

# Rogue River Courier.

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NO. 41

## COMMERCIAL CLUB EXHIBIT BUILDING

### Needs Help of Merchants, Miners and Farmers.

### AN IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE

#### The Crisis is at Hand and Every- body Must be Will- ing to Help

There is one crying need in Grants Pass at this time which should receive attention without delay and that is that the business and professional men should get together and stand together to build up the city and county. It is an easy matter to forget that we owe something to the place in which we make a livelihood. No man has a right to neglect a public duty and it is at this point so many of us fail. To give all an opportunity to contribute to the public weal is the reason for organizing Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade or Commercial Clubs. Every man who does business with the public falls short of his duty if he fails to connect himself with an organization of this kind if one exists in the town in which he does business. Here in Grants Pass we have what is known as the Commercial Club, a popular organization which has done good service in representing aright the interests of the city. Its good work extends in all directions and from first to last it has been a credit to the municipality and its business interests. There is only one thing lacking and that is funds to carry out the great work it finds to do.

First the Commercial Club should have a home of its own so as to be able to make an extensive display of Josephine County's fruits, vegetables, grains and minerals. This display should be made near the depot and for this purpose a building should be erected on the railroad grounds. In such a structure the Commercial Club could have its home and thus save rent. The question of how to get the money necessary for the construction of such a building will quite naturally present itself to the mind of the reader. The answer is easy. Appoint a live committee to visit every mining man, farmer, fruit grower, business and professional man in the county and get from these the ready money needed to put up the building. For once let all classes stand shoulder to shoulder in the work of building up our county and its Capital city. This move should, and we firmly believe, will appeal to all who are interested in the prosperity of this geographical division of the Rogue River Valley.

If it were a church that one of the popular denominations wanted to build and it should require \$15,000 or \$20,000, the money very properly would be forthcoming. We would and feel proud that we

had the opportunity. Then why not all join to provide the means for a building that will be instrumental in bringing men and women to help keep up the churches. It must be admitted that without the new blood our churches would have languished and finally failed for the want of support. It is clearly a duty that every man and woman owes at this crisis to help provide this home for the Commercial Club which will barely cost more than \$2500.

### WATER RIGHTS ARE UPSET BY COURTS

#### Impossible for Persons or Corpora- tion to Hold Right for Speculation

One of the most important decisions that has been handed down by the Oregon Supreme court in many years was placed on record Tuesday, when the court held that the Congressional act of March 3, 1887, relating to settlement on public lands, limits all riparian rights subsequently acquired except to the extent of the use of water for domestic purposes. This decision, therefore limits the rights of such riparian owners to the rights they have acquired as appropriators, except as to domestic uses, which are too unimportant to be worth consideration.

Under this decision it is impossible for any person or corporation to acquire and hold a power or irrigation right for speculative purposes. Those persons, therefore who have filed on water powers on the Rogue the Deschutes and other rivers must put the water to beneficial use or forfeit their right to the first person who does apply it to such use. The opinion is of the greater importance coming just at this time, for the reason that the subject of water law is to be taken up by the Legislature.

This court is the first one in the United States to construe the act of Congress of March 3, 1877, in this particular. It in no way affects the rights of persons who acquired rights prior to 1877, or who acquired riparian lands since that time and put the water to a beneficial use. The man or corporation who has held riparian land without making use of the water is the one affected by the decision.

The government cannot by legislation, determine for any state, after its admission, what its legislation relative to riparian or other water rights shall be, but may dispose of its public land and all rights incident thereto in such manner as it may deem best, and either at the same time or by separate acts, make such reservations therefrom, by grant, dedication or otherwise, as it may see fit.

The water flowing over the public domain is a part thereof and the National Government may grant or otherwise dispose of its riparian interest separate from the rest of the estate.

Any one acquiring title to any part of the public domain subsequent to the date of the act of Congress of March 3, 1877, accepted it with title thereto with full knowledge of the law in force at the time and subject to the full import thereof.

