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**Fruit, Shade**  
**Ornamental**  
Hedge plants, Cypress and Privet  
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**Tokay Grapes**  
as well as other kinds of first class  
grape roots, Apple, Pear, Peach,  
Cherry and other trees at reasonable  
prices. It will pay you to see me  
before buying.  
Let me have your orders before  
the assortment is broken. Some  
kinds are scarce already.

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OUR MERLIN DEPARTMENT

Of Interest to the Public.

In the list of opportunities that are open to the present generation Merlin, and the adjacent district occupies an important position. Situated at the northern end of the Rogue River Valley, nestled in among the foothills and surrounded by a large area of fertile orchard land, the town is getting ready to lunge into the list of things that are moving.

Being in the Rogue River Valley nothing need be said of its climate—its fruit-ripening propensities are recognized in the markets of the world—and the knowing ones realize the value of foothills as a protection from frosts and a conservator of the moisture of the winter rains and the heat of the summer sun. The soil varies from the richest river bottom sediment, through the black sticky and the preferred red soil, to the white granite. The latter is just coming to be recognized as choice for grapes, it being a familiar thing during the past season to hear some fruit raiser say: "If you want to see what white granite will do, just come up and look at my vineyard." H. L. Keyte, who is probably taking more interest in Tokay grapes than any other of the old-timers, had that for the burden of his song for several months. Noah Simpkins, an old-timer, believes in red land with a north slope, and arrogantly defies the world to show anything in the line of apples, peaches, pears or grapes that are even equal to what he produces. "Not as good, but better," is the way he puts it. E. A. Shattuck, A. C. Ford and T. J. Everton, the men who have made Merlin famous for its peaches, will tell you that the river bottom is the only place to produce that luscious fruit. H. E. Gale, who recently came down from Portland and purchased a large tract on the river, which comprises all kinds of soils and slopes, is preparing to take the advice of all of them, planting his orchards and vineyards in a symmetrical manner without regard to existing conditions, feeling it is not so much as to where you set them as it is to set them, and take care of them afterwards. To make a list of those who are making a success under varying conditions would require more space than is permissible in an article of this nature, but an observing one can see that where a man adapts himself to his surroundings there is but little doubt of his success.

The Merlin district comprises something over 50,000 acres of land adapted to fruit and alfalfa. It has never been boomed and prices are still within the bounds of reason, unimproved land usually selling for about \$15 per acre, while several partially improved places can be had for a trifle more. Of course, this does not apply to the well-improved tracts. We have a record of an offer of \$1500 per acre for one tract being made by a man who has rented it for three years and who therefore ought to be in a position to know its value. The offer was refused, and his attention was called to the fact that it will pay 10 per cent interest on \$5000 per acre. When we take into consideration that it was for a peach orchard 25 years old, we can see that one just coming into bearing would be worth—yet similar land can be bought for \$25 per acre unimproved. The reader will ask why this man does not buy the cheaper land and improve it. He answered this question by saying, "I am going to, but if I could get that I could make it pay for itself in the four years necessary to bring the new land into bearing and put from \$5000 to \$10,000 in the hands of my heirs." He estimates that this orchard will be good for 50 years yet—as long as he will want to raise peaches.

Mr and Mrs. R. G. Garrouette of Montague Cal., former residents of this place, are visiting with friends here.

Of Local Interest Only.

The bridge over Grouse creek has been lowered so that it is no longer an obstruction to travel. Its former elevated position made it almost impossible to cross with a load.

Charles Crow, having completed the construction of his new house, has accepted a position with the Alameda smelter at Galice. He takes considerable pride in the fact that he is the possessor of the finest residence in Merlin and joins heartily in the slogan: "There will be something doing in Merlin very soon."

Burley Green, one of the leaders of our social set, who has been with

the Gold Road mine at Galice for the past few months, has been spending the week with his mother here. He has accepted a position with Cory Mattison, the Galice mining king, and will assist in the development of properties on Howard Creek.

