

Rogue River Courier.

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NO. 30

OREGON NEEDS NEW FIRE LAW

Must Get at the Cause
and Then Act.

EDUCATION IS NECESSARY

Supervisor Anderson Talks In-
terestingly on the Subject of
Fires and the Prevention.

The disastrous timber fires of the present year both on this coast and in the East, with the great work undertaken by the commission appointed to plan for the conservation of the natural resources, has awakened an interest that will bring important changes in the protection of our forests and waterways.

The Courier has from time to time published interviews, and contributions from practical men in this locality who have given attention to the subject of protecting the magnificent timber lands of Oregon from destruction by fire, and from the interest taken believes the time ripe to do something that will materially lessen the annual loss by fire.

To get in touch with the various ideas on the subject, our representative interviewed Forest Supervisor Anderson of the Government Forest Service in this city and this is his opinion on the subject:

"The first thing to get at is the cause of the fires, and then a law that will reach the cause effectively.

My experience is that in different parts of the state the cause differs greatly. In the higher latitudes of the Cascades in Eastern Oregon the main cause of forest fires is lightning, and this is hard to reach by law, nothing but a well organized patrol system will protect under such conditions, and with the National Forests this is doing effective work though in such a season as we have just experienced (fortunately rare) fires will get beyond control of even the most experienced men. So far as being educated to the importance of avoiding careless, or wilful fires. Eastern and Middle Oregon are years ahead of Southern Oregon. I remember well the time when the same conditions existed there as do here; but now fires from campers, or hunters, are comparatively rare, while of approximately 30 fires above five acres in area (besides more than that number small ones), within the forest under my charge, fully 90 per cent were reported as set by hunters, or campers, and the other 10 per cent supposed to be malicious. Outside the Forest and in settled districts the great majority were from slashings burned in direct violation of law.

Oregon has a fire law though its provisions are little known to the people in the particular regions where needed most in Southern Oregon, and where known it is freely ignored. The main cause of this is the fact that there is no money provided to make it anybody's business to enforce it.

When Oregon's fire law was first

proposed there was an attempt to enlist the timber interests of the State in a way to provide funds to carry out its provisions; but, strange to say, the heavy timber interests opposed anything that more than requested the "firebug to be good." Since that time enough valuable timber has been destroyed in Oregon to put a well paid and efficient fire warden in every timbered townsite in the state during fire season. Now the case looks more hopeful, timber owners are ready to get together and it is probable a law will be enacted at the coming session that will provide for a State Forester, with assistants in districts throughout the state, and an appropriation to make the law effective.

"Getting back to the hunter question; which is certainly THE fire question in Southern Oregon, we have a hard problem. I am an enthusiastic hunter myself and anything that would interfere with the sport, would be extremely bitter to take; but the time for sentiment is rapidly passing; timber is becoming too valuable and too many people becoming interested in it, and the time is approaching when we must by law, or education, cut down the percentage of hunters fires in the woods, or hang up our rifle during the danger period. I will be surprised if the timber organizations, smarting under the heavy losses from this cause during the present year, do not make an effort to cut down the open season for deer.

"This might be avoided by making a good fire law with money to furnish sufficient paid help to make it effective, and have a provision therein that a hunter forfeit his license, on proof of having left an uncaired for fire, as well as suffer a severe penalty; but this without a good, well paid, patrol force would be useless.

"I am not making any law to cover the matter; only picking out the snags for the other fellow. No matter how good a fire law is enacted, we will never get nearly its possible benefits until the people (not only timbermen) are educated to its importance, never until the sentiment of the people is such that they will feel the same toward a man caught setting fire in a \$50,000 tract of timber, as they do now on catching one setting fire to his neighbor's \$25 woodshed. When they realize that it is just as much criminal carelessness for a hunter to leave his campfire burning close to an old log (though safe at the time) in the midst of a magnificent forest, as it is to leave his candle burning in his bedroom on a mass of papers; then we will begin to get effect of a forest fire law; because then we will only have the criminal to deal with, and he is easy.

"But all men who are careless, or thoughtless about fires are not criminal, and this is particularly true in Southern Oregon, where many of the best citizens convince themselves that the old, traditional, Indian way of keeping down fires by burning out the seedlings was the proper way to protect the mature timber. I am not finding fault with any honest man's theory and I have met some mighty fine men whom I know think a man who's fire is a thicket of seedling pines or fir in a scattering forest of mature trees is a benefactor. Many of the older settlers can point to a hillside and truthfully say: 'I knew that place when you could see a deer a half a mile.' Encouraged he will then

(Continued on last page)

MANY INTERESTED IN GOLDEN EAGLE CONTEST

Boys and Girls Throughout the County are Start- ing in to Work.

Did you read about the Courier's Golden Eagle contest mentioned in last week's paper? If not you had better look up the paper and get posted for nine weeks. Most of the boys and girls know about it and have started in to work. One girl came to the office Saturday morning and spoke for the \$60 and has started in working for it. She has a good start and will try to keep ahead. But there are others who want the \$60 just as much. Did you ever stop to think what you could do with \$60. Stop for a few moments and think—the money will be awarded just before Christmas—the very time of all the year when you need money. Isn't it worth a little effort? Better get in the race with a determination to win.