## "CLEANER AND BETTER FRUIT"

### Grave Danger Threatens Apple Orchards.

### VIGILANCE IS CALLED FOR

#### Apple Crop of the Country for a Series of Years by the Agri- cultural Department.

The apple is without doubt the King of all Fruits and if there are any who have been hesitating about planting an orchard for fear the price will fall below a profit, they should read the following article taken from the January 2 number of the Saturday Evening Post. The introduction of this article has reference to the Apple Show which recently took place at Spokane and we omit it as not material. The article itself is a wonderful showing of the apple prospects generally and the conclusions are so clearly drawn that he who takes the trouble will be able to see that the man who plants an apple orchard and protects it from the pests will have the best paying investment known among the industries. Quoting from the article in question we have:

"The National Apple Show idea was projected by the Spokane County Horticultural Society and was heartily supported by the business men of Spokane. Their motto was: 'Cleaner and better fruit and more of it.' To accomplish this, however, as the most intelligent supporters of the apple industry perceive, it will be necessary to bring about radical changes in the manner of cultivating apples on this continent. There must be general betterment of conditions in the commercial orchards. If this is not done the United States and Canada, within a few years, will probably be forced to import apples instead of exporting them. In support of the belief that the domestic supply is insufficient is the fact that, if it had not been for the enormous crops in the Pacific and North-western States and Provinces last year an apple famine would have resulted. In many of the Middle-western and Eastern States the yields were small last season, due to the failures in numerous instances, but generally because of pests. Orchards had been neglected and, in scores of places, the trees have been permitted to die through lack of even ordinary attention, while, again in others the growers did not know how to combat insects and diseases. It was to improve these conditions, by making investigations and suggesting remedies to bring about more satisfactory results that the growers were invited to come to Spokane.

In 1896, the total product of the apple crop of the country was 69,000,000 barrels, or 172,675,000 bushels. Since then hundreds of thousands of acres have been added, and methods of fruit growing have improved, yet the government reports show that the aggregate crop in all the states in the Union was not more than 25,000,000 barrels, or 62,500,000 bushels in 1908.

"To understand the decreases in the production of apples in the Union in the last 12 years reference should be made to the statistics compiled by the Federal Department of Agriculture. Growers produced 60,540,000 barrels of apples in 1895, and 69,070,000 barrels in 1896, the banner year in the history of the country. There was a decrease of nearly 28,000,000 barrels, or more than the entire crop of 1908, in 1897, when the yield amounted to 41,536,000. Another decrease followed in 1898, the yield being placed at 23,570,000 barrels, but in 1899 and 1900 there were substantial increases, the yield being 37,560,000 and 47,760,000 barrels respectively. There was a drop of 20,890,000 barrels in 1901, while 1902 showed an increase of 20,655,000 barrels, the crop that year being estimated at 47,625,000 barrels. Forty-five million barrels of fruit

were produced in 1903, and in 1904 the yield was 300,000 barrels greater. Then in 1905, it dropped to 23,500,000 barrels, and in 1906 it increased to 36,130,000 barrels. The crop of 1907 fell off to 25,000,000 barrels.

"The apple growing industry is a substantial one; in fact, few enterprises offer surer or more attractive profits or more healthful and pleasant occupation. A small investment will secure a beginning, and trustworthy literature can be had readily from the Department of Agriculture and the numerous horticultural and farm journals. There never will be an overproduction of first-class stock. It is, in fact, impossible at the present time to produce the enormous quantity of good apples requisite to meet the demand. This is evidenced by the fact that England, Germany, France, Denmark, Australia and the Orient are already drawing upon the orchards in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and British Columbia. When this export trade is firmly established, as it will be in a few years, the demands upon the growers will be largely increased. This means more new orchards and better care of the older ones.

