

Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXIV.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1909.

NO. 44

PRESIDENT COLLINS TALKS RAILROAD

Commence Construction During Coming Spring

HAS GONE TO SEATTLE

Will Send Out Corps of Engineers to Re-survey a Part of the Line.

President G. A. Collins of Rogue River & Oregon Southern Railroad, returned from a trip to the Illinois valley the latter part of last week and left on Friday night for Seattle. Before leaving, a representative of the Courier had the pleasure of talking to him regarding the probable time construction would commence on the road. In reply to the questions he said: "On this matter, I will say, as I have previously, that there is no question as to the building of the railroad to the Illinois valley."

"My trip on the route made last week during the snow storm was for the purpose of ascertaining data, relative to high water, etc., to enable us to better figure the amount and size of bridges on Slate Creek and Hayes Hills.

"In this connection will say that water along the hills was very much higher than expected and will require considerable bridging, rip-rap etc., that had not been previously figured on. In fact the work on that section will have to be changed and will require a new survey. The work will be commenced within a few weeks or as soon as weather and water permit of the Engineers crossing the creeks on foot with their instruments.

"I expect to return to Grants Pass shortly and will then put a party of engineers in the field after which I will make some announcements as to the plans of building the railroad, the coming spring and summer."

Basket Ball.

The game Friday night between the Ashland Normal and the Nuggets resulted in a victory for the latter by a score of 20 to 30. The game was fast and thrilling and abounded in pretty throws and clever passes for the home team, and although the score was not very one sided it was clearly demonstrated from start to finish that the Nuggets had the Indian sign on the Normal bunch.

For the home team, Woods threw six baskets, Baker six, while Moore and Stephenson each registered one from a different position. Stephenson covered the floor like an old-timer and to him is due the credit of giving Baker and Woods each six clear baskets. Vincent, for the Normal threw six goals, and Bagley one. Howell and Vincent secured six foul throws. Baker threw two

fouls for the home team.

Basket ball is meeting with a little more enthusiasm and it is to be hoped that the next engagement will meet with a larger crowd than the last.

The lineup was as follows:

Nuggets.	Normals.
Baker, F.	Howell
Woods, F.	Vincent
Stephenson, C.	Bagley
Martin, G.	Loosley
Moore, G.	Allen

Referees—Woodruff of Ashland, and Rev. Mr. Bartlett of this city.

The Nuggets meet the crack Ashland first team here Monday, February 1. This is their first engagement on their tour of the Northwest.

"The Lieutenant and the Cowboy," the new western military drama which comes to the opera house next Wednesday night, February 3, should not be confounded with the ordinary clap-trap melo-drama, for this play of sterling worth and is presented by an extremely capable company. No better play can possibly be offered the Grants Pass theatre-goers this season, for the simple reason that nothing superior has been written. "The Lieutenant and the Cowboy" is a tense heart thrilling drama, but so sanely blended that the complete story clings in one's mind long after the performers are forgotten. It is by no means a "gun" play, but two shots being fired during the four acts, and neither of them in view of the audience. It is on the contrary, a strictly high-grade production well worth the attention of our most critical theatre goers.

Salvation Army.

Meetings will be held at the Salvation Army hall Sundays at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 2 p. m. Salvation meetings at 8 p. m. Week night meetings Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 p. m. Captain and Mrs. Layman in charge.

Newman M. E. Church Services.

The special meetings which are in progress at this church will go on each night except Saturdays until further notice. Preaching morning and evening on next Sabbath by the pastor. Special music by the choir and the soloists. An interesting feature of the meeting every evening is a 20 minute song service led by Prof. McMurray and a solo by Prof. W. M. McMurray or A. S. Reitz. Sunday school at 10; Junior League at 6:30. Everybody welcome to all these services.

First Baptist Church.

The special meetings now in progress will be continued at both services. The morning sermon will be on the topic, "The Sealing of the Spirit." This service begins at 10:30, and is followed by the session of the Bible school under the direction of R. K. Hackett. The Young Peoples service will be in charge of Roy Lathrop at 6:30. The final service is at 7:30, when the pastor speaks on the "Coming of the King." There will be special music; W. M. VanDyke has charge of this important part of the service.

