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WEALTH OF THE GALICE DISTRICT

JUDGE JEWELL TELLS OF MINES AND PROSPECTS

VALUES IN THE ALMEDA

An Interesting Discussion in Which the Present and the Future Is Discussed.

Judge Stephen Jewell, who holds the high and responsible position of judge of Josephine county, in an interview with a representative of the Rogue River Courier spoke of a visit of the members of the Commercial Club to Galice last summer and the importance of such visits to all parts of the county by the leading business men of Grants Pass. He gave it as his opinion that such trips would be very much appreciated by those who had occasion to travel. He said the road to Galice was by no means the worst in the county and yet it badly needed improving in many places. He thought it an important thing to improve that road as it would assist in developing the numerous mines in the camp. From the time of his first visit to Galice many years ago he said he had been impressed with the values of both the placer and quartz mines of the district, but his visit last summer with the Commercial Club excursion gave him an opportunity to gain an accurate knowledge of the real wealth of the district. Quoting his own words, he spoke as follows:

"Of course, those who have known me for years know what I have said and written on the subject in the past, but as many strangers are coming into our country, I take it as a pleasure to say what I know of the present and what I think of the future.

"The various mines are entitled to greater space than the Courier would likely permit, and yet I must mention a number of these. The Almeda, the Gold Road, the Old Channel, the Oriole, the Rocky Gulch, the Galice Consolidated, the Sugar Pine and others. The Almeda will do for an illustration. It has been opened in a manner that does credit to the management of this really wonderful mine. Great ore bodies have been blocked out for thousands of feet, ready for the time when railroad transportation will enable the company to market the ore or bring the necessary coke to do the smelting at the mine. Whenever that day comes the Almeda will take its place as one of the great producing mines of the Pacific Coast. There are other properties of great promise in the Galice district also deserving of notice.

"I have been pretty well acquainted with the Galice country for some years, but never made a personal visit to all of the prominent mines

until the recent pilgrimage of Grants Pass business men, which has already been mentioned. While our time was somewhat limited on that occasion, we, nevertheless, made a tolerably thorough examination of the properties named above. All of the best mines are undergoing development and many of them are of great promise, and they are each year adding value to the resources of Josephine county.

"While I don't claim to be a mining expert, I gathered enough information last summer to convince me that the half had never been told. Not only am I satisfied as to the possibilities of this section, but I am enthusiastically in favor of such state and national aid as the importance of the country effected may demand.

"The county court of this county is more than willing to help open up roads into this district. We realize that a bridge must soon be built across Rogue river at Galice, but our resources are light and our burdens very heavy. We are keenly alive to the fact that the mining, timber and agricultural industries of the lower Rogue river will some time in the near future add millions to our assessment rolls."

Five Cases of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria, or something that resembles it, has appeared in town, but the children who have been attacked have in no instance been very sick. Dr. Stricker, the health officer of the city, does not feel certain that it is diphtheria, or if it is, it is of a very mild type. He has sent the throat mucous to the state board of health at Portland for microscopic examination. In the mean time every care is being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. This he regards as the only safe plan, as he says it may be that later the cases will be more marked. Much depends on those who have children and it is important that they look after their health with more than ordinary care and have them examined should throat disease of any kind be manifest. We are glad that the authorities who have the matter in hand have resolved to stamp out the infection no matter what it turns out to be. There have been five cases so far Dr. Stricker said, and the chances are there will be no more. There are people who are always opposed to giving the public any information regarding contagious diseases. The Courier does not think this wise and in proof of this we will mention that on a certain occasion the newspapers refrained from publishing facts regarding the presence of a contagious outbreak in this city and the result was that outside papers learned of it as they always do and published statements claiming there were hundreds of cases in this city and that the authorities were trying to keep the facts from becoming known. Publish these things and then people from near and far will know the exact truth. These things concern the public and the newspapers should publish the truth in regard to it.

When you buy Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes from Calhoun you get more than clothes; satisfaction guaranteed.

The Chapeau for Fine Millinery.

WILL BUILD AN ELECTRIC LINE

FROM GRANTS PASS TO MEDFORD AND ASHLAND

IS IT A JIM HILL MOVE?

Whatever It Is It Will Help This, the Metropolis of Rogue River Valley.

