

Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXV. GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1909. NO. 2

CANAL BUILDING MAKING HEADWAY

COULD FURNISH WATER FOR IRRIGATION IN 10 DAYS

THE GREAT ROAD KING

Twenty-Five Miles of Right of Way Cleared and Construction Is Being Pushed.

Since last week there has been a large amount of construction work done at several points on the ditches. If you would like to get a satisfactory glimpse of a line that is nearly completed from a point near the dam, around Jones creek, on across Tokay Heights and on to a point nearly to the county home take a drive out A street way and you will be astonished with what has been done on the 200-foot ditch. If it were important to have it completed ten days would suffice to put the water on all the land up to the point mentioned. A greater part of this work has been done with the grader and the heavy teams. You can find not a few persons who have only a hazy idea as to the work which is going on and we opine that they will be greatly surprised when they read this article. There are 24 horses in the service at the present time and ten more will be added on Monday morning. There are 60 men at work and they are doing all they possibly can every hour in the day. The new ditch digger the "Road King," is doing most excellent service. It is a wonderful machine and appears to possess a really high degree of intelligence. The "Road King" is now working on the 200-foot contour between Jones creek and a point near the dam. Next Monday a strong force will be put on the hydraulic workers under Dan Green.

This latter force still keeps up the night and day shift and is cutting a channel through the bank to a depth in places of 10 and 11 feet. The work on the Fruitdale line is going along fairly satisfactory, but the place where they are working is on a steep hillside just below the dam. Grading machines cannot at present be used on that ditch as the hill along which the canal line goes is too steep for teams so it is mostly hand work, but as soon as they get around the point teams and graders can be put on. Twenty-five miles of right of way has been cleared and no more work will be done in that line before the construction force catches up with the clearing gang. If you chance to find any doubting Thomases, men who think we will not have irrigation this year, take them out and show them what Superintendent Carner and his numerous gangs are doing. They will not only come back believers, but they will be admirers of construction in use all along the line.

In addition to work already mentioned, Mr. Ament has ordered the 4,000 feet of pipe to bring the water across the river from the pump to the upper end of the 350-foot level line on the Fruitdale side.

PROF O'GARA'S TALK AT COMMERCIAL CLUB

A Large Gathering of Josephine County Fruit Growers on Thursday Afternoon.

Professor O'Gara made an interesting talk on the subject of Frost Protection to a large and deeply interested audience at the Commercial Club on Thursday afternoon. He spoke at great length and answered many questions of the fruit growers.

At the close of his speech Secretary Thomas of the Fruit Growers Exchange made a motion that a vote of thanks be tendered the professor for his learned, timely and most excellent address and at the same time Secretary Blanchard, of the Commercial Club, presented the following resolution. Both the motion and the resolution were carried by a unanimous vote.

Whereas, the people of Josephine county are setting out a large acreage of apples, pears, and

Whereas, large numbers of people from the East are settling about Grants Pass and entering the fruit business, and are undirected in combating pests and other dangers to the fruit crop, therefore be it

Resolved, that we request Prof. O'Gara to give us a day or two each week, or as much time as he can spare to assist us in reaching the results of which the locality, the soil and the climate are susceptible, thereby creating more interest in the industry and awakening public sentiment to the great possibilities of this locality.

Professor O'Gara stated that he would be pleased to be with us a considerable time in the near future and do what he could to assist our fruit growers in successfully combating the pest which threatened our fruit crop. He also thanked the meeting for their kindly interest in the subjects he had discussed.

R. L. ABELL MEETS DEATH AT MERLIN

R. L. Abell was accidentally killed at Merlin Tuesday, but as there were no witnesses it is impossible to state just how the accident occurred. Abell, a young man of about 25 years, was employed by Mrs. Alice Bacon driving team, and it is thought the team became frightened and threw him off the load of wood he was hauling. One mason wheel passed over his neck and probably killed him instantly. The first known of the accident was when two men found the team tangled up with a tree and they saw at once that there had been a runaway and went to find the driver.

