

# Rogue River Courier.

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NO. 47

## The Great Irrigation Canal Commenced

### CEREMONY ATTENDED BY 300

Actual Ditch Construction Commenced Thursday. —President Gilkey, President Anderson, Judge Jewell, Secretary Blanchard and Mayor Kinney Speak.

The irrigation excursion to the Ament dam on Thursday, to celebrate the starting of the construction work on the canals was one of the most successful affairs of the kind that has ever been pulled off in this city, and it goes a long way toward having the deep and absorbing interest taken by the people generally in the irrigation business. With very little advertising and on short notice, fully 300 people went up to the dam and participated in the interesting ceremonies of an occasion long to be remembered as it is without doubt the starting point of great prosperity for Grants Pass and Josephine County. There has been many public events in this valley within the last quarter of a century, but none of them promised as great results as the system of irrigation ditches contemplated by our local irrigation company. This seemed to be well understood by all those who turned out to witness the lifting of the first shovel full of earth in the work of construction followed by the plows and scrapers thus announcing to an anxious and sympathetic public that the important enterprise had actually been commenced.

On Wednesday it was decided that the ceremonies above outlined should take place the following day. A telegram was sent to the General Passenger Agent of the Southern Pacific at 10 a. m. asking for a train to take the people to dam. No reply was received until 3 o'clock in the afternoon which announced that the train was at the service of the people and that it would cost \$75. An eighth sheet bill was soon printed giving particulars of the excursion and naming the hour 1 p. m. the next day as the time the train would start.

**Closing the Stores.**  
A committee from the Commercial Club visited the business houses and requested them to close their stores from 1 to 4 p. m. This request was complied with and when the train started on Thursday afternoon, it had on board 220 people. The excursion train waited on a side track a few minutes for the passenger No. 14 from the south to arrive and soon as it pulled into the yards the train started out and it so happened that quite a number of excursionists who were on the south side of No. 14 and did not see the Ament dam excursion train pull out, were left. The Courier was informed

that fully 40 people were thus disappointed, some of these secured carriages and drove up and others walked; others gave up the trip.

**Arriving at the Dam.**  
It was a jolly crowd on board the excursion train made up as it was of the best citizens of both Grants Pass and Josephine county. There were numerous ladies in the party and these fair ones seemed to enjoy the occasion equally as did the gentlemen. As the train pulled up at the dam the passengers were requested to halt after they were out of the cars long enough to allow Photographer Lewis to make a picture of the party, with the train for a background. This being done the people walked up to a point just below the dam where numerous stakes indicated that the Civil Engineer had marked the place where the main gravity canal was to be started. We were told that this canal would be 12 feet wide on the bottom, six feet deep and 24 feet wide on top.

**The Interesting Ceremonies**  
As soon as the party had arrived on the ground, four magnificent teams, drawing plows and scrapers took positions along the place marked off by the surveyors' stakes. These teams were composed of horses, each animal of which would weigh more than 1500 pounds. They were much admired and were declared a credit, not only to their owners, but to the county, and the occasion.

At a given signal it was announced that "America" would be sung by the audience, Mayor Kinney leading. After the singing, the assembly was called to order by President Gilkey, who acted as master of ceremonies. Rev. Robt. McLean led in prayer while the vast audience stood with uncovered heads. After the prayer President Gilkey spoke substantially as follows:

**President Gilkey's Introductory Talk.**  
Ladies, Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens: Our gathering here today marks the opening of a new era for the Rogue River Valley and more especially Josephine County. February 18, 1909, will be a date long to remember in the years to come when this valley shall be made to "blossom as the rose" by reason of the perfection of the enterprise we now inaugurate.

It only remains for our citizens to

push the work to early completion. We are depending on no outside powers, no governmental machinery to complicate, hinder or delay our progress. We can, if we will, have a system of irrigation to cover our lands as rapidly as the said lands are ready for the water. This means more to us than the most optimistic of you have ever dared to dream.

All kinds of questions are being asked. Why was this particular project chosen? Why not go to Savage Rapids, Rock Point, Gold Hill or some other point farther up the river and take out a gravity line and save the cost of pumping, etc., etc? Do you realize, friends, that it would require a ditch no less than 140 miles long to bring the waters from Rogue River to cover less than two-thirds of the lands we propose to cover by this system? This is saying nothing of the expensive rock work and other obstacles we would encounter.

