

# Rogue River Courier.

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NO. 43

## PRESIDENT ANDERSON'S LETTER

Energetic Action Needed to Meet Emergency.

## EVERYBODY INTERESTED

Read the Letter Carefully and Answer it Either by Letter or in Person

President M.J. Anderson of the Commercial Club has inaugurated a strong movement to insure the issuing of a Josephine County Booklet to be sent to that class who are writing the club for information regarding this section of the country. The Club issued a Grants Pass Booklet last year and these were all sent out and at the present time there is no printed matter available to send to the many hundreds who are asking for information relating to Grants Pass and the county at large. Every property holder in Josephine county is interested in this matter and should respond cheerfully to President Anderson's request which is explained in the letter printed in full below.

January 14, 1909.

Dear Sir: The very successful system of advertising the resources of this state, by booklets descriptive of the respective localities, that has prevailed for the past year, is to be followed with increased energy in one day last week, over six tons of advertising material was sent East by Portland, alone. Other localities are doing their share of the work in proportion to their ability and the progressive spirit of the respective communities.

The booklets of Grants Pass for 1908, which attracted the attention of would-be settlers and investors from all parts of the world, advanced greatly the value of land and increased the taxable wealth of this county, but were too local in description. The edition is now about exhausted, and with a publicity campaign on of such importance, the time has come for Josephine County to tell its story to the thousands of prospective settlers and tourists ready to visit this coast in 1909. The time has come when the undeveloped lands, mineral wealth and forest resources in farming and fruit values should become known to those ready and anxious to invest and to come among us and add to the general wealth of the community.

After consultation, the heaviest tax-payers and most progressive citizens in the city and in the country where they could be reached, a new and larger campaign was planned: A booklet descriptive of Josephine County in which every section will be represented by photo and reading matter.

This booklet to be issued jointly by the County Court and Commer-

cial Club. At a meeting of the club Tuesday evening, over \$1000 was subscribed and an energetic committee is adding to this fund.

The County Court is authorized by act of legislature to appropriate each year \$1000 for advertising the county. The local character of last year's booklet, prevented its co-operation, but with a "Josephine County Booklet" the Court has agreed to appropriate this fund but only after a canvas has shown that a majority portion of the taxable property endorses the action.

The necessity of closing the contract for publication in time to get the benefit of cheap colonists rates to Grants Pass, made prompt action necessary, but the court and committees having this campaign in hand not only desires the endorsement of the majority of the taxable property but also the endorsement of every progressive individual taxpayer and citizen in the county, that this may be a grand and unanimous effort to bring our wonderful natural resources to the attention of the greatest crowd of prospective settlers and investors that ever came west in one year, and thus increased the taxable wealth to the benefit of all.

Enclosed is a copy of a petition to the county court. Please circulate it and get it fully signed, showing your endorsement of the movement.

The second paper is a copy of the one being circulated here and any subscription you can get to help the work along will be appreciated.

The Southern Pacific railroad is putting a large sum (several thousand dollars) into this booklet and all we need is the assistance of each community and the enthusiasm which the merits of the work call for to make it a great success.

Very truly yours,  
GRANTS PASS COM. CLUB.  
M. J. Anderson, Pres.

## WORK ON NEW BRIDGE CARRIED OUT SATURDAY

The river has been on a rampage for more than two weeks and last Friday night it reached its highest point and about 3 o'clock Saturday morning the only two piers set in the new bridge at the foot of Sixth street were toppled over and carried down the river and deposited in the deep water several hundred yards below. These piers had been set in the middle of the river and driven from 1 to 15 feet in the bottom. Heavy timbers had been placed on them and it was supposed by the bridge builders that the high water would not disturb them, but the Rogue river has a powerful current and at times it sweeps everything before it. The old timer informed the bridge contractors that they might expect high water and there was only one way to escape its consequences and that was to finish the bridge by the first of January, the date mentioned in the contract. It is said the loss in consequence of this mishap will be \$4000. The loss is not so much however the fault of the river rising as it is to the company not keeping its contract with the county. The loss to the county by the neglect of the bridge contractors will not be covered by the above figure.

