

Rogue River Courier.

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IMPORTANT LAW MUST BE PASSED

Why We Should Have
This Legislation.

WYOMING IRRIGATION LAW

Legislature is Called Upon to Act
Promptly and Give
Needed Help.

It is hoped that the legislature which met last Monday will not adjourn before it has passed an irrigation law that will at least be as practical as legislation on this subject is in any of the other states. Oregon has been tied hand and foot as it were by bad irrigation laws and the people of the whole state have made a demand on the legislature for relief. It is true that the present outlook indicates that something will be done, but let us not be content to sit idly down and make no effort to ensure the passage of a law that will make titles to water for irrigation as clear and perfect as titles to real property. The whole future of the farmer in Josephine county depends on a well defined and comprehensive irrigation law. Every citizen of this county is deeply interested in this matter and should communicate with our members of the legislature, urging them not to neglect this important part of their duty. There are large corporate interests in Western Oregon arrayed against an irrigation act. These corporations are enemies of the people and it is the duty of our farmers and business men generally to urge their representatives to work and vote to include our part of the state in the operations of the bill. It has been decided that we need a law framed after that of Wyoming. The constitution of that state asserts that the waters belong to the people and the law provides for its legal distribution.

The Oregon Conservation Commission in its report to the governor last month makes the following synopsis of the Wyoming irrigation law.

The state engineer is president of the state board of control, which is composed, with him, of the superintendents of the four water divisions of the state and the duties of which are to determine and adjudicate all rights to water and to grant permits for its use. As administrative officer of the board of control, the state engineer has supervision over the division superintendents, who in turn have supervision over the water commissioners of various water districts and these officers together control the appropriation, distribution and division of all the water of the state. No water can be legally appropriated in the state until authorized by the state engineer; and then only if there is water unappropriated and the state engineer's office is made

the place of record for all appropriations of water. The state engineer has also general supervision over all reservoir construction within the state. The water commissioners have authority to prevent the waste of water and are vested with police powers to enforce priorities of right to water, as established by the state board of control or the courts. The state engineer, division superintendents and water commissioners are appointed by the governor, the latter on recommendation of the division superintendents.

The law was drawn by one of the ablest irrigation engineers, Elwood Mead, who was at the time the bill was passed (1891) state engineer of Wyoming. Other states have, to a large extent, adopted the provisions of the Mead law. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that the Wyoming law is in all respects practical, and has been of great service to the people of that state. The small, as well as the large farmers, and through its enactment hundreds of thousands of its acres have been irrigated and made highly productive. This law has stood the test of nearly 18 years service, and the wisdom of its provisions are clearly apparent. If Oregon had a law framed along these lines the commonwealth would put on a new growth, and prosperity would come to every county in the state where agriculture is a possibility.

LOWNEY McCRANEY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

Discharge of His Own Gun Makes
Serious Wound in
Right Leg

Lowney McCraney a farmer living in the Dry Diggings district, while out hunting last week just after the first fall of snow, was injured by the accidental discharge of his 25-30 rifle. At the time the accident occurred he was carrying two rifles and in descending a slight pitch his foot slipped and one of the guns dropped, striking a stone in such a manner as to discharge a cartridge, the ball entering McCraney's right leg below the knee. Dr. DeVore was called and dressed the wound which seems to be in good condition. Should complications arise from the possibility of the fiber of his clothing being carried into the wound, it is probable that amputation may be necessary.

Blue Ledge Suffers Loss.

Last Saturday morning fire destroyed the office building of the Blue Ledge Mining company near Eileen. The fire started from a defective flew. Very few of the contents of the building were saved, and for a time the adjoining buildings were threatened. The building was valued a \$7000. The amount of the insurance is not known.

Coming Events.

Jan. 18, Monday—Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to arrange for Rose Planting Day.
Feb. 10, Wednesday—Semi-Annual Teachers' Examinations.

COMMERCIAL CLUB WILL RAISE \$5000

Enthusiastic Meeting—
Start of \$2000 Made.

ALL OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

Handsome Illustrated Booklet of
Josephine County Will
be Issued.

The regular meeting of the Grants Pass Commercial Club took place on Tuesday night. The old officers were all re-elected including the committee. The subject of advertising was taken up and discussed at some length. Mr. Wells of the Sunset Magazine was present and made a strong address on the necessity of advertising. He urged that the Club should raise at least \$5000 for publicity purposes and said the Southern Pacific would help if the booklet printing and a certain amount of advertising was given to the Sunset Magazine. Subscriptions and advertising were called for and those present contributed nearly \$1100. It was arranged that a strong committee made up of those present should call on the county court the next day and ask for a contribution to help pay for a booklet devoted to the exploitation of the whole country. The call was made and the court after considerable discussion made the order. This was done under the law which permits \$1000 to be appropriated annually by the court for advertising purposes. The appropriation will give great satisfaction to a majority of the largest tax payers in the county for this booklet will bring hundreds of large tax payers to the county and consequently increase our taxable wealth many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Commercial Club is alive to the best interests of the whole county and is determined to accomplish important results during the year 1909.