Our plan is to put in a gravity

line today taking our irrigation water from the stream of our own valley. Notwithstanding the fact that some of our neighboring cities over on Bear Creek, one of them twelve miles and the other 25 miles from Rogue River, would lay claim to being the Rogue River Valley and even go so far as to propose to put up signs at Gold Hill and Ashland as the beginning of the end of Rogue River Valley, claiming that Grants Pass is not to be considered. Just let them wait until this irrigation system is in operation and they will learn that Grants Pass is to be considered, and since the real rule of progress is to begin at the lower end and work up we will develop our resources in our own way, for we are the "Rogue River Valley proper" and are entitled to the full rights and benefits of the name, and when the fields and farms about Grants Pass reach its ideal development we will not shut out our neighbors on



THE AMENT DAM.

ditch on either side of the river and cover all the lower lands which will amount to some five to eight thousand acres. Then two high line ditches, one on the south and one on the north side of the river, at an elevation of 350 feet and possibly one or two intermediate lines into which the water will be pumped. Altogether the system will cover from fifteen to twenty thousand acres. This will be the valley of small holdings as no one will need a quarter section of land for the purpose of making a good living, but the man with five, ten or twenty acres under a high state of cultivation will make more than the one with ten times as much half cultivated, as at present.

**President Anderson's Speech.**  
M. J. Anderson, president of the Commercial Club, was introduced and spoke as follows:  
Mr. President:

I did not hear of your intention to celebrate this occasion until this morning at Roseburg, where I have been attending to some land cases. Last week I was taken sick and when I found that you were to celebrate this occasion I rose from a sick bed determined to be with you at any cost. It has been my pleasure and pleasant duty to act as the president of the Grants Pass Commercial Club, and I am deeply interested in what you are doing. This is the greatest event and will be more far-reaching in its results than anything that ever happened at Grants Pass. Irrigation will completely reclaim every foot of available soil in Josephine County so that in a few years the whole valley will blossom with orchards and vineyards. The people of Josephine County have struggled for years to better conditions, but today you cast the die whereby the whole district is emancipated and will no longer be subject to droughts. In the past we have been conscious of the presence of the "knocker," but from and after this day it will become him to hold his peace and if he can't say something good about his home town to say nothing at all, (and holding up a printed card to the audience, which read, "Boost or be quiet"). This is the motto adopted in our offices of the Forestry Reserve and it ought to be adopted as our motto at this time.

We are living in the beautiful valley of the Rogue River proper, and

Bear Creek as tributary beneficiaries to the name of the Great "Rogue River Valley," of which Grants Pass is the center and sole city lying along side and wholly within its natural boundary.

Josephine County as a whole is the richest district in Southern Oregon. The finest timber, the richest mineral deposits, the richest soil and practically the only home of the tokay grape in Southern Oregon.

Let us not forget our neighboring valleys. Let us work for the interest of all the valleys, especially in Josephine County. Let us not speak disparagingly of our neighbors in the county adjoining for in doing so we do ourselves an injury. The Rogue River Valley should embrace all its tributaries and one cannot speak against the others or any of them without condemning his own locality, and it is not a good thing any way to attempt to grow by tearing anybody else down. The Rogue River Valley is known far and wide as the most fertile and productive in Oregon, and it is well if the whole valley be praised by all. Let us rejoice together at the advent of this day. Let us get together and work. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder in the great work of development which is just begun. Let us exert ourselves in season and out of season to bring to the knowledge of the world the infinite resources of Josephine County. Let there be no one to pull back, but ever moving onward we are bound to win.

I thank you for the opportunity of saying these few words, which I assure you come from my heart, but which are expressed on the impulse of the moment.

**Remarks of Judge Jewell.**  
The next speaker was Judge Stephen Jewell, who said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:  
As the different organizations of Josephine County are represented here at this time, it is fit and proper that the county at large should be represented.

I have always been a strong believer in the doctrine that all things work together for good. But before all things can work together for good, it is very necessary that all things be first put together for that

(Continued on page 4.)

### HURRY UP THE 50,000 JOSEPHINE COUNTY BOOKLET

We Are Very Late With the \$5,000 Fund to Advertise this City and County and the Golden Opportunity Is Slipping Away.

Committees of the Commercial Club are at work endeavoring to complete the necessary subscriptions of \$5000 to carry forward the advertising campaign for this year which is one of the most important in the history of Josephine county. We need the 50,000 booklets at once which it is proposed to issue in the interest of the whole county and should have been printed at last 30 days ago.

