature Change the Law.

Few people realize the value of the standing timber of the country, though it is really one of the greatest resources of Oregon. Every thousand feet manufactured into lumber means the expenditure of from \$10 to \$30 in labor; therefore the interest of the public and the owners is mutual, the forests must not be wasted by fires or otherwise. By conserving the timber the benefits to be derived in the future by the public as well as the owners are almost incalculable, though this, like a great many others of our latent resources, has seldom been given a thought by the majority of our people, when in fact it is one of the most important propositions we have before us.

The timber tributary to Grants Pass runs up into the billions of feet, something like 9,000,000,000 or 10,000,000,000 and when this is reduced to lumber there will be on the average \$30 in money distributed in this city for every thousand feet besides the 25 to 50 cents per thousand feet stumpage, and the larger amount brought from the waste wood which is converted into fuel.

Under present conditions, our sawmill men are making but from \$1 to \$3 per thousand for handling, and our merchants and laborers receiving from \$8 to \$15 per thousand out of every tree that is cut.

Those who have been making a study of the question of forest fires are convinced that unless something is done to put a stop to them, the timber will within a few years be almost entirely destroyed, and they have also concluded that at least 90 per cent of the fires are started by hunters. As it is impossible to follow up the hunters the timber men have inaugurated a movement to shorten the deer hunting season to one month and a well organized campaign will be made before the time of meeting of the next legislature to bring this about. Statistics are being gathered in all parts of the state as a basis to work upon.

The timber men count on being able to secure the support of the sportsmen in the matter by pointing out the danger of the deer being all killed off, and to demonstrate this will use the elk which were a few years ago so plentiful but now almost entirely gone. One of the large timbermen of this city in speaking of the matter the other day said:

"The open season for buck deer is from July 15th to October 30 and we have an army of men camping and hunting in our forests during these months, which is the most dangerous period for forest fires. As a rule when the majority of our hunters go

into the mountains for a season's hunting, they are out for a good time and pay but little attention to any thing else. Many of them never think of the damage that the fire will cause which is kindled by a match which they have thrown down after lighting their pipes but after the fire is well under way, the question is asked: Who set the fire?"

"In many cases the man who dropped the match is not aware that it is through his carelessness tens of thousands of dollars of destruction is going on. Again, when the hunter leaves his campfire in the morning, little does he realize what it will be come after it is blown by the forenoon breeze into the leaves near by and once started, a big fire is on and the question is again asked: Who started the fire?"

"No record is made of the hunter's trip as he passes through section after section of our timber. If by chance he drops a match, he leaves no one to tell who set the fire. Without having a special fire warden to follow each hunter, we have no way to tell who set the fire. Since as a rule each quarter section has a separate ownership who is going to pay a special fire warden to patrol our vast timber acreage in the hills and mountains?"

"The Oregon statutes provides a heavy fine and imprisonment for anyone setting fires during July, August and September, but does not provide any way of keeping track of who sets them. How are we going to know who sets them? How can we prevent this useless destruction of our limited amount of valuable timber?"

TAXES ARE NOW ON DELINQUENT LIST

Beginning last Monday all taxes remaining unpaid on the 1907 roll are delinquent and, according to the law enacted by the last legislature may be paid by any party desiring to acquire tax title to the property involved. The new law does away with advertising the delinquent tax list, but provides that taxes may be paid by any person who shall receive from the sheriff upon the payment of the amount of the taxes and a fee of 50 cents, a delinquent certificate which shall bear interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum until redeemed. In order to acquire tax title to the property the taxes must be paid for three consecutive years, at the end of which period foreclosure suit must be brought by the county upon payment of the sum of \$2 to the county clerk. The procedure in the foreclosure suit is the same in foreclosing a mortgage against any real property.

Until title has been acquired through the circuit court the owner of the property may at any time pay the taxes, together with the penalty and interest, and redeem the same. In case this is done the taxes and the interest at the rate of 15 per cent go to the party holding the delinquent certificate.

The next attraction and one of the very best of the season at the Opera House will be Lem B. Parker's latest play "Un le Josh Perkins," his funny New England comedy drama will be seen for one performance only on next Monday evening, October 12th.