THE NEW CITY COUNCIL TAKES ITS SEAT

Members Sworn In, Appointments
Made and Committees
Are Named

Last week Thursday night marked the close of the reign of the 1908 city council and the opening session of the new city law makers. The meeting was one full of business which started off at the rap of the gavel and continued without pause until the close, when the members of the old and new council went to the Banks restaurant and dined. Following are the official acts of the meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from R. W. Clarke, manager of the Rogue River Water Co., in reference to the bill against said company for \$100 for expenses of special election held October 27, 1908. At the time that this election was asked for A. C. Hough, attorney for the Water Company, said that the company would pay on said election the sum of \$100 and his statement is a matter of record in the minutes of the council. The city attorney was instructed to render an itemized bill to the Water Company and proceed to collect it.

In the matter of opening up A street from Seventh to Eighth, it was ordered that Mr. Ament's offer to sell a 35-foot strip off the north end of his lot for \$144.85 and the city to bear the expense of moving the fence be accepted.

The city attorney was instructed to prepare an ordinance for a granite sidewalk on the north side of Evelyn avenue extending from Sixth street to Second street.

The Street committee reported that

certain property owners on B street had turned the water from a small creek from its natural course into the street and that it was doing considerable damage thereto and city attorney was instructed to notify the parties to turn the water back to its original channel and if they did not do it to take action compelling them to.

The building committee reported on the ordinance relative to the licensing of theaters. It was thought that the ordinance was not properly prepared and was therefore referred back to the committee to report at the next meeting. The cause of the ordinance was the Bijou picture show asking for permission to put on vaudeville acts, which would make it a regular theater, increasing their license from \$100 to \$125 per year.

The finance committee reported favorably on a large batch of bills, which were ordered paid.

Bids for the laying of lateral sewers were opened and the contract let to the Grants Pass Hardware Co., for \$335.

An ordinance asking for a franchise for a telephone and telegraph line in the streets and alleys of Grants Pass by Arthur Conklin and Marcus Robbins was read and referred to the Street committee.

At this time the new councilmen and officers were sworn in by the city recorder, H. C. Kinney, mayor; J. G. Riggs, councilman first ward; J. L. Myers, second ward; W. M. Cheshire, third ward and Geo. Cronk fourth ward.

The mayor then announced the following committees for the ensuing year.

Judiciary committee—W. M. Cheshire, T. P. Cramer and J. L. Myers.

Street committee—J. G. Riggs, J. T. Tufts and Geo. Cronk.

Light committee—Geo. Cronk, Chas. Burkhalter and J. L. Myers.

Sewer committee—Frank Fetsch, J. T. Tufts and J. G. Riggs.

Health committee—J. L. Myers, W. M. Cheshire and Chas. Burkhalter.

Fire and water committee—Chas. Burkhalter, Frank Fetsch and W. M. Cheshire.

City property committee—T. P. Cramer, Geo. Cronk and F. Fetsch.

The mayor then submitted the following appointments which were ratified by the council:

City attorney, Geo. H. Durham; City engineer, F. E. Hobson; marshal, C. E. McLean; night marshal, F. W. Capp, street commissioner R. H. Gillilan; teamster, W. W. Wilcox; park commissioner, N. C. Boynton; city engineer, F. E. Hobson.

J. T. Tufts was then elected president of the council for the ensuing year.

There being no further business, the council adjourned.

A Model New Store Building.

Sixth Street north of the railroad is to have another fine business block two-story and basement, which will be erected by Arthur Conklin. The lot upon which the building is to be placed is the one now occupied by Joseph Moss and H. B. Hendricks. The new structure will be of reinforced concrete, 32x95, two story and its construction will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit. As a business house it will be one of the very finest in the city. The front will not only be of plate glass but up-to-date in every particular. The show windows will be in three parts and will run back from the front. There will be two entrances and the outer court will be tiled and the whole structure will be of the twentieth century order.

Mr. Conklin has leased the new building to C. P. Bishop of the Woolen Mills Store of Salem, who will open a large branch store here as soon as it is finished. Mr. Bishop will equip his store with all the modern appliances and he will carry a full line of clothing and gentlemen's furnishing goods.

Notice to Stockholders.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Grants Pass Canning Company is hereby called for Tuesday afternoon, January 26 at 3 o'clock at the Commercial Club rooms. A full attendance is desired. H. C. KINNEY, Pres. O. S. BLANCHARD, Sec'y.

Calling cards at the Courier.

IRRIGATION CO. MET WEDNESDAY

President Gilkey Presides
and Makes Report.

WYOMING LAW ADVISED

Committee of Three Selected to Receive and Act Upon Expert
Cummings Report.

The Josephine County Irrigation and Power Company held a successful stockholders' meeting at the opera house on Wednesday last. President Gilkey occupied the chair and called the meeting to order. The first business was the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the society, followed by the secretary's report and the financial statement.

Next came the report of the special committee on legislation. A bill containing the essential features of the Wyoming law was recommended and the Josephine county members of the legislature were urged to present the resolutions and strive for the passage of the bill.