Beginning Monday evening Rev. E. H. Hicks of Roseburg will assist the pastor each evening. Mr. Hicks will not disappoint. He enjoys a perennial revival in his own church. You will be welcome.

FRUIT GROWING IN THIS VALLEY

Some Observations by Fruit Inspector

SOME CHANGES OCCURRING

Facts Drawn From Experience and Predictions Are Made for the Future

By H. C. Bateham.

This is such a broad subject that I am tempted to divide it up as the Latin students do Gaul translations; that is into three halves. Some will consider it in three lights, past, present and future. To say that a barren hillside or an uncultivated plain will not produce good fruits and vegetables simply because they never have done so has proven a most egregious error. I well remember the time when the early settlers in the Hood River valley would not think of locating on any of the dry sandy or gravelly hillsides near town, but went further up the valley and selected damp creek bottom and springy places, thinking that only there would they find moisture and fertility sufficient to perfect fruit. Now these neglected locations are, with water for irrigation, selling for \$1000 per acre for fruit, while the creek bottoms are classed as "simply hay land" and sell for about \$100 per acre. Such is the proposition here today.

I will risk the assertion that the best fruits of the future will invariably come from the higher lands—the red soils of these hillsides, as well as from the granite slopes with which this country is abundantly blessed. On these will be the valuable orchards and vineyards of the future. Water will be used so some extent as a sort of insurance, but it will be the rich soil and the bright sunshine that will be largely responsible for the fine fruits which this section will for all time be famous.

The possibilities of the decomposed granite soil which constitutes much of our higher lands are not fully demonstrated, and yet the value in the estimation of the public is rapidly rising as testimony continues to come in of luxuriant gardens, orchards loaded with most luscious fruit and hay and peas that grow higher than the fences on granite land. Those who have been here longest say that the granite land warms up better in the spring, thus producing better and earlier strawberries and small fruits than any other soil.

What is needed is men, real fruit growers, who will undertake the great transformation and help make the desert blossom as the rose. A well-known horticulturist once said: "The trouble with our fruit growing operations in this country is that most of our fruitgrowers are simply farmers."

The inference is that fruit growing takes more brains. All hail to the men who are now coming in here and taking hold of our neglected orchards, whose owners, lacking in horticultural knowledge as well as stick-to-it-iveness, abandoned their places and struck out for the mines or sawmills. There are a few such orchards yet to be had here, but before another year they will all be taken up by the new owners or will of necessity fall a prey to the inspector who well knows that an orchard without a caretaker is a fit subject for condemnation.

It is plain to be seen that a better day is dawning for the fruit grower in this valley—already he is better paid and consequently he has a right to feel encouraged. His fruit is in demand because it is of a superior quality.

It has been well and truly remarked by one of our Grants Pass writers that observation teaches us that the art of fruit growing can only be acquired after careful study and experience. The man who would succeed in it must be a worker, and to such a man success comes as a matter of course. What I have seen convinces me anew that fruit growing demands

intelligence of the first order, and if men will learn the business, success will crown their efforts. Nature has produced here the soil, the climate and the surroundings—and has left man to do the rest.

There is no better way of proving how well we are doing our part of this great work than by looking over the returns. The three elements which enter into this item of returns are, first, yield; second, price, and third, expense. Enterprising fruit growers, by reading, comparing notes and by learning by experience, will be able to increase the yield or price or both and reduce the expense so that the matter of profit is soon an assured fact.

But after all, the great reason why the fruit of this section is constantly going higher is the fact that this item of expense or loss is so great in most of the older fruit growing states that it leaves no chance of profit, consequently neglect and discouragement follow. A prospective fruit grower would look a long time before finding a place where this little bitter pill of expense can be made so small and the returns so large as right here in the Rogue River Valley. The State Board of Horticulture, in its report last year said: "There is no other section of the United States where apples and pears are grown, where the shipping qualities of the fruit compares with those of the Rogue River Valley."