Mrs. C. G. Branson, who is now located at Spalding's mill near Little Stausta, Cal., arrived here last Thursday with her two children to spend several days visiting and on business.

GRANTS PASS APPLES WIN PRIZES AT MEDFORD

Given Blue Ribbon on Spitzenbergs, Red Cheek Pippin, Rhode Island Greenings, Arkansas Black, Louver, and Waxen-- Medford Destroys Our Apples.

Grants Pass carried off the honors at the Medford Fair but she had mighty hard time getting her goods displayed. The people of Medford apparently forgot that the legislature provided for a Josephine and Jackson county fair and not only ignored Josephine county but Jackson county as well and made it a Medford affair. No invitations were sent out to exhibitors elsewhere and no premium lists were distributed.

But Grants Pass Fruits take the prizes wherever they are exhibited and the judges at the Medford fair were compelled to award them the prize in this instance. George A. Hamilton, living at Fruitdale, three miles Southeast of town sent over a hastily prepared exhibit of apples the evening before the fair opened and made eleven entries. He received 10 prizes seven firsts, one second and two thirds. The list follows:

First prize—Spitzenberg.
First prize—Baldwin.
First prize—Wixen.
First prize—Rhode Island Greening.
First Prize—Arkansas Black.
First Prize—Louver.
First prize—Red Cheek Pippin.
Second prize—Ben Davis
Third Prize—King
Third prize—On best apple display.

H. C. Sampson, manager of the Grants Pass Cannery, went over with an exhibit and after considerable difficulty succeeded in getting 10 feet of space assigned him in which to make a display, and here again the Grants Pass article carried off the blue ribbon, this time on every article entered. He took first prize on Canned goods, both fruit and vegetables; first prize on vinegar, first prize on boiled cider, and first prize on sprays, the premiums amounting to about \$38. J. C. Calhoun sent up four boxes of strawberries and was awarded second prize.

Those who attended the fair from here reported when they came back that it was very evident that it was gotten up for a strictly Medford fair and outsiders either from Grants Pass, Ashland or other towns were shown scant courtesy. Even the newspapers of Medford failed to give Grants Pass credit for the premiums taken and the accounts sent from Medford to the Portland papers ignored every place except Medford.

But the real feelings of the Medford people was shown after the fair was over. Enraged and chagrined that after all of their carefully laid plans, Grants Pass should actually get away with the real prizes of the fair they were no longer able to control themselves. H. C. Bateham who took the exhibit of Mr. Hamilton over and arranged for its display, afterward

sold the six boxes of apples to the Olwell Bros. who conduct a real estate business and the exhibit building in the railroad grounds at Medford. The price agreed upon was \$9, and these gentlemen desired the fruit to advertise the country, but when it was learned that the prize winners were to be placed on exhibit in a prominent place in their own town these narrow minded citizens who were in charge of the fair showed their real nature. The letter received by G. A. Hamilton of this city from R. F. Allen, who represented the Olwell Bros. in the transaction, tells its own story. It is as follows:

"G. A. Hamilton, Grants Pass; Dear Sir: I went to get the six boxes of apples you spoke to us about and Mr. Watt said some one had stepped on the boxes and upset them all over the ground. I went to see and they were scattered everywhere and cut and bruised, so I don't want them. You can take this up with them and make the man pay for them that upset them. Watt knows who did it."

J. E. Watt, referred to is the secretary of the Medford Fair Association. It is in sorrow rather than anger we refer to this matter, the Rogue River valley is certainly long enough and broad enough for all who occupy it to live in harmony. Narrow and mean selfishness should have no place on the rich soil or in the bright sunshine of this world renowned valley. If Medford is so narrow-minded as the above facts prove it should hide it on public occasions like the District Fair. Take Shakespeare's advice, "Assume a virtue if you have it not."

It is to be regretted that certain officious persons were allowed to soil the good name of our neighbor. The littleness and low down meanness shown in destroying the Hamilton exhibits, should be beneath the dignity of any community which lays any claim to decency or right mindedness. Had any Medford fruit grower been able to carry away a string of prizes like that of Mr. Hamilton, Grants Pass people would have been proud to have had such neighbors and Mr. Hamilton himself would have been foremost in extending to his honest competitor his congratulations.

