

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1909.

NO. 49

BIG REALTY DEALS DURING THE WEEK

Farm Property Is in Active Demand.

IRRIGATION THE INCENTIVE

A List of Sales Made by Some of Our Leading Real Estate Dealers.

Since the inauguration of the big irrigation project which will supply to this part of the country the only thing which nature has failed to supply, water in abundance, our fruit growers are jubilant. Outside capital, which has been looking this way for sometime for good investment, has begun to take definite steps in procuring some of the best and most available fruit lands. The most pessimistic can not deny the fact that a new era is at hand for this country and it is easy to predict that in ten years from now we will lead in the growing of apples, pears and grapes. Among the large properties which changed hands last week was the Herman & Flynn farm of 240 acres. The purchasers were Alex G. Hood and W. L. Hood, of Kellogg, Sonoma County, Cal. The price was \$30,000 and the new owners propose to plant the tract to commercial apples. H. L. Herzinger and Thomas Galvin, the real estate men, promoted the deal. They also sold a fine tract recently to W. G. King, of Butte, Mont., which was previously owned by J. W. Smith. Mr. King will also plant to apples and pears. Consideration \$30,000.

Best-Fuller Company.

This firm have made the following sales since our last issue:

J. C. Williams, of Grass Valley, Oregon, bought from R. R. Atkin 13 acres within the city limits on River Road. The consideration being \$3,400. This is the old Nash place.

Michael McDermott, of Tekoa, Wash., bought from John B. Boese 160 acres two miles west of town. Consideration \$900.

Mrs. M. Cheetam bought of J. M. Eubanks some acreage on Tenth street at \$250 an acre.

Dr. S. Loughbridge bought from A. H. Bronson 49 acres on the river bottom at \$135 an acre.

There was also a sale by the same firm of eight lots on Iowa street in the Nelson addition. Consideration not reported.

G. H. Carner bought from Sullivan & Mottram the 700 acres known as the Miller farm, two and a half miles from city. This is one of the best places in the valley below town. There is a very valuable orchard of 60 acres on the property and this alone would bring in the market a good share of the purchase price, which was \$27,000.

John T. Brochers sold to George C. Sabin 80 acres four miles south-

west of town, near Jerome Prairie. Price \$1750.

Joseph Moss, sold the following sales during the week:

Five lots in block 45, original townsite; by Cecilia Gamble to M. F. Coberth. Consideration \$1000. Mr. Coberth is at present in Eastern Oregon, but intends to move here and erect a handsome residence on the property for himself and also for rent.

John Dann to Lucile McCroskey, two lots in block 10, H. B. Miller & Co. addition. Consideration \$150. Will put up houses for rent on the property.

John H. Williams et al to Alfred R. Williams, of Woodville, lot 6, block 55, in addition to Railway addition. Consideration \$75.

Churchill-Riggs Land Company.

For week ending March 6, 1909. 40 acres in Fruitdale belonging to W. S. Coutant, sold to H. L. Gilkey, J. G. Riggs, E. L. Churchill and J. T. Fry. Consideration \$2000. 40 acres in Fruitdale, August Fetsch and others to Joseph Harper. Consideration \$1400.

5 acres on East Iowa street, L. B. Hall to E. S. Van Dyke. Consideration \$1500.

Terrible Accident.

One of those shocking events which from time to time disturb a community happened at Galice last Sunday night. Barnett A. Pollock, an employe of the Harvey placer mine, had the night shift and was on duty piping. At the time he was alone, the balance of the night force being temporarily in another part of the mine, and on their return they found the bank had caved and that Pollock had been caught beneath it and smothered, though the dirt was away from his head and face. It was quite plain to be seen that the giant which he was operating had washed the earth away from his head after his death. The body was removed and an inquest held, the jury finding that death was accidental.

Eclus Pollock, his cousin, went down Monday morning and brought the body to this city, and on Tuesday the funeral was held, Rev. F. C. Lovett officiating. The interment took place at Pleasant Valley cemetery.