Fruit sent to the World's Fair at St. Louis from Rogue River Valley arrived in better condition than from any other part of the state. This mountain-locked valley, for 100 miles in length, including foothills, is so perfectly sheltered that there are no severe rain storms to blight the blossoms or high winds to blow off the fruit. Sunshine is what gives flavor as well as clear color to the fruit, and here we have it in abundance.

With the assurance which we now have of plenty of water for irrigating purposes, the last drawback toward extensive fruit growing operations has been removed, and already there are indications of such an awakened interest in fruit growing as this country has never seen before.

On all sides we hear the assertion made as to the number of trees or vines which are to be planted this coming season. Several large contracts are already under way and the plan so successfully tried in other sections of dividing up large tracts in 10 acre lots on easy terms is being launched here with every prospect of abundant success.

Since my appointment as fruit inspector for Josephine county I have been in close touch with the majority of fruit growers of this region and it is not putting it too strong to say that where there were 100 orchards left without care and cultivation a year ago there will scarcely be found one this year. Of course there is more than one reason for this. It is not alone that they are to be compelled to spray or dig out but on the other hand they have the inducement of good prices obtained through a good shipping concern.

And right here let me say a word of praise for our Rogue River Fruit Exchange. For the short time organized it has done a really remarkable business in collecting, shipping and selling at good prices our whole crop of apples, which were actually being picked before the organization was perfected. The saving to the growers on boxes, paper and spray material has been considerable, aside from the benefits of being assured of good markets and shipping facilities.

The magnificent display of boxed apples sometime ago at the Opera House was the suggestion of one of our number, who thought it would pay to give the impression of good backing to the government official, J. P. O'Gara, who had been sent here to help us keep out pear blight and other diseases. The suggestion was immediately acted upon and our two most expert packers worked without dinner until the hour of meeting—with what results we all know.

A semi-circle of 40 boxes of beautifully packed and polished apples of all shades of coloring, from the white and yellow of Glori Mundi and Newtown, to the deep red of the Winesap and Spitzenberg. Every style of pack was also shown, from the three-tier down to the five-tier both diagonal and square pack, and the whole capped by the superb box of Spitz for President Roosevelt. Many who had seen the display at Portland and

(Continued on fourth page.)

COMMISSIONER CARSON TALKS

Discussion on Conditions in This Section

AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK

What is Said About Lands, Fruit Growing and Farming Here

Last week the Courier made extracts from the Biennial Report of Mr. Carson, the horticultural commissioner of this district. To the homeseeker, what Mr. Carson says will be of great value and to that class we commend this part of the report.

Josephine County

Josephine is a southern county, next to California. Its topography, is mountains, foothills, with many small valleys running in all directions through the country.

The county is drained by the Rogue, Applegate and Illinois rivers, with many smaller creeks that are tributary to the larger rivers. The best alluvial soils are along the streams, which are devoted to fruitgrowing, apple, pear and peach. These fruits mature here to perfection. Potatoes and all kinds of garden truck are raised, and finds a ready market among the miners in the mountains, and the towns of the county. Corn, clover, timothy and alfalfa grow luxuriantly along the streams, without irrigation, and alfalfa yields three crops during the year.

On the foothill soils alfalfa yields three crops in the year, where water is available for irrigation. On deep hill lands, alfalfa matures one good cutting, and if the season is favorable, two cuttings without irrigation.

The demand for hay in the local market is always greater than the production, owing to the large lumber and mining industry of the county.

Alfalfa in this county is a great source of profit, paying as high as \$40 net per ton.

There are many acres of foot-hill lands in this county that years ago were regarded by the pioneer as only fit for grazing. Experience has taught later generations that these red foot-hill lands grow the best of table grapes. Such superb European varieties as the Flame Tokay, Malaga, Muscat, Black Cornichon, together with all the American types of grapes, grow and mature to perfection.