## COMMISSIONER CARSON'S REPORT

Document Showing Conditions in District.

## HELP TO HORTICULTURISTS

A Discourse on Soils on Which to Grow Apples, Pears, Peaches and Other Fruits.

The Courier has received the biennial report of Commissioner A. H. Carson of the Third District of the State Board of Horticulture. It is a document containing much valuable information, showing careful investigation, and a thorough knowledge of the subject which he treats. The report covers conditions in Josephine, Jackson, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Klamath and Lake, seven counties in all and these comprise Southern Oregon. We quote from the first paragraph of the introduction in which will be found some highly important suggestions regarding good conditions in the counties named and also notes on soils and cultivation of land generally. This part of the report should be carefully read by the subscribers of the Courier as these opinions of Mr. Carson have been gained from experience during a long period of activity among the soils of the Rogue River Valley.

The report is in part as follows: The topography of this sub-division of the state with mountains, foot-hills, and valleys, is such that there are varied climatic conditions, as well as soils existing that one section of Oregon may be adapted to the growth, and maturity of one variety of fruit that in some other section of the district the same variety would be a failure and yet all parts of the section known as Southern Oregon is adapted, by reason of soil, or prevailing climatic conditions, to some special commercial fruit-growing.

On deep hill soils I have seen corn that produced 35 bushels to the acre without a drop of rain from planting to gathering. Without cultivation the corn would have perished for the want of moisture.

Deep, alluvial, sandy loam soils along the rivers, and creeks never fail to yield, though the cultivation may be poor, as these soils are always sub-irrigated.

Many Eastern men who come here, desire to engage in apple, or pear growing. Not being a judge of our Coast soils, purchases land from surface indications, and in time finds he has made a mistake.

To succeed here in fruit growing, the grower must plant the variety of fruit his soil, and location is adapted to. Soil and location that the peach and grape would succeed on with reasonable attention to detail, might be of such a character, and depth that the apple, and pear planted on the same would be a failure.

It is my purpose in this report to call the attention of the prospective purchaser to the various soils as they exist in this district, with their character, and adaptability of fruits that will grow with success.

**The Apple and Pear.**  
The apple and pear to be a source of profit here should be planted on the best alluvial soils along the streams, or if the hill lands are chosen, they must be deep, not less than five to six feet in depth, and a greater depth would be better.

There are no soils too good, and rich to grow the best apples, or pears. The greater success, and profits of the Rogue River Valley apple and pear growers is in proportion to the good quality of the soil his orchards are planted on, and the attention of the grower to details in its management.

A shallow soil will spell failure if planted to the apple and pear, excepting water is available for irrigation during the months of August and September. However, it must be remembered that not all

shallow soils are adapted to irrigation. To irrigate with profit, the subsoil must be right. If the subsoil is wrong, irrigation would be detrimental.

A shallow loam soil, two and a half feet deep resting on decomposed bed-rock, or broken bed-rock, or loose gravel would be all right for irrigation. Irrigation, if intelligently done would be a great benefit to an apple or pear orchard on such land, for the reason the surplus water in irrigating would readily drain off through the gravel and bed-rock without injury to the growing tree.

On the other hand, should a shallow soil rest on a clay sub-soil, or a cement hard pan, irrigation would be detrimental to the growing apple and pear trees. To successfully irrigate fruit trees on any of our soils here underdrainage must be had to carry off the surplus water during the irrigation period.

These shallow soils with a clay sub-soil, or cement hard-pan can be made available for apple and pear growing by tilling to a depth of not less than five feet.

Where irrigation is resorted to the conditions of the sub-soil in relation to the growth of the tree must be intelligently understood.

The mechanical effect on shallow soil by underdrainage with tile, is to deepen the soil to the depth the tile is laid. During the winter rains, the surplus water where land is tiled, is drained through the soil, and passes off through the tile, preventing the fruit tree from injury from excessive moisture during protracted rain storms of winter, keeping it healthy and vigorous during the dormant period, so that when it quickens into growth in the spring it is in the best possible condition to grow and respond to the skill, and cultivation of its owner.