This brings us to the point of giving Medford some wholesome advice. Let her accept in good part the victory over her of a Grants Pass fruit grower. Let her remember that it is the superior soil and bright sunshine of this section as well as the greater skill of the fruit grower which accounts for the result.

The Grants Pass Fruit Exchange held a meeting last Saturday and ratified the corporation proceedings.

MEDFORD'S KNOCK PROVES A BOOST

Mr. and Mrs. Click of Akron, Ohio, are looking around Grants Pass with a view of locating on a fruit farm. These people spent six weeks looking at properties in the vicinity of Medford, and were advised by people in that burg not to stop at Grants Pass as there was nothing here. The argument put up was so persistent and so strong that Mr. and Mrs. Click concluded that there must be something wrong and that they would come here and see for themselves. The second day here they were shown among others the Geo. A. Hamilton orchard in Fruitdale and said without hesitation that they had seen nothing that compared with it at Medford.

These people are not the first to tell this same story and the question arises—why is it that Medford people are continually telling prospective buyers that Grants Pass and vicinity are not on the map? It must be that Medford fears Grants Pass—well they have cause.

Window glass and putty at Hair-Riddles.

AS FRUIT INSPECTOR BATEHAM SAW THE FAIR

County Fruit Inspector H. C. Bateham visited Medford last week trying to boost for Josephine County at the district fair and while there was considerably impressed with several things he saw. Speaking of his trip, he said:

"I am moved to remark that Medford and Grants Pass should have more of a co-operative spirit between them, rather than a feeling of jealousy and spite.

"Grants Pass should have been honored by having an invitation committee sent to them as was done to Ashland and other towns. Scarcely anyone in Grants Pass knew that there was to be a fair at Medford, much less thought of making an exhibit there, whereas last year Grants Pass spent \$18.50 at Medford for advertising and got back \$11.75 in admission fees and no exhibits. This year, striving to return good for evil, our people with no solicitation or premium lists got together a small exhibit and attended the fair to the number of about 100.

I must say, the awarding committee were away off when they insisted that the premium ribbons must be pinned to the apples instead of to the name card, as the best apple on the plate is thus ruined for future exhibit or cold storage, and the chances are it will roll off the plate or, being handled by someone will be placed on the wrong plate, giving someone else a chance to claim the prize.

"H. C. Sampson had to exert all his persuasive powers and some of his strength to get permission to place his exhibit of canned fruits, but they finally yielded and he made a very creditable display.

"The fair next year will be held at Ashland and unless the directors take hold and revise the old obsolete premium list so as to offer premiums in accord with the fruit growing interest of the district the Grants Pass people will have it to do the next year before they will be willing to have it sent out to advertise our fair.

"If Mr. Perry of the Medford Fruit Union continues to be manager another year, I doubt not but that our Fruit Exchange will be able to co-operate and work in harmony with him, but this is almost too good to be expected.

"While there, I strolled down the street to admire the apples on display in the grocery stores. Scaly and wormy fruit were both in evidence but of course it just happened because the fruit inspector for Jackson county was out of town. When he gets around again he will restore the reputation Medford has for clean attractive fruit(?)

"How were the races? Well, really I did not have time to go out to see them, it took all my time to watch the fruit I had on display and as soon as I took the train, or at least before the next morning, the prize winning collection which had won us 10 prizes out of 11 entries had all been dumped on the ground and trampled and cut up. To the men in another county this looks like a dirty piece of spite work for the fruit had all been sold to the Olwell Bros. who run the display rooms on the railroad grounds and were to be used to advertise Grants Pass until ripe, when they were to be sold to passengers on the train. We are still hoping however, that this matter will be cleared up without any hard feeling.

IRRIGATION MATTER IS PROGRESSING

The joint committee of the farmers and Commercial Club have held several meetings recently, and among other things have written letters to various persons asking that written propositions for furnishing water and building the ditches be submitted. Up to this time no propositions have been received though the DeArmond Bros. and the Golden Drift Co. have both signified their intentions of making them.