It is now very important that the balance of the \$5000 be raised without an hour's delay beyond what is absolutely necessary.

The booklets will contain 64 pages and the matter will be a full showing of the resources of the county, covering ranches, fruit farms, small fruits, vineyards, irrigation, placer and quartz mining, our timber and lumber interests, besides a chapter on game as well as the finest fishing in the world.

The publication of this booklet will be under the general direction of the Commercial Club, but the writing will be by specialists who will cover the various topics assigned them from an actual knowledge of the subject in hand.

If the miners and farmers of the county and the business men of all our towns will be liberal in their contributions the necessary money will be raised in a few days. This matter is so important to all our interests that we must each and

every one do all in our power to complete the subscription list as soon as possible. What we need is new men to come into this country to help us in the great work of development. This will reduce our taxation, increase the value of our individual holdings and make this the leading fruit county in the state.

The work before us to be accomplished by the advertising campaign this year, to put it short, is to bring men with capital into this county to clear up our stump and brush lands and plant them to apples, pears and grapes; to open our mines which are rich in gold and copper and will warrant the investment of the capital necessary to develop them. This being the year of the great Alaska-Yukon and Pacific Exposition hundreds of thousands will be in attendance there and if they know before hand that there is such a place as Josephine County with its opportunities to make fortunes and homes it is safe to say that thousands of them will buy excursion tickets from the east so as to take in Grants Pass either going or coming.

This is certainly the year to advertise our resources with the one end in view and that is to bring to us hundreds of new settlers with their energy and wealth. Let us not keep our light hid under a bushel, but place it before the world that all may see this, the lap of health, sunshine and opportunity.

### "EAR MARKS OF FORGERY"

Under the above heading two newspapers of Grants Pass last week published statements of libelous nature regarding W. K. Merrill, of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company. Among other libelous statements it was intimated that the names of two Medford physicians on the list of protest against the granting of a franchise to the new telephone company at Medford were forged. One of these physicians has repudiated the "ear marks of forgery" by the following statement in the Medford Tribune of yesterday:

**To the Public:**  
Relative to my name appearing on a certain remonstrance against the Citizens Telephone Company establishing a service in the city, will say my signature was authorized by an intimate friend of mine who presumed that I would be of the same mind and opinion that he is; but I wish to say again that I did not sign the remonstrance and am in favor of a home telephone system. And by investigation I have found out, conclusively, that my name was not forged by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, or any of their representatives or agents.  
Dr. E. R. SEELY.

### THE TOLEDO HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY

Stock That Is All Water Given Free By Way of Bonus—Plan of Operation.

(From the News-Bee, Toledo, Ohio.)

That story about the Toledo Home Telephone Company increasing the dividends of its common stock from 5 to 6 per cent. will make mighty interesting reading for the people of Toledo, who have to foot the bills. When this company first saw the light of day it got a franchise from the probate court, and the promoters themselves fixed the rates in that franchise that should be charged for 'phone service. Their argument in favor of the franchise was that an independent company would insure competition and result in lower rates for telephones. That sounded good at the time. But franchise grabbers generally do carry a fine line of smooth conversation to spread out before the public when they want special privileges. And the Home Telephone promoters were not a bit shy of this particular kind of salve.

After they got their franchise, however, and had worked up quite a business, there was a sudden change of tune. Patrons found that when their three-year contract expired, the company had boosted the price. And the people of Toledo

are paying that boosted price now. There was another fine exhibition of smooth conversation. We were told that the more telephones you operate the more it costs, etc., etc., etc. Particularly the etc., and all of us had to dig down for the boosted price.

The plain truth about it is that the promoters wanted the money and knew how to get it. To begin with, the promoters controlled both the telephone company and the construction company. As the telephone company, they contracted with themselves to pay themselves 15 per cent. on construction. That is, for every dollar they spent as the telephone company, they made 15 per cent. profit as the construction company. Then they floated the bonds at 87½ with 100 per cent. stock bonus. That means that every person who bought a \$100 bond and paid \$87.50 for it was given \$100 of stock, par value, as a bonus. And every dollar of the stock was water.

We don't know how much the plant cost, but a bond issue of \$2,500,000 was authorized, and a stock issue of the same amount. If all the bonds and stock have been issued there is a capital liability of \$5,000,000. First the people must pay enough in telephone rental to pay the operating expenses. Then enough to pay interest on the bonds; and after that enough to pay dividends on the stock. The moment the company can drag enough money

(Continued on page 5.)

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