Again, while the mechanical effect of underdrainage is to deepen the soil and carry off the surplus moisture, as paradoxical as it may appear, underdrainage makes these shallow soils wet, and moist during the growing period. During the growing period the moisture ladened air passes through the tile, and condenses its moisture leaving it in the soil for the growing tree. In fact, with thorough intelligent cultivation where these shallow soils are properly underdrained, but little water is necessary for irrigation during the driest season.

Many of these shallow soils, where the exposure is right, grapes can be profitably grown without underdrainage, and with good cultivation.

There are many acres of deep, rolling lands, such as second bench, red loam, that in normal years, under good cultivation, the apple and pear can be grown at a profit, and with water for irrigation during the dry seasons these deep bench lands can be made very valuable.

In past years I have noted many acres of these shallow, dry soils being planted to the apple and pear without any consideration of the character of the sub-soil, or what the effects of underdrainage would be were it tiled. I know in all reason that the results and profits in planting such soils will be a disappointment to the grower, hence I call the attention of the growers to this subject of soils adapted to growing various varieties of fruits.

The variety of climate, together with soils in the various counties in the Third District and annual precipitation had in each county, I hope by a detailed description of each county, to give the prospective settler some data that will enable him to intelligently judge soil conditions that will be congenial to the fruit he may desire to grow.

### Trees and Shrubs.

A collection is now being made at the Commercial Club rooms of our native evergreen trees and shrubs. The exhibit, which now comprises about 20 varieties, was started by H. C. Bateham on Wednesday of last week who brought down from Wolf Creek an armful of very pretty specimens, and has them correctly named by the Forestry service.

Others are invited to add to the collection or replace faded specimens from time to time for we feel sure that the exhibit will not only ornament the Club rooms but also be very interesting to those who have no opportunity to see the wealth of verdure our forests possess at this time of the year.

## IRRIGATION REPORT MADE WEDNESDAY

We Publish Document in Part This Week.

## VALLEY TO BE WATERED

Committee Having Daily Meetings to Consider Recommendation of Expert Cummings.

In an interview this morning with the Board of Directors, then in session, we learned that the engineer's report has been on file in full since Wednesday last. Since that time a sub-committee have been going over the same considering each recommendation made therein.

We further learned that the report embodies three distinct proposals each of which are being considered by the board and we are permitted to say that negotiations are in progress with each of these interests. Reading these negotiations, which will probably take from 10 to 14 days, the Board are not prepared to publish the full report but the following introductory remarks of the engineer in introducing his report will be of interest:

### The Need of Irrigation in Southern Oregon.

The popular conception in regard to irrigation is that it is a practice solely of benefit to the truly arid sections of the West. That there is profit to be gained through its use in such sections as Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington or Southern Idaho. Never was there a more erroneous conception. Irrigation is but a means of artificially making up the deficiency in natural rainfall. Perfect crop-growing conditions require a certain amount of moisture in the soil. This moisture is just as essential as the plant food in the soil, or in the sunshine. If there be a shortage in the amount of moisture at any time during the growing season, abnormal conditions prevail and crops suffer as a consequence. The length of time over which such a shortage may occur is immaterial, for the plant must have its moisture all the time, otherwise it suffers, its growth is permanently checked, and its producing power destroyed. A few weeks of drought will cause just as serious damage as a drought that extends over months, and the sections having the short, droughty periods are just as badly in need of irrigation as the truly arid sections, whose dry period extends over the entire growing season.

Two years intimate acquaintance with conditions in Southern Oregon, together with a number of years intimate acquaintance with arid conditions in Eastern Oregon and Washington, has convinced the writer of the absolute need of irrigation in the Rogue River Valley and impressed him with the idea that until irrigation systems are provided the fullest development cannot be brought about in this valley. There is a human as well as physical reason why the Rogue River Valley needs irrigation. The class of investors and homeseekers coming to this valley know the complete insurance it provides against crop failure. They demand safe investments, and until Grants Pass and the surrounding country can guarantee the investments of these men "who build up the country," the disappointment of having them go onto other sections must continue to be your lot.