Barnett A. Pollock came to this country with his parents when he was a child. At the time of his death he was in his 47th year. Three years ago his wife died, leaving him the care of eight children. The oldest were a pair of twins, a girl and a boy, now in their 19th year. The youngest child is 5 or 6 years old, and this, with one or two others, is at the Pollock home in this city, living with their grandmother.

This is one of the saddest events we have had to record for a long time.

New Ditch Machinery.

The big grader ordered by the irrigation company has arrived and will be taken out to the point where the work is going on below the dam. This is a fine machine and is warranted to do first-class work. The company will order another machine in a few days. Every modern tool used in ditch construction will be procured in order to do fast work and in the best manner.

GOVERNMENT'S BIG LAND SUIT

To Recover Holdings of Southern Pacific.

DEFENDANT'S DEMURRER

If the Courts Sustain the Railroad's Contention This Will End Suit.

The long talked of suit by the government to recover lands from the Southern Pacific railroad company was inaugurated in the United States Court at Portland on Monday. This is one of the most important legal controversies which has ever come up in the Federal courts within the State of Oregon. The title to no less than 2,000,000 acres is involved in the suit and while it is important that the case be settled in order that this vast body of land may be put on the market, sold and improved.

The government is represented in the case by Tracy C. Becker, and the Harriman interest by W. W. Cotton and other noted lawyers. The case came up on a demurrer by the railroad company to the complaint, and if it is sustained the government will have lost its case and the company will be entitled to go on and sell the lands. The question at issue goes back to law of Congress passed in 1866, granting to the Oregon & California railroad each alternate section for a distance of twenty miles on either side of the road, and this land was to be sold to actual settlers at not to exceed \$2.50 per acre. The government's contention is that the company violated the terms of the act by which they came into possession of this vast domain and sold it in many instances as high as \$7 an acre, and at a later date, taking the lands off the market, presumably to secure to themselves the enhancement in value. Some of these lands have become very valuable. Those in the immediate vicinity of Grants Pass would at this time sell at \$100 an acre and near other towns along the line for a like sum. The weak side of the government case is the supplementary cases which includes a hundred or more private parties who purchased some of these lands. To the layman it would look as if these supplementary cases should not come into question at this time as they have the opportunity to plead that they are innocent holders. These suits serve at least to complicate the question and delay the final decision. What the people want is a settlement of the case so that the lands may become taxable and pay their share of the expense of government.

The inauguration of President-elect William H. Taft took place in Washington, at the capitol, on Thursday at 12:30 p. m., amid the greatest throng that has ever visited the city of Washington for many years. Every preparation had been made for the proceedings to take place in front of the capitol where thousands of people expected to witness the ceremony, but the dreaching rain and howling blasts compelled the officials to repair to the Senate chamber. Chief Justice Fuller administered the oath of office to the President-elect, who repeated the oath after the white-haired justice, after which he kissed the Bible which was carried in the arms of the clerk of the Supreme Court.

WILLIAM H. TAFT IS NOW PRESIDENT

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The "Square Deal" Poultry Yard. In name and in fact. In buying stock or eggs from me you will get a "square deal" in every case. I have the real thing in Barred Rocks. JOHN SUMMERS.

GRANTS PASS TO HAVE A MODERN TELEPHONE SYSTEM

One Big Gang Wiring Houses--One Preparing Poles for Erection--Local Men Employed--Big Payroll Assured.

Yesterday the Pacific Telephone Company commenced actual reconstruction work on their system in this city, which should have a tendency to set aside the pessimists statements that the report that this work would be done at once was only a bluff. To be sure, the report has been current for some time that this work would be done, but many people do not take into consideration that a large company like the Pacific Telephone Company have much work of a similar nature on their hands and that it takes time to reach all of them and they have been preparing for it and for the last month or six weeks. There have been men at work in this city getting things in shape and changing over their telegraph service to accommodate the change that was necessary in the local office before the central energy system could be installed.

Last Friday the first shipment of material for the new central energy system arrived in this city and following that came some of the expert employes of the company to get this material in shape for actual work. Monday a carload of poles arrived and there are five more on the road.