In response to the invitation of the committee, Irrigation Engineer A. P. Stover of the Agricultural Department has agreed to visit Grants Pass and to make an examination of the projects offered. He will be in Eugene on the 10th and will probably be here the 12th or 13th, though the committee has telegraphed to him asking that he let them know definitely and also as to how long he can remain. No reply has been received as yet, though it is looked for every minute.

Blasting at Tokay Heights

A great deal of blasting has been going on this week up at Tokay Heights and incidentally an experiment in clearing land made which is being eagerly watched by persons who have had to clear. Heretofore it has been the practice to cut down the large trees and then take out the stumps after the ground is softened by the rains, but W. B. Sherman believes that better results will be secured by blowing out stumps, tree and all with one charge of giant powder while the ground is dry. In many cases the roots are broken and loosened though not sufficiently to come out, but it is believed that when the rains come and the ground is soft, they will soon topple over, or in case they do not a team can easily pull them clear of the ground.

The giant powder method of taking out trees also goes a long way toward cutting up the wood, and most every tree that is blasted is split open and in many cases almost ready for the stove.

Window glass and putty at Hair-Riddles.

FINAL REPORT OF GRAND JURY MADE

Indict Alleged Violators of Prohibition Law.

ONLY TEN INDICTMENTS

Jury Cases Now Before Court, Special Venire Was Issued. Nate Howe Acquitted.

The circuit court is still grinding away and disposing of a large number of cases. The Grand Jury concluded its labors Thursday afternoon, made its final report which was read and accepted and the Grand Jury dismissed with the thanks of the court. Their report shows that they brought 10 indictments and returned three not true bills. They inspected all the offices connected with the court house and found them neatly kept. Recommended that the doors of the jail be carefully examined and repaired so as to put them in a safe condition. Recommended a larger safe for the Sheriff's office as the one now in use is too small to accommodate the business of that office and also that a supply of chairs be purchased for the court room. The various public officials are complimented on the way their respective offices are conducted and the public congratulated upon having such efficient and obliging officers. The Grand Jury also visited the County Poor Farm and found it neatly and cleanly kept and the hygienic conditions good.

The indictments brought were: State vs. A. W. Ackerman, selling liquor without a license. This was the first case to arise after the prohibition law went into effect. Ackerman was arrested at the time but disappeared before his preliminary hearing was held. He is now supposed to be in Berkeley, Cal.

State vs. Nate Howe, indictment for rape. He was given a jury trial which lasted several days. The jury brought a verdict of not guilty Thursday evening.

State vs. Geo. R. Gowan: Two indictments, one selling liquor in a prohibition county, and one for giving liquor to a minor.

The trial on the latter case is in progress now, with the following jury: A. S. Barnes, Thos. Leith, Albert Bigelow, W. H. Huggins, Geo. S. Calhoun, J. F. Sparlin, A. M. Hammond, J. B. Borough, W. A. Klum, N. W. Cole, Frank South and J. L. Calvert. Later: verdict not guilty.

The other case against him was dismissed on motion of the prosecuting attorney.

State vs. Chas. Costain, indictment for assault, plea of not guilty entered.

State vs. Miles Carter, indictment for selling liquor in a prohibition county. Bail fixed at \$200.

State vs. A. J. McKinney, selling liquor in a prohibition county, bail fixed at \$200.

State vs. R. A. Davis, selling liquor in a prohibition county, bail fixed at \$200.

State vs. Claud Bardon, taking fish from the river within 600 feet from a dam. Bardon was arraigned Thursday, and will plead today.

State vs. B. A. Williamson, indictment for assault on the person of J. R. McGalliard driver of the Merlin-Gallice-Grants Pass stage. Williamson was arrested Wednesday and when brought into court plead guilty. Sentence will be pronounced later.

Only a few civil cases have before the court during the week. That of C. J. Jackson vs. A. W. Stearns was tried early in the week but the jury were unable to agree and were dismissed, and the case will come up again sometime during the term.

In the matter of the application of Mary C. Brown to register title to lands a commission was appointed to examine into the case.

A special venire was issued Wednesday giving a larger number of jurors to choose from in the cases to be tried.

The Grants Pass Box Co. has called in all labor notes and Craigie Sharp was around Thursday taking up the same for the company.

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