Abell was a single man and leaves a father and several brothers.

See Coron-Booth Hardware Company before you buy your lawn mowers and garden tools. 2-26-09

BRIDGE OF SIGHTS IT MAY BE TO US

WHO BUILDS A BRIDGE LEAVES HOPE BEHIND.

NOW THREE MONTHS BEHIND

Tax Payers Are Uneasy and Old Bridge Is Dangerous—New Structure Needed Now.

The Courier has received quite a number of inquiries from taxpayers of the county regarding the Rogue river bridge at the foot of Sixth street. As to the amount it was to cost, when it is to be completed and when the payments are to be made. In answer to these inquiries we prefer to commence at the beginning and print the contract between the County of Josephine and the bridge builders, which is as follows:

This agreement, made in duplicate this 4th day of September, A. D., 1908, by and between P. S. East-erday, C. W. Smith and A. E. Eberhart under the firm name of Columbia Bridge company, of Walla Walla, Washington, of the first part, and the County Court in and for Josephine County, State of Oregon, of the second part.

Witnesseth, that said first party hereby agrees to furnish all materials and labor and to construct and complete ready for travel the sub and super structures, except backing and earth fills or grading, for a steel bridge over the Rogue River at or near Grants Pass in said county and state; said bridge to be 450 feet long extreme length; to be built in 2 spans of 180 feet pin center length, 1 span of 90 feet pin center length.

Bridge to have a roadway of 20 feet between end posts, all to be constructed according to plans and specifications hereto attached, which are hereby made a part of this contract, and show and specify all the materials to be furnished and work to be performed under this agreement, and for the consideration hereinafter mentioned.

Note Payments to be made as follows: Four thousand five hundred dollars on delivery of materials for the substructure, \$4500 on completion of substructures, \$9492 on delivery of materials for superstructure, \$9492 on completion of bridge.

The substructure shall consist of steel tubular piers and shall be built by said first party ready for the erection of the superstructure and the said first party agrees to have the entire structure completed ready for travel on or before January 1, 1909.

The second party agrees to furnish all necessary grade and line stakes for the location of the substructure, and to provide free use of sufficient ground for placing and handling material, adjacent and convenient to the bridge site. Also to inspect and pass upon the material within five days after receiving notice of delivery at R. R. station, and to inspect and pass upon the completed work promptly upon receiving notice from the company's foreman; and in consideration of the materials to be furnished and labor performed by said first party, the said second party agrees to pay to said first party, the sum of twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and eighty four dollars (\$27984.00) in the following manner, to wit: see note above. And in order to make payments promptly when due the second party agrees to arrange accordingly when bills have been presented in advance of meeting. It being understood and agreed that payments so issued are not to be made until after delivery or completion with inspection as above specified.

Payments on this contract to be made only to authorized representatives of the Columbia Bridge Company.

The party of the second part designates M. A. Wertz to act as inspector and representative in charge for said second party at all times

and second party is not in official session.

The party of the first part is not to be held responsible for delays in transit or from strikes or the action of the elements, nor from any circumstances beyond their control, and for such delays proper extension of time shall be made. And for the performance of each and every article of this agreement the said parties hereby bind themselves by these presents.

COLUMBIA BRIDGE COMPANY, By A. E. Eberhart, Josephine County, Oregon.

By Stephen Jewell, County Judge; M. A. Wertz, Commissioner; H. S. Woodcock, Commissioner, second party. (County Seal.) Attest: S. F. Cheshire, County Clerk.

On this contract there has been two payments in county warrants, one of \$4500 and the other of \$9412. The company has had a good deal of bad luck during the past winter in trying to build a bridge, and while they are entitled to some sympathy it is to be hoped that the county court will protect the tax payers from any loss that might possibly occur.