Much of the labor to be employed on this work will be local, giving many of the unemployed of this city steady work for several months at good wages. This means much to the city of Grants Pass at the present time and will materially assist in the prosperity of the community, for a good healthy payroll means much to a city. The company is to be commended for taking this fact into consideration and yesterday they took all help that made application. They had no sooner announced that they

needed men before the superintendent of construction was busy signing men.

With the new poles that will be put in they will not all be used on the reconstruction but many of them will be used in reaching out into territories of the city that have not heretofore been covered by the company. It is the intention of the company to so reconstruct their lines in this city that they will be adequate for the growth of the city for several years to come, and the stability of the plant that they are installing shows that they have faith in the growth of Grants Pass. One of the principal aims of the company is to take care of the future development of the city.

Aside from this another gang of men that are rewiring the houses, they have already started in on their work. This rewiring is preparatory to the installation of the new phones. There will be no interruption in the service during this work, for condensers will be put in the old telephones so that they can be worked with the new switch board that will be installed while the cable is being strung and the new style telephones put in. A shipment of the new phones arrived today and will be on exhibition in the various stores.

The new switch board which is now being constructed is the master work of telephone art and will be one of the most modern on the coast. It is the modern common battery multiple switch board, divided into sections and so constructed that each operator can reach all subscribers, instead of having to "plug in" and calling another operator. This will necessitate the employment of extra operators in the central office.

(Continued on Page Six)

WORK ON CANAL HAS COMMENCED

Work in Progress Both Sides of the River.

DOUBLE FORCE MONDAY

Ditch Construction Will Be Pushed as fast as Men and Teams Can Do the Work.

Irrigation seems to hold the middle of the road with all classes in Grants Pass and the surrounding country. What looked to be in the far distance only a little while ago has come very near to us all since actual work on the big canals on both sides of the river has been commenced. We all begin to realize what can be accomplished by well directed energy and expenditure of money. Construction work on the 200-foot canal on the north side is going forward without delay. The force is composed of both men and teams; more teams, it is said, are needed, but they have been engaged and will go to work next Monday. Manager G. H. Carner has been a very busy man during the entire week as everything had to be assembled, men, teams, machinery and tools of all kinds. Nothing has been allowed to lag, however, for want of attention. It can now be said the work on the north side of the river is going along quite well and even better than was expected as it has been found that the course of the ditch does not lead through as much rock as anticipated and the result is Mr. Carner is rejoicing over the good fortune as the work will be done at much less cost than it was figured in the beginning. From this on, the north side ditch will be pushed by a big force of men and teams. The work on the south side has been commenced. The survey on the 350-foot contour canal has been run from the dam to a point above the school house at Fruitdale and for several days a force of a dozen axe and brush men have been doing construction work. This has produced no little enthusiasm throughout the entire neighborhood.

FRUITDALE.

The school had a group picture taken one day last week.

Ruth Huck is quite sick with the measles.

The Fruitdale telephone company has extended its line to E. E. Blanchard's farm in the southern part of Fruitdale, where Hiram Reynolds lives. Their phone number is 81X2.

E. H. Wise is doing a lot of improving around his place. He has torn down the old barn and is putting up a lot of Page wire fence along the road, where he has torn down the old rail fence and grubbed out all the brush. In his field on the east side of the road he has also done a lot of clearing, which is a great improvement.

Fruitdale is rejoicing over the fact that there are five surveyors at work on the 350-foot contour canal and 12 men working clearing brush from the right of way.

Mrs. Henry Huck is suffering from a severely sprained ankle. Dr. Smith is attending it.

Mrs. Chas. King, of Ashland, who was a resident of Fruitdale several years ago, is visiting at the Alonzo Jones home. Mrs. King says she sees a great many changes and improvements in the community.

There was a fine attendance at the service last Sunday afternoon, at which time Evangelist Thuesler gave a very interesting Bible talk.

Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Ida Swacker attended service here last Sunday afternoon and Mrs. Walker favored us with a beautiful solo.

W. E. Sturtevant attended service here last Sunday.

It is expected that Captain Lyman, of the Salvation Army, will preach here on Sunday afternoon, March 14.