A company has been formed with \$1,500,000 capital, with John R. Allen of the Pacific & Eastern at its head for the ostensible purpose of building an electric line of railroad from Grants Pass through Medford to Ashland. This is a highly important move and Grants Pass will lend the enterprise all the assistance in its power as such a road will do much for the development of the Rogue River valley. It will add greatly to the value of every acre of land in the valley and will do much toward the general improvement of the orchards and farms along the proposed line of road. It will be of great service in marketing fruit and other products, as cars can be loaded at any point along the line. The construction of such a road has been attempted a number of times in the past few years, but the enterprise had fallen through before anything was accomplished. This time there is more behind it and, from present appearances, it looks as if a road will be built. It is learned that John F. Stevens, a noted railroad engineer, will look over the country through which it is proposed to build the line and, it is said, if he gives a favorable opinion, Mr. Allen will go ahead with the work.

Application has already been made to the council of Medford for a city franchise and the same thing will be done in this city it is claimed in the very near future. As soon as the franchises have been secured from all the cities along the proposed line parties will enter the field to secure the right of way the entire distance from Grants Pass to Ashland. This is the all important thing, as such a right of way when once secured will be very valuable and it will add greatly to the prospects for building the road. There are people who see more in this electric road proposition than appears on the surface. They point out the fact that some time ago it was mentioned that the Hill people were behind Mr. Allen in his purchase of the Pacific & Eastern. That gentleman promptly denied the charge, just what it might be expected he would do if the Hill interests were really in control. Here is another pointer. John F. Stevens has long been a Hill man and if he has been employed of late years by any other company it has not been mentioned. The bringing of Mr. Stevens into this deal certainly points strongly toward the conclusion that this is a Hill move. Hill wants to come to Grants Pass.

Just now there is great activity in Crescent City. A California lumber company is buying up everything in the way of land around that city. This points to the fact that a railroad is expected and their knowledge must come from a reliable source or they would not be investing money in such deals. Hill would be glad to get to the coast from Grants Pass as it would give his line a great advantage over any competing line by having exclusively the vast resources of the Illinois valley, consisting of timber, minerals and agricultural products, and again the immense redwood forests on the California side of the mountains. In the light of what has been said, why may not the innocent electric line cover an enterprise of great magnitude such as has been outlined?

The Indoor Carnival.

Over at the Coliseum rink the ladies of St. Luke's guild gave an indoor carnival last Friday night. From the time that Jos. Moss, showman and spieler-in-ordinary, bedecked in loud checks, announced that the side show was open until the last

tamale was eaten, the last weiner disappeared and the last handful of confetti was thrown, the evening was one continuous round of mirth.

The features of the carnival were sufficient in number and varied in style to suit all tastes.

In the German garden Teresa and Katrina kept time with their wooden shoes to the strains of Fiddling Felix, while serving customers with hot weiners, coffee and cheese sandwiches. Doctor Stricker, who looked as though he had just left the dykes of Holland, watched the cash register and tried to talk German at the same time.

The fruit and vegetable display was doubtless good, but the four pretty girls who presided over it, left no room for further admiration in that department.

The gipsy dancing girls enticed crowds within their camp and once there the palmists, card reader and crystal gazer handed out futures until they were paid to stop.

The cider and gingerbread at the country store tasted just like it used to back on the farm, while the sweets of the candy booth and the tamales of the Castilian cafe, the latter served by Spanish senors and senoritas, suited the more fastidious palates.

The musical ability of the individual members of the little German band was a revelation to all their friends. The artistic merits of the program were, however, vested in the Jubilee singers and their numbers were too brief to satisfy their audience. The music and the beauty of the Bohemian singers kept a train of admirers in constant attendance.

But sooner or later all feet turned to the side show. There Ira Blinn, as the prize baby, alternated spasms and smiles for the benefit of the crowds. Lester Coburn as the beautiful Yetta Zook, has a joke on half the men about town, his identity not being suspected in the disguise of an opera coat and picture hat. Miss Huler as Rose, the fat girl, deposited herself with a grace quite befitting excessive adipose.

The information bureau and lost and found department, in charge of Mrs. J. M. Tumes made the carnival street complete.