The Courier has felt no little alarm from almost the very first as the bridge builders failed to commence the work before the contract specifies that it should have been completed. There appeared to be an utter disregard of the elements and for a time the work went on at a great loss to the builders. The high water carried out two of the piers and a considerable amount of material to be used in the structure. Up to the present time little or no work necessary for the construction of the bridge has been accomplished. The delays have been from week to week, month to month, and are still going on. There is an ancient adage which holds as good today among business men as it did a thousand years ago, and that is, "delays are dangerous."

This contract, as will be seen, was entered into September 4, 1908, seven months ago. The present structure was considered dangerous and it was the general opinion that the new bridge should be completed early this year, certainly before the heavy teaming commenced, and yet, judging the future by the past, the probabilities are far from assuring that we will have a bridge even in a year from the time the contract was entered into. Again we call the attention of the court to this highly important matter.

Jury List.

The following is the list of jurors drawn for the next term of court: J. C. Dyser, Wolf Creek. Willard Chase, Grants Pass. Sam T. Call, Galice. W. H. Fallin, Grants Pass. J. T. Chausse, Grants Pass. S. A. Carter, Kerby. T. G. Burrows, Kerby. Charles Berglund, Leland. W. H. Pattillo, Grants Pass. J. F. Galbraith, Grants Pass. O. P. Harvey, Grants Pass. Thomas Overton, Merlin. Josiah Rhoads, Selma. H. C. Bateham, Grants Pass. George H. Griffin, Grants Pass. A. Jones, Grants Pass. N. E. Osborn, Murphy. N. A. Pyle, Grants Pass. Sam Egger, Waldo. T. E. McKoin, Grants Pass. Sam Howlet, Grants Pass. J. A. Hubbard, Grants Pass. J. W. Leith, Murphy. Fred Smith, Grants Pass. T. B. Elliott, Grants Pass. Ed. Friday, Galice. I. L. Jewell, Grants Pass. Charles Burkhalter, Grants Pass. George Altpeter, Grants Pass. A. L. Fryer, Grants Pass. R. H. O'Neil, Grants Pass.

Occupy New Quarters Wednesday.

The Commercial Club will move into their new quarters Tuesday and will have the new home in order without delay. It will be made a popular resort and a place to entertain strangers as well as visiting friends. The club will be conducted on modern lines and everything will be up to date.

Miss Elnora Ripley, of Eureka, Cal., arrived here Thursday and is seeking a position as bookkeeper, having had an extensive experience in that capacity.

WANTS ONE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

COMMITTEES FROM ALL PUBLIC BODIES APPOINTED

SPENT \$4000 INVESTIGATING

Indianapolis Telephone Patrons Want and Demand Consolidation.

(From Public Service, Chicago, April, 1909.)

Business men of Indianapolis are engaged in a campaign for unification of the telephone service of that city. A joint civic committee comprising representatives of the Board of Trade, Commercial Club and Merchants' Association has framed a communication to the city council demanding that full consideration be given to the offer of the Central Union Telephone Company for consolidation, before any action be taken toward granting the request of the Indianapolis Telephone Company for permission to increase its rates.

The delegations which made up the civic committee were appointed by their respective bodies at the request of the mayor, and spent several months in consideration of the telephone situation. The best disinterested expert talent obtainable was engaged and the committee expended \$4,000 in making its investigation. In its report the committee says in part:

"We believe that the ideal telephone condition is that in which the telephone service is controlled by one company, which will fully develop the field in which it operates and furnish service at reasonable rates. If this condition could be brought about here, it should be accomplished in such a manner as to insure to the public the best possible service at the lowest practical rates, with the assurance of connections with all telephone service of any or all companies located outside of the city of Indianapolis.

"We believe that it is of vital importance to the city of Indianapolis that the consolidation be brought about at this time when the Central Union Telephone Company is willing to accept a new franchise, regulating it as to rates, service, etc., rather than to increase rates and wait, until the time, when in our opinion, we will have one telephone company without regulation.

"We feel that if any increase of rates is granted the New Telephone company at this time, it will only be a burden that will have to be borne by the citizens in a large way later on.