Harry Messier of Medford, who noticed a yellow ribbon attached to the wheelbarrow of Colonial Jack, bearing the legend, "There'll be something doing in Merlin very soon," came up to get in line and has concluded to remain here. He has taken a lease for two years on two store buildings with the intention of starting a temperance saloon in one and an up-to-date cafe in the other. What Harry starts in to do, he does right, so look out, there'll be some—

Steps are being taken to have the Agricultural Exhibit train stop a day in Merlin when it passes through Southern Oregon in February, and also to have Prof. O'Gara of the U. S. Agricultural Department, address us on matters pertaining to the raising of fruit some time early in January.

That Merlin is improving in a religious way is evinced by the fact that the Methodist church which has remained unoccupied the past two years, will hereafter have the services of a minister for two Sundays each month. Rev. Cary, a man of considerable ability, will be in charge. Rev. Jacquemin, of the Baptist church, will hold services once a month—on the second Sunday.

Some one always profits by another man's failure. The dredge that refused to work has enabled the residents on the west side of Rogue river to convert the scow into a ferry boat and thus gain access to a good road to Merlin. It will operate between the Booth property on the east side of the river and the VanDorn place opposite. This gives a large mining, timber and fruit-raising district direct connection with the town that all roads lead to.

"Merlin Acres," the tract of land adjoining Merlin on the east, which was recently platted into small tracts by A. Reynolds of Portland, is beginning to attract the attention of prospective investors. It is a splendid piece of property and we expect to see many nice homes in that vicinity in the next few years. It is offered for sale on the installment plan, improved or unimproved.

We are pained to see that Adah Brockman, Merlin's candidate in The Courier's Golden Eagle Contest, has her name so far down the list, and believe that if she would get out and put a little ginger into the contest there would be enough doing in Merlin to place her well within reach of the \$20. None of our young ladies are held in higher regard than she, and we are adverse to seeing a Merlinita start out to accomplish anything and not meet with success.

There is a general movement on all sides toward getting ready for the winter placer season. A party of miners came down from Roseburg Tuesday morning to start the work on the Taylor Creek mine. The Swastika mine on Jump-off-Joe has already done enough work to fill the creek with mud. Anbury Bros. have taken charge of the Hell Gate mine and C. E. Emerson has the Emerson-Flaggan property in shape for active operations when a little more water comes. From Galice creek comes the report that the Old Channel and Lewis mines are in position to move more gravel this season than ever before.

Melvin Culp, an aged resident of this town, was killed Tuesday morning by the first section of train No. 15, south bound. He was going to his work in the woods and had reached the center of the trestle over Jump-off-Joe when the train rounded the curve a short distance ahead and he started to run back. The train was coming down a steep grade and could not be controlled and he was struck within a few feet of safety. Death was instantaneous. He leaves a wife and a large family of children. The burial took place at Pleasant Valley cemetery on Wednesday.

W. C. Fry, our efficient road supervisor, thinks that good roads occupy a prominent place among our urgent needs, and we agree with him. Just as soon as we get a new school house a number of us are going to rally to his banner and see what can

be done in that line. The recent hauling of the heavy machinery of the Alameda smelter has almost put the Galice road out of commission, and as this will now become a very important highway, it is necessary that it be kept in good condition. Nor is this the only road that deserves attention. A town that expects to have something doing very soon must see that all highways leading to it are kept in good shape.

Probably the most important of last week's real estate transfers was the purchase of two of the principal business lots in the town by John Twoby of Spokane, Wash. Mr. Twoby is connected with the Old National Bank of that city and is a prominent railroad contractor of our sister state. He intimated that there would be something doing on that particular corner sometime between now and spring. Mr. Twoby spent considerable time in the Medford district looking over what it had to offer, and his choice of Merlin and vicinity as a field of this and other investments is a matter of no little congratulation on our part.