President Gilkey read his first report to the stockholders and detailed the operation of the company, including the employment of Expert Cummings to investigate the source of water supply and make recommendations to the company. He further said that the directors had appointed a special committee of three to handle the expert's report and to take such action as in their judgment was best for the company. This action he thought was wise, as the object of the company would be defeated if the report was made public property. He thought prompt action by this committee was necessary and trusted the stockholders would approve this action. A motion to adopt the president's report and approve the appointment of the special committee was unanimously passed.

Learning that Mr. Cummings, the expert, was in the house he was called for by a number of stockholders and he came to the platform. In a neat little speech he told of the conditions that prevailed in regard to land around Grants Pass. "The greater area of land," he said, "was idle and unimproved though at from \$25 to \$40 per acre. Assuming it to be worth this with water available, as soon as secured it would advance to from \$100 to \$250 an acre and as orchards are matured there is no doubt that these lands would become as valuable as in other districts and readily sell from \$500 to \$1000 or even more per acre. Conditions are similar to those in Willamette Valley. While there was abundant rain during the winter months; if this rain had been distributed evenly throughout the year there would be plenty for crops, yet it gets so dry in the summer that water is absolutely necessary. In the valley above named demonstrations have been made showing the value of water to crops, increasing the growth with one watering to 77 per cent and with two waterings to 89 per cent." Mr. Cummings closed by saying that from what knew of conditions he would say that the present effort to secure irrigation would succeed.

FRUIT INSPECTOR BATEHAM MAKES REPORT

Next Season Will See All the Old
Orchards Thoroughly
Cleaned Up.

Fruit Inspector Bateham made his report to the county court last week, covering a period of three and one-half months since he has been in office. "The outlook for the coming season," said Mr. Bateham, "is better than ever and am sure that next year will see more good orchards

than ever, and the quality and quantity of the fruit will be much improved."

Following is a summary of his report to the county court:

Since being appointed fruit inspector, September 15, 1908, I have personally inspected 450 orchards and lots containing fruit trees aggregating thus far about 1600 acres, only about three-fourths of the county being covered as yet. Of these 450 orchards 125 have been badly neglected and will have to have thorough work done in them within 60 days or they must be pulled out. Contrary to the prediction of some men I have found 90 orchards with no serious pests or fungus diseases. There are 50 cases of pear blight so far discovered which must be cleaned out at once and the trees watched carefully next spring when growth starts.

Three nurseries have been inspected and some few trees condemned in each. Five lots of nursery trees shipped in from out of the state have passed inspection with the loss of about 100 trees from Missouri. Careful watch has been kept at all stores and warehouses as well as on the streets and all will agree that the quality of the fruit offered for sale is better than formerly.

A complete record of all this work has been kept with name and address of each grower, and condition of his orchard. The expense of this inspection to the county is: Fifty days' work at \$3, \$150; necessary expenses of same, \$78.70. Total \$228.70. Respectfully submitted. H. C. BATEHAM.

Greet The Walla Walla Special.

A special train, bearing the members of the Walla Walla Commercial Club and officials of the S. P. enroute to Los Angeles, will arrive in Grants Pass Sunday morning at 10:50 and remain 15 or 20 minutes. It is the desire of the Executive Committee that every member and those not members be at the train and give our friends from the north the "glad hand," and a welcome to our city. Please be a committee of one to invite yourself and your friend to be there.

All ladies should be at the Commercial Club rooms next Monday afternoon to plan for a Rose Planting Day.

COUNTERFEITER ARRESTED BY SHERIFF RUSSELL

Frank Jennings Visits Grants Pass
and Attempts to do Business
and is Caught

Grants Pass has had a real green goods man and alleged counterfeiter and the ever vigilant Sheriff Russell on complaint of one of our citizens arrested the offender who goes by the name of Frank Jennings and has a reputation far and wide as a dealer in dies for making counterfeit money. Jennings travels over the country looking for men who would like to get into the counterfeiting business, and when he finds his man he shows him one of his so-called counterfeit coins, made as he claims from his own dies, which he also shows. In the course of the interview the claim is made by Jennings that no man can detect the counterfeit, claiming that it will be taken at any store or bank. He gives his victim the coin and urges him to get it changed and this greeny does and being pleased with the transaction, a place of meeting is named. Later they meet, the victim with his money to exchange for the counterfeit stuff, while they are in conference, a man comes in wearing a badge of the U. S. secret service. The so-called officer is sorry to arrest the gentlemen but it is a very serious offense and Jennings then proposes that they pay the detective a round sum to let them go. The victim of the sharp gladly gives all he has to get out of the scrape. Jennings visited Medford and Ashland before coming here and did some business in those towns. He is a noted criminal and has served time. Sheriff Russell, after making the arrest, wired the Federal authorities at Portland and in response an officer was sent here to convey the prisoner to that city.

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,
Let's blot out every old mis-
take and vain regret,
0 And make our nineteen hun-
dred nine the best year yet.
9 R. H. O'Neill
The Housefurnisher