"The city is under no moral or legal obligation to compel the users of the new telephone to pay higher rates since the city can now get telephone service from one company at reasonable rates and under proper regulations, and the owners of the New Telephone Company can now secure for their property all it is worth."

TO BEAUTIFY THE RAILROAD GROUNDS

One of the features that make the beauty of California linger long in the memory of every traveler, no matter how transient, is her artistic railroad parks. The merest hamlet will, in most cases, present to the waylaid traveler a refreshing patch of green lawn bordered with palms and bright rose blossoms. A half hour spent in waiting for trains instead of being a tiresome hardship becomes a real rest, leaving in the mind a feeling of gratitude and of respect for such citizens as have cared enough for their home town to want to make it a pleasure to strangers as well as themselves. It shows not only a self-respecting community, it shows a progressive one. Oregon, lying so close to California, offers unusual opportunities for

comparisons and the average traveler is quick to note them. The more need that those comparisons be not unfavorable to our own state. We are close enough to the border line of the two states for the favorable impressions concerning California to be still fresh in the mind of the north bound traveler and consequently comparisons will appeal to him the more forcibly.

That the citizens of Grants Pass realize this, and that they are both self respecting and progressive is evident from the way they are waking up to the importance and need of such railroad parks in our town. We have long been ashamed of the surroundings of our depot, but this season is to see the last of that.

Lying on each side of Sixth street on each side of the track is the ground which has already been plowed and leveled for the making of a park as beautiful as any of California's. Trees of many varieties are being planted this week. Maples, elms, umbrella, the new Burbank walnuts will, in a short time, give the much needed shade about the depot. Flower beds, walks, artificial lily ponds are all included in the plans for making this place a landscape garden of real beauty.

Not many Oregon towns have as yet taken these steps, though several are planning them, and Eugene has already made herself conspicuous by her elaborate and artistic efforts.

There is little doubt what the effect such will have on the future of Grants Pass. The first impression of strangers as they see such evidence of beauty and thrift about the depot will be strong in our favor, putting them immediately in the ideal attitude for the further successful efforts of our real estate experts. Such a park gives the boosters in their advertising another convincing argument for the surpassing attractiveness of Grants Pass; it once and for all does away with unfavorable comparison with our neighbors; it proves beyond a doubt that Grants Pass citizens are twentieth century models of push and enterprise, as well as enthusiastic lovers of the beautiful and that to live in Grants Pass is to ally oneself with the spirit of progress.

Though it is the Ladies' Auxiliary that are carrying out these plans they are acting for the citizens. It is the citizens' enterprise, and it is they who will enjoy the fruits thereof and who must take the greatest pride in it. It is the sincere wish of the Auxiliary that the citizens will feel this and will show it by timely suggestions and interest.

Unless something unforeseen occurs, these plans for the park will be carried out this season and we shall then have depot grounds to be proud of.

NEW TELEPHONE SOON TO OPERATE

The Citizens' Telephone company expects to have its telephone system in operation in Medford within 90 days from this date. The needed material has all been ordered from the east and will be gotten here just as quickly as trains can bring it. Seven hundred cedar poles for Medford alone have been ordered from Idaho. These are to be the best posts procurable on the Pacific coast. The poles set on Main street will be 45 feet high and but one crossarm will be on a pole, and this at the extreme top. The poles will be seven inches across at the top, will be peeled and painted white, and—say, gee, won't that look good. Some "class" about telephone poles of that class. The company has not as yet selected a site for their central station. Two sites are under consideration, and the one which will appear to be the nearest the center of their business will be the one decided upon.—Mail.

Declamatory Contest.

The first contest in the series of declamatory contests is to be held tonight in the High School room in the Primary Division, Grammar grades and the High School. A medal will be awarded in each division.

On Tuesday of next week a similar contest will be held at the same place in Medford. The contests will be in the Primary and Intermediate A and Intermediate B.

Our 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.