"That apple-growing in the Northwest has passed the experimental stage and is already a factor may be gathered from official statements. More than 16,000,000 growing trees were reported by horticultural inspectors in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, at the close of the season of 1908, and of these 6,744,161 bore fruit that year. The total crop reached an estimated value of over \$19,000,000 to \$20,000,000. Washington, with 2,935,824 producing trees, was seventeenth in the list in number of trees and second in productivity. Oregon had 2,825,988 bearing trees and Idaho reported 982,349 trees in fruit. When the other trees now growing come into bearing in 1912 it is estimated the yield will be about 64,000,000 bushels, or 1,500,000 bushels more than the total crop of the United States in 1908, equal also to the wheat yield of the three States that year. Washington had 5,332,097 apple trees at the beginning of the season, during which 2,500,000 were set out, with more than 3,000,000 contracted for to be planted in 1909. Oregon had 5,500,000 and set out 2,000,000 more, while Idaho reported 2,500,000.

"The apple is the national fruit of America. This can hardly be questioned in face of the fact that in hotels, restaurants, resorts, trains, steamers and homes the fruit is served throughout the year. But while there are apples everywhere, apparently, the supply is not sufficient to go around, and, as a result, there must be many places where an apple is regarded as more of a luxury than it should be.

"Ambitious apple-growers in the Northwest and elsewhere saw more attractions in the National Apple Show than the premiums offered by the management. They believe it will prove its greatest success from an educational viewpoint."

#### Webb Jury Disagrees.

The trial of Louis R. Webb of Deering, who was arrested some months ago on the charge of setting forest fires in Del Norte County, California, was held in San Francisco last week, and on the night of Dec. 30th the jury was discharged, they having been unable to agree on a verdict. Webb will be given a second trial on the same charge some time during February.

If you want the best all-round fence made and for the least possible cost, get AMERICAN WOVEN WIRE sold by Hair-Riddle Hdwe. Co. 1-8-2 Big cut in the prices of some of our heaters.—Hair-Riddle Hdwe. Co. 1-8-11

#### Notice to Stockholders.

Notice to the stockholders of the Applegate-Williams Creamery Co: The annual meeting of the stockholders of the above company will be held at the Creamery building at 2 o'clock P. M. Friday, January 15, 1909.

By order of the board.  
V. H. KENT, Secretary.

Mrs. Mary Saples of Lentz, Ore., arrived last week and will spend a couple of weeks here and among other things disposing of her interests in Manzanita Heights.

## MEDFORD TRIBUNE FAKE INTERVIEW

### Questionable Methods of Our Near Neighbor.

### SCURRILOUS TRANSACTION

#### Attempt to Injure Grants Pass in Order to Help Out the Saloon Interests.

The Medford Tribune of January 7th has a purported interview with Ex-Mayor Smith of Grants Pass and also one with Sheriff Russell and still another with the proprietor of the Palace hotel. The persons named are made to take part in the local option campaign which is going on in Medford. It is believed that the interviews are fakes, at least as far as the ex-mayor is concerned as he could hardly be so shortsighted as to be made a cat-paw of, by the saloon element of a neighboring city. It is well understood that the sole object of the so-called interviews used, was to help out the whiskey cause as above stated. Sheriff Russell is used to preach a temperance sermon. Everybody will be glad to know that the sheriff has turned his attention to saving our young men from the evils of intemperance, but just how he is going to protect the young men and the saloon at the same time is a matter hard to figure out. What is said about the Palace hotel is undoubtedly true. The proprietor of that hostelry claimed that his business had been cut in two by local option. That is one of Joe's jokes, for he understood that a good half of his business was in the saloon connected with the Palace and when local option went into effect it certainly should have cut the business in two. Below we print the Tribune's effort to help the Medford saloon business by tearing down its neighbor, Grants Pass.

"Previous to the city of Grants Pass voting for and putting into effect local option the tax rate was 6 mills and the business done here was fully equal to that now done in Medford. Our tax rate is now 8 mills—its more than what is legally allowed. In addition to that, we have had to increase our valuation 50 per cent, which makes our rate now real-estate 12 mills, and our business has fallen off and we have decided that we cannot do any paving."

That was the statement made yesterday by Mayor J. C. Smith of Grants Pass, who is not only one of the leading merchants but has also been elected recently to the state legislature.

To show how certain people are trying to mislead the citizens of Medford, it may be stated that according to the Mail the tax rate of Grants Pass was much lower than that of Medford, and that the former place was also paying its streets. Now, there is not only the positive statement of Mayor Smith that the real rate now is only 1 mill less than that of Medford, but that city voted against municipal ownership of the waterworks and also decided not to undertake any paving. These are facts which cannot be disputed.