A concerted movement is being made to stop the wanton destruction of property that has long been going on by the rowdy element of the younger generation. They have long considered any unguarded building as their legitimate prey, and were satisfied to stop nowhere short of absolute destruction. The new galvanized iron warehouses recently constructed by Barlow & Mattison has been punctured full of holes, both sides and roof, and they have offered a reward of \$20 for the conviction of anyone throwing a rock against it in the future. Ray Colby has taken it upon himself to see that there are no more windows broken in the school house and every other property owner has concluded that it is time an example is made of some one. So look out, there'll be something doing in Merlin very soon.

An amusing real estate transfer was consummated in Merlin last week. B. A. Williamson traded a horse for 40 acres of land three miles north of town a couple of years ago and has put in his time ever since trying to trade it to Charles E. Short, our real estate man. This week the trade sprouted up again, and the entire town took a hand in the deal. Mr. Short started in by offering eight head of cattle, then raised it by adding 30 head of goats, finally throwing in a pig, some barbed wire and a bunch of groceries. This latter offer—something that could be eaten—clinched the deal. Immediately a discussion was started as to who got the worst of the proposition, and sympathy was generally extended to Mr. Short, but when he pointed out the fact that hay was selling for \$20 per ton, feed clear out of sight, and told them that such land around Medford was worth \$100 per acre and intimated that "There'll be something doing in Merlin very soon," they came to the conclusion that he was not looking for consolation.

Lou Gibson, who has handled enough dynamite to blow up all of Southern Oregon and considers it as harmless as a small boy's top, came near meeting with a fatal accident in the tunnel of the Mammoth Copper mine last Saturday. He was preparing a shot and entered the tunnel carrying a stick of dynamite, a cap and fuse in his left hand and a candle in his right. Needing a bar he transferred the candle to his left hand and stooped over to pick it up. He forgot that he wanted the bar, however, in the commotion that followed. When he recovered his wits he found himself still hanging on to the fuse and candle, but the cap and dynamite were gone. The dynamite was later recovered with the paper in which it was wrapped mostly burned off, and Lou only has a few small punctures in his breast, and a lacerated knee and thumb to remind him that there is a difference in the explosive power of a cap and a stick of dynamite. Just why the dynamite did not respond to the cap with its attendant fire and jolt, is a matter of much discussion between the old miners, but Lou is satisfied to let the question remain unsolved. He reports that the work already done on the Mammoth Copper tunnel shows that property to be one of the most promising prospects in the district. About 290 feet of tunnel has been completed.

Something of a joke crept into the Courier last week. In the plate matter under the heading of "Farm,

From Now Until Christmas

All SUITS and PANTS

At Harth's the Clothiers' will be sold for

Less Than Cost

All other goods in the store will be sold at prices in proportion

Just the place to buy a suitable CHRISTMAS Gift and save money

Harth's The Clothiers'

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The old patron Saint of Christmas time cannot find in all his travels a better meat or poultry mart than at Ahif's City Meat Market.

City Meat Market

J. H. AHLF, Prop. GRANTS PASS, ORE. Phone 144

"Orchard and Garden," edited by some knowing individual back in Iowa, there was an article which advised against the purchase of land for agricultural purposes anywhere west of the 99th meridian, which extends north and south through North Dakota and Texas. It is wonderful how much intelligence some of these agricultural writers can accumulate. It reminds me of a conversation which took place on a morning train just as it entered Grants Pass a few days ago. A rather sleepy individual suddenly awoke at the brakeman's call of the station's name. He opened his eyes and asked a fellow traveler who had gotten on at Merlin, "Is this Grants Pass?" Upon being informed that it was he said: "I had a friend come out here a short time ago and start into the real estate business." Not eliciting an answer to this, he continued: "He'd-a done a sight better to have remained right there in Lone

THERE'LL BE SOMETHING DOING IN MERLIN VERY SOON