Now many acres of these red foot-hill lands are being cleared and in commercial vineyards. The value of these red hills is advancing rapidly. A well kept vineyard of Flame Tokays on these red hills is an annual source of profit to their owner.

Spring or fall frosts rarely injure a vineyard on the slopes of the foothills. In fact, the writer has had a commercial vineyard on the foothills of Josephine county for 28 years and never suffered an injury from spring or fall frosts during that period, until this "freak" year 1908, when a frost occurred that killed the foliage on the vines on September 25, with the result that many late varieties that had not ripened, were a loss.

The earliest fall frosts that ever occurred during the 28 years was on October 25, 1905. All varieties being ripe no loss was had.

Name Wanted

I will give a setting of eggs from my pen of Barred Rocks to the person submitting the most appropriate name for my poultry yard. Names to be in my hands before March 1st. 1-29-11 JOHN SUMMERS, N. Sixth street.

The best 25c hose now 15c, which is less than cost, as we are cutting out all men's furnishing goods, and when the present stock is gone we are not going to carry it any longer —W. J. Gardner & Co. 1-23-22

Estimates for Forestry Service.

William H. Benton, a construction engineer of the Forestry Service arrived in Grants Pass on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Benton has for his territory the Pacific coast and Alaska and his branch of the service is to make estimates for the fiscal year for the roads, trails and bridge construction, and for other purposes, so as to make the Forestry Service more practical each year.

Among the things which are to be provided for this season is a telephone down the Rogue river, across the Illinois, valley and down the Chetco to a point on the coast. In connection with this enterprise some important trails are to be constructed. Mr. Benton's position is a very responsible one and to hold it he must necessarily possess in a large degree the confidence of the chief of the Forestry Department. His headquarters are in Portland from which point he visits all sections of his territory.

Two Bob-Cats and a Wolf.

E. L. Churchill, J. G. Riggs, J.H. Frey and F. B. Olding left here last Saturday noon on No. 14 and left the train at Tunnel No. 5, 12 miles beyond Glendale. They were loaded down with guns and ammunition and were intent on giving Mr. Frey an opportunity to kill a bear. After leaving the train they walked two and one-half miles to the Churchill & Kissenger ranch, where they camped and from which point they made excursions in the hills looking for big game, but the weather was bad and the snow from 18 to 24 inches deep on the hills and they were soon convinced that Bruin and all his relatives were hibernating. They followed the course of the mountains and streams and beat the brush for three days but secured only two bob cats and one wolf. They say they were just showing their friend Oregon scenery, and as he is delighted with his experience, no one should find fault. They returned to town Wednesday afternoon. They tell of strawberries in blossom and violets in bloom on the mountain sides, but we did not ask how deep the snow was at this particular point.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Josephine County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at Grants Pass, as follows:

For State Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909 at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, February 13, 1909 at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, physical geography, reading, psychology.

Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching grammar, book-keeping, physics, civil government.

Friday—Physiology, geography, composition, algebra, English literature, school law.

Saturday—Botany, plain geometry, general history.

For CCounty Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Friday, February 12, 1909, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic, Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Physiology.

Friday—Geography, School Law, Civil Government, English Literature

LINCOLN SAVAGE, County Superintendent. Grants Pass, Ore., Jan. 23, 1909.

Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Sunday German song and preaching service; in the evening at 7:30 preaching service, subject "Is Man Immortal?" Saturday, Sabbath school at 10 a. m., preaching at 11. Young Peoples meeting at 3 p. m. All are cordially invited. Pastor, T. L. Thuemler.

First Christian Science Society.

Christian Science service will be held in the W. O. W. hall Sunday January 31, at 11 a. m. Subject—"Love". Wednesday evening service at 7:30 p. m. in the Reading Room in the opera house block, north hall. All are cordially invited to attend.

Calling cards at the Courier.

We have got to make room for our

New Stock of

Wall Paper

Now on the way

25 Per Ct. off

ON ALL CASH PURCHASES

Come while the assortment is fine

O'NEILL The Housefurnisher
South Side of Railroad on C St.