Nor is this all, for almost any business man in Grants Pass will state that business has fallen off since local option went into effect to a considerable extent.

"How does your business compare now with what it was before you got local option?" was the question asked of the proprietor of the Palace hotel.

"It is more than cut in two," was his reply, "and we now have less than one-half we had before."

This statement was amply verified when the writer had dinner there yesterday, for there were only two others in the dining room besides himself. This in spite of the fact that the charge was only 50 cents for as good a meal as can be got anywhere for double the price. In spite of the fact that the place was almost

deserted all day. The management is good and the hotel is first-class in every particular.

As to the liquor business, it is the same at Grants Pass as everywhere else where local option has been tried. From the car of the train from Medford reaching there yesterday noon no less than 12 quart bottles of whiskey were taken off at the depot. Three drunken men were seen on the streets inside of one hour, being more than the writer has seen in Medford during the Christmas holidays. Like other local option places, there is no denying the fact that the citizens of Grants Pass can get all the liquor they want, but it has driven nearly all the outside trade from the city. The trade is now going to Jacksonville, Gold Hill and Medford.

"A lot of liquor is being shipped in here from Portland," said Sheriff Russell, of Josephine county, as he pointed out a young man staggering down the street. "The great trouble is," he continued, "they send their money for it to Portland, and even if the houses there did care, they have no means of knowing if the people who send in the orders are under age or not. I never knew of young men being drunk here before, but now the sight is a common one."

"This is how we stand," said one of the leading business men of the city. "In one way we would like to see Medford go dry because it would save some of our trade now going there to remain at home, where it properly belongs. The trouble is, however, that many who now go there would go to Jacksonville and there is no chance in the world that making any change in these places."

"Would you blame Medford for continuing the present system?" he was asked.

"Why, certainly not," he replied. "You people would be greater fools than I take you to be if you ever follow our example. In addition to more than doubling our taxes, we have lost from 25 to 50 per cent of our business, had to do away with a chance to own our water system and are now forced to give up any idea of paving our streets. You people have already obligated yourselves for these and have interest to pay, and yet your tax rate is, in reality, only 1 mill more than ours. And you are getting the cream of business of the valley. Why? Because you have a better city than ours? No, sir; because our loss has been your gain."

"The trouble is that it is not our fault, but that of the state law. Our people here in the city of Grants Pass gave over 200 majority in favor of continuing the license system. Why should we not have what we know we wanted? What? Because we were downed by the people of the county outside of Grants Pass. Another vote would show double the majority here in the city in favor of the license system. The people outside of the city have killed our city but what do they care? It is not a cent out of their pockets."

"Well, so you people want to let the people outside of your city run your affairs the same as they have ours here?"

"All I can say is that if you do so you will richly deserve all that you get."

Since receiving the Tribune of the 7th, the Courier has talked with quite a number of the leading business men of this city and shown them a copy of the paper. The first on the list is Mayor H. C. Kinney, one of the oldest and most prominent business men in this city. His knowledge as to the conditions which prevail in Grants Pass at the present time cannot be questioned. First let us say that Mr. Kinney is the senior member of the large dry goods and grocery firm of Kinney & Truax. He is the man who, at the late election defeated Dr. J. C. Smith for the office of mayor. He is also connected with the First National Bank of Southern Oregon, and is known far and wide as a leading citizen of the Rogue River Valley. When interviewed Mr. Kinney said: "Our mercantile business shows a large increase for the last six months and our cash sales during that time were doubled. I think it fair to say that nearly all of the mercantile establishments of this city have been exceedingly prosperous during the last six months."

(Continued on Page Five.)

**1** The New Year comes—it's  
up to us to start it right;  
**9** The leaf is turned and here's a  
page that's clean and bright,  
**0** Let's blot out every old mis-  
take and vain regret,  
**9** And make our nineteen hun-  
dred nine the best year yet.

**R. H. O'Neill**  
The Housefurnisher