The contest is free and open to anyone under 20 years of age. There are no strings and any young man or woman may enter this great popularity race by clipping the coupon and sending or mailing it to the Courier office.

The candidate who receives the highest vote will be presented absolutely free with Six Golden Eagles. The candidate receiving the next highest number of votes will receive Two Golden Eagles. Other cash prizes to the amount of \$20 will be offered, during the contest, which closes Tuesday, December 23. Now young people, if you have any use for \$60 in a lump sum, this is your opportunity to secure it. The question is, who is the most popular boy or girl in this county?

We have a good number of candidates already but will wait until next week before we tell you who they are and in the meantime, we want more candidates. We want one from Williams and one from Leland and another from Placer. We will give 100 points free to every person nominated before October 24. To nominate write a name in the coupon which follows this article and bring

or send it to the Courier office. If you pay your subscription at that time it adds 300 more votes. Do it now.

Rules of Golden Eagle Contest.

1. The Golden Eagle Contest shall close Tuesday, December 23, at 10:30 o'clock p. m. and no coupons will be received after that hour, except those sent by mail, which must show evidence by postmark that they were mailed before that hour.

2. Contestants shall be young men and women under 20 years of age. The contestant receiving the highest number of points will receive \$60 in Golden Eagles. The one receiving the next highest number of points will receive \$20 in Golden Eagles. Awards will be made as soon as possible after the contest closes.

3. A coupon good for five points will be printed in each issue of the Courier during the contest. These shall be clipped out and cast at this office pinned together in bunches.

4. Coupons will be issued from this office as follows: Three hundred points for each \$1.50 received on subscription, or two points for each one cent received on subscription. A special 500 point Yellow Certificate will be issued for each new subscription accompanied by \$1.50 in cash.

5. Cast all coupons at the ballot box at this office before the date thereon expires. Yellow Certificates must not be cast until the contest is four weeks old.

6. All candidates give receipts for money paid them.

Get into the contest and then get your friends, neighbors and acquaintances working for you. You will need all the assistance you can get. But, boys and girls, don't enter unless you intend to stick.

There is room for hustlers and those who intend to work.

We will mail coupons for all subscriptions received since October 1, 1908.

GOOD FOR FIVE POINTS

For

Address

This Coupon is Void if Not Voted by November 1

Courier's Golden Eagle Contest

PORTLAND MURDERER GETS HEAVY SENTENCE

Edward H. Martin was tried this week for the murder of Nathan Wolff, a Portland pawnbroker. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and presiding judge John B. Cleland sentenced him to serve 15 years of hard labor in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1000. The limit would have been 15 years and \$500 fine. Martin has filed a motion for a new trial and will take the case to the supreme court.

H. C. Mackey, the new proprietor of the Branch Studio, has taken hold of his work in this city and is enjoying a rush of business. Mr. Mackey is well known in this valley as a photographer, having for many years conducted a studio at Medford where his excellent work drew much attention. He has made a study of the newest and best methods employed in his profession and in putting these methods into practice is able to produce photographs which are not excelled anywhere. Those wishing photos with the pose just right and the workmanship perfect will be pleased with the results of a visit to his Studio on Sixth Street. 10-23 11

FREE DELIVERY OF MAILS IN GRANTS PASS

Three Rogue River Towns to Enter City List in Near Future.

A United States Postal Inspector was in Grants Pass the past week investigating conditions to determine as to whether or not this city is entitled to a free mail delivery system. No one learned from the inspector exactly what his report will be as it is against the policy of the Postoffice department to make public such reports unless it be from headquarters, but enough was learned from him to lead to the conclusion that the actual free delivery of mail will be inaugurated in this city in the very near future, as the postal receipts have considerably passed the \$10,000 mark required, our streets and sidewalks are in good condition, the numbering of the houses has been completed and in fact everything done which the department suggested would have to be done before the free delivery could be given us.

This same agent has visited the other towns in the valley to report

on applications of free delivery, and it is quite likely that all of the towns except Medford will be given delivery this winter. At Ashland everything was satisfactory, at Medford the houses had not been numbered and of course until this is done the department will not consider an application for delivery. At Roseburg everything is satisfactory except that the numbering has not been quite completed but will be in a day or two. It can safely be said that Grants Pass will be the first to receive the free delivery of mails with Ashland and Roseburg next.

Thomas J. Flavin of Spokane was the inspector who visited the Rogue River towns.

ELIMINATES DECAY IN SHIPPING FRUIT

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company has announced its determination to expend a million dollars in the near future in the construction of plants for pre-cooling fruit and vegetables, according to the Roy Sprague system, the object being to permit long hauls of perishable freight with little risk of decay. The company has been experimenting with the Sprague device for a year, and has found it satisfactory. Two large plants, one at Roseville and one at Colton, Cal., will be erected, the first capable of chilling 20 carloads in four hours and the latter having a capacity of 40 carloads in the same time. To accomplish the same result in an ordinary ice plant would require four days. The company's scientists have demonstrated that the sudden chilling of vegetable matter causes an absolute suspension of the process of decay, and the company announces that the new method practically will do away with the loss of time and consequent loss by decay in shipments of fruits and vegetables to Eastern markets.