Planet Jr. Garden Tools at Hair Riddle Hardware Co.

The Grange meeting last Saturday was well attended. A very interesting business session was held in the forenoon, at which time a number of topics of especial interest to Fruitdale were discussed. Several new members were initiated and Niram Reynolds, formerly of Dimick Grange, who now lives on E. E. Blanchard's farm, transferred his membership to this grange. At noon a bountiful dinner was served, after which everyone looked so smiling and good natured, that Mrs. Wise improved the opportunity and requesting everyone to step outside the door, she took a picture of the crowd. At the afternoon session, Mrs. Parham and Mrs. T. Cook, of Dimick Grange were present, also a number of Fruitdale friends. After attending to a few business matters the following officers were installed for the ensuing year, Mrs. Parham acting as installing officer: H. C. Bateham, worthy master; G. A. Hamilton, overseer; Mrs. W. S. Coutant, lecturer; E. H. Wise, steward; Mrs. F. A. Clements, chaplain; John Stanbrough, treasurer; Mrs. G. A. Hamilton, secretary; F. A. Clements, gatekeeper; Mrs. John Stanbrough, Ceres; Mrs. H. Huck, Pomona; Mrs. F. Brietmeyer, Flora; Mrs. E. H. Wise, lady steward. After this ceremony, which was very impressive, a good patriotic program was given. Milton Huck recited "The Panic in Africa," caused by the intended hunt. Walter Hamilton read a very good paper on the History of the Hatchet. H. C. Bateham gave a talk on "The Cherry Tree," not the Washington cherry tree, but the modern Oregon cherry tree and its care. Wm. Byrne also gave a short talk on his experience with cherries. He has raised cherries for years and said that he had never had a failure in the May Duke cherries. Mrs. Henry Huck read a selection on the life of Abraham Lincoln and Mrs. E. H. Wise gave a character sketch of Washington. All joined in singing America for the closing number. The question of the most convenient time to hold the meetings during the spring and summer was discussed and voted upon. Evening being the time chosen by a large majority vote.

The Co-operative Organizes.

On Monday evening the stockholders of the Grants Pass Rochdale Co. met at the Court House and completed their organization, electing as directors Marcus W. Robbins, W. G. Burt, Ed Lister, E. V. Smith and W. T. Perry. The directors met at the office of M. W. Robbins Thursday evening, and upon refusal of Mr. Lister to qualify for the office of director, elected Ed H. Allen, of the box factory, to fill the vacancy. The directors then elected the following officers for the following year: Marcus W. Robbins, president; Ed H. Allen, vice-president; W. T. Perry, secretary; and the Grants Pass Banking & Trust Co. as treasurer for the company.

A High-Class Production.

"The Burgomaster," one of the greatest musical comedies before the footlights, will be given at the Grants Pass opera house next Tuesday night. This really wonderful production should be seen by every person who appreciates theatricals of a high order, and if we want good plays to come here in the future, our citizens should show their appreciation of this beautiful musical comedy.

To secure "The Burgomaster" H. C. Kinney, manager of the opera house has gone to considerable expense, and unless the attendance is sufficient to pay the outlay we can hardly expect him to continue to bring high-class productions. In a town like Grants Pass good plays should be patronized liberally.

The Club Banquet.

The Commercial Club banquet will take place at the skating rink on the evening of March 12. This is one of the great events of the year in Grants Pass and everybody should be represented on this occasion. The tickets will be \$3 a plate and they should be secured on or before Monday evening, the 8th. Leave your order at Sabin's drug store or at Churchill-Riggs Land Co. The object of the banquet is to raise money for the Commercial Club and to get in line so as to be of service in the upbuilding of Josephine county. Do not forget the date--Friday evening, the 12th.

Out new goods have commenced to arrive

THIS WEEK WE RECEIVED

NEW CARPETS
NEW ART SQUARES
NEW WALL PAPER
NEW GO CARTS

See these goods before purchasing

We will continue to sell our last year's stock of Wall Paper at 25 per cent off for a short time.

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