The average precipitation per year at Grants Pass, taken for a 10-year period, is 32.4 inches. The distribution of this yearly rainfall, based upon a period of 10 years, is shown in the following diagram, for each month in the year:

It will be seen from this that in the winter months from October to march 85 per cent of the rainfall of the year occurs, leaving but 15 per cent, or approximately five inches of rainfall distributed through the summer months from April to September and of this five inches 60

per cent falls in April and May. The rainfall for June, July, August and September being less than one-half inch per month, a condition which is entirely inadequate to maintain enough moisture in the soil for the average crop. This compares with conditions existing in the arid belts of Eastern Oregon and Washington and is conclusive evidence that irrigation in this valley is necessary for the profitable production of all crops.

### The Value of Irrigation.

To the farmer who is raising crops without irrigation and who has never given the subject thought the first question will be, "What is it worth?" Drawing from the experience of other states where irrigation is practiced a few illustrations may be presented:

In the Yakima valley, in the state of Washington, raw lands that were worthless without water a few years ago have increased in value until now with water rights costing from \$35 to \$60 per acre they are worth from \$150 to \$200, and the same lands with bearing orchards sell from \$500 to \$1000 per acre. In the same valley, lands that will be under the Tieton canal, now being completed by the government, that were a few years ago considered worthless, are now selling from \$50 to \$200 per acre in advance of the completion of the canal system, which it is estimated will cost about \$55 per acre.

From experiments made the past year in the Willamette valley by A. T. Stover, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in charge of irrigation work in Oregon, in his Circular No. 78, "Progress report of irrigation experiments in Willamette Valley, Oregon." A few crop results are given showing the increase due to irrigation in what has always been assumed to be a humid climate. These results are as follows.

Yield of irrigated and unirrigated corn at Corvallis, Oregon:

Treatment.	Green fodder.	lb per acre	per cent increase.
Unirrigated . . . . .	5,647	00	
Irrigated once . . . . .	7,000	24	
Irrigated twice . . . . .	9,656	71	

Yield of irrigated and unirrigated potatoes at Corvallis, Oregon.

Treatment.	Yield per acre	per cent increase
Unirrigated . . . . .	2,604 00	89.2
Irrigated once 6,760 160		88.0
Irrigated twice 7,500 180		92.3

Yield of irrigated and unirrigated onions at Corvallis, Oregon.

Treatment.	Yield per acre	per cent increase
Unirrigated . . . . .	2,604 00	89.2
Irrigated once 6,760 160		88.0
Irrigated twice 7,500 180		92.3

Yield of irrigated and unirrigated onions at Corvallis, Oregon.

While crops are grown in the valley without irrigation, the increase that would result with irrigation is well illustrated by the figures given and the serious losses of crops due to insufficient moisture in the soil, that have been reported would not have occurred if the water could have been applied at the right time.

### Soils.

The soils vary with the locality, from the rich alluvial soils of the river bottom to the red lands of the foothills. At the upper end of the valley along both sides of the river, are gravelly soils of considerable depth, covered with a dense growth of native timber, oak, laurel and manzanita, which when cleared and cultivated and watered will be highly productive. A lower end of the valley these gravelly soils are overlaid with a sandy, and in some places black loam, rich in humus, which are the most fertile soils of the valley. Around the foot hills in different localities such as Evans creek, Fruitdale and parts of Merlin district, are the high, red soils, considered by many to be the best grape and peach lands. This soil is in isolated tracts not very great in extent. Over the greater part of the area, lying on both the north and south sides and also to the south of Merlin, the soil is what is termed "granite" soil—a disintegrated felspathic granite varying in depth from a few feet to 20 feet. For this granite soil, water is absolutely necessary. While of a poorer quality than the soils mentioned above,

(Continued on Page Four.)

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