The Sprague device, consists of a plant equipped to force through the loaded cars under vacuum pressure blasts of air that have been previously passed over ice. The vacuum removes the warm air, thereby removing the immediate cause of decay. The plants will be operated in conjunction with the new refrigerator cars adopted by the company recently.

Heaters, Heaters, and Heaters at Cramer Bros.

IRRIGATION AND POWER COMPANY ORGANIZED

During the past week the Irrigation Committee has organized a promoting or holding company. The articles of incorporation were signed by H. L. Gilkey, John Christie, G. H. Carner, E. E. Blanchard, O. S. Blanchard, R. Thomas and Geo. A. Hamilton, a special committee chosen for the purpose. This company has the power to make surveys, purchase water plants or sites, build the ditches and do any and all other things in connection with the business of irrigation and the furnishing of electric power within the limits of Josephine county.

The name selected for the corporation is the Josephine County Irrigation and Power Company and the incorporation papers were signed and sent to the Secretary of State on Thursday and as soon as the certificate acknowledging the filing of the articles of incorporation is received the committee will proceed to securing subscriptions to the stock of the company and when the 51 per cent, required by law is subscribed and a part of it paid in the company will then be fully organized by the election of a board of 14 trustees and the selection of executive officers.

After the above steps have been taken an expert will be employed to examine all sources of water supply and make a preliminary survey to see how many ditches will be needed and the cost of their construction and how many acres can be watered. It is now expected that Fred N. Cummings, an expert engineer who has been working on the water supply question of the city of Medford, will be employed to make the necessary investigations. Mr. Stover, while here was asked to recommend a competent engineer and if Mr. Cummings is finally engaged it will be through such recommendation. The engineer will not only furnish the company with estimates of the cost of dam and ditch construction but the value of any properties that may be offered for sale.

A. A. FRANKS IS SHOT BY FRIEND

Taken for a Bear Near Riddle Tuesday

SHOT HIM THREE TIMES

Inquest at Riddle Finds Shooting Accidental—Funeral Thurs- at Roseburg.

Alexander A. Franks, a Southern Pacific brakeman running between Grants Pass and Roseburg, was killed by his hunting companion, Oscar Webber, a Southern Pacific fireman. The shooting occurred at Riddle Tuesday and death was instantaneous.

The two men, accompanied by their wives left Roseburg last Sunday for an outing and on Tuesday the two men went after game. They separated and shortly afterward, Webber thought he saw a bear and fired, but the bear turned out to be his best friend and the first shot probably caused instant death and as the body rolled down the side of the canyon two more shots were fired, and both hitting their mark. When Webber followed up to see the result of his shooting he discovered the body of Franks, two bullets having pierced the region of the stomach and a third through the breast. Webber was about 60 yards away when he shot and used a 30-30.

Immediately after the shooting Webber took the body of his friend to camp, which was about a mile away, and as soon as the authorities were notified an inquest was held at Riddle. The verdict of the jury was accidental shooting. The funeral was held at Roseburg Thursday morning under the direction of the Brotherhood of Local trainmen, and interment took place in the Masonic cemetery.

Alexander A. Franks was 23 years of age and leaves a bride of 26 days, formerly Miss Birdie Worley of Canyonville. They resided in Roseburg.

Webber and Franks were cousins, and fast friends. Both young men were well known in Grants Pass and have many friends here to whom the accident brings sorrow.

Institute Lasting Three Days.

The Joint teachers' Annual institute of Josephine and Jackson counties will be held October 28-30 at Medford, followed on the 31st by a school board convention. The instructors and lecturers for the occasion are:

J. H. Akerman, Superintendent of Public Instruction; L. R. Traver, Training Department Monmouth Normal School; L. R. Alderman, University of Oregon; J. Whitcomb Brounger, Pastor White Temple Church, Portland; Coraella Marvin, Secretary Oregon Library Commission; Harry M. Shaffer, President Ashland Normal School; U. G. Smith, Superintendent Medford Schools; R. R. Turner, Superintendent Grants Pass Schools; Emma B. Wickersham, Training Department Ashland Normal School. It is expected that all of the teachers from both Josephine and Jackson county will be in attendance and with the instructors, lecturers, and county superintendents and school directors there should be at least 300 persons on hand during the three days.

The law makes the chairman of the board of directors of each district the delegate to the convention and provides that in case of inability to attend some other member of the board shall be appointed.

W. A. Hood is supplying the market with celery these days raised on his five acre tract at the edge of the city. He has about 5000 bunches which are now nearing their best. He has completed a new green house 14x24, which in addition to those already in use will enable him to raise an abundance of lettuce and other delicacies for the winter.

Now is the time to do your fencing while the ground is wet. The "American" is the best and cheapest fence on the market. Get our new prices.—Hair-Riddle Howe Co.



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IT'S
LIKE
THIS

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