All in all it was a very enjoyable affair to the patrons and a profitable one to the guild, and if the ladies care to tear off another page out of the same book of amusements next year, we think they will have a house—don't you?

WILLIAMS BROTHERS DISPOSE OF MILL

Williams Brothers last week closed a deal which conveys their fine mill property at Reuben, in the Cow Creek canyon, and some 25,000,000 feet of standing timber tributary, to the Abaqua Lumber Co., of Willbur, Ore., for a consideration of \$43,000. The mill is modern and occupies the only mill site in a territory which is quite extensive. It has a capacity of 3500 to 4000 feet per day.

The Williams Brothers' lumber yards at Central Point have been disposed of to W. A. Moon, who has been in charge of the Central Point business since the first. They now offer their Grants Pass factory and lumber business for sale.

The Williams brothers have been actively and energetically engaged in the lumber business in Grants Pass almost since incorporation of the town and they have had an important part in the growth and development of the city, and they now feel as though they deserved a rest from the more active duties of business.

They Got the "Limit."

Joe Wharton, Fred Cheshire and M. L. Opdycke went quail hunting last Sunday and declare they got the "limit." That is true all right, but it is going to keep us guessing as to just what the "limit" means in this case—no quail in sight. While tramping around the hills Mr. Opdycke discovered a very peculiar fungus growth at the foot of an old oak tree and brought it to town to try and find a name for it and found that it was called "Opdyckitussarefootedness." The gentlemen are very enthusiastic over their trip. Opdycke killed a snipe.

Bulbs make fine house plants. Leave your orders at Cramer Bros.

THE RICH GROUND OF BRIGGS STRIKE

ACRES OF GROUND WILL YIELD \$1 A PAN

PROPERTY BEING WORKED

The Oregon-California Consolidated Mines Company Has Force of Men at Work.

During the past two weeks, Mr. George W. Soranson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mr. W. T. McConnell, of Washington, Indiana, president and vice-president of the Oregon-California Consolidated Mines Company have been here engaged in making an inspection of the mining properties of the company. They were accompanied by Mr. George E. Sanders, of this city, who first induced them to invest in Southern Oregon.

They have informed the Courier that they are particularly well pleased with the showings of the properties and the vast natural resources of Southern Oregon. It will probably interest our readers and especially those engaged in mining, to know that the company with which these gentlemen are associated, is now operating the famous Briggs Gold strike that is still fresh in the memory of most of us; notwithstanding an enforced idleness of three years. In addition to the Briggs property at Goldenview, which is located on the Oregon-California state line, the company has a well-developed property on Sardine Creek near Gold Hill and another property on Forest Creek near Jacksonville, which were visited, as was also Medford and Ashland with the result that Grants Pass was selected as headquarters of the company.

As the Briggs was one of the most remarkable strikes in the history of mining in Southern Oregon, the facts of the find are worth repetition, especially as the property now promises to mean much toward the development of that portion of the country, the wealth of which is now not even guessed at. The people of this country should look after the mineral resources more, even if the land values are phenomenal, and not leave all the plums and rewards for eastern capital. Any one who is energetic and persistent can get a mine in this country, as the forest reserves offer an unmatched rich field, the richness of which is proven beyond a doubt by the fact that placer gold in large or small quantities can be found (not occasionally) but in every gulch. One must expect hardships and being deprived for a time of many pleasures, as that is a part of finding a mine.

The prospector first goes into the lonely hills alone, then follows the mad rush after he has made a rich discovery. The eternal question is where to look—where is an unexplored country today. Outside of the deserts, where no human being can exist for want of water, there is only left one—remarkable as it may seem—the Oregon-California divide, one of the largest unexplored districts in the United States, comprising the Siskiyou Mountains in northern California and Southern Oregon.

Here is a vast solitude of 3000 square miles awaiting the prospector and miner. Unlike most solitudes, this one teems with vegetation and nature is almost the only guardian of its immense wealth. It is in this great wilderness David Briggs and his family, consisting of a wife, two sons and one daughter lived. The family worked and toiled honestly and zealously, gaining a livelihood by days of perseverance and drudgery at ranching and hand slogging in the gulches for gold. Ray Briggs, one of the boys, was the hunter of the family, and to him fell the lot of supplying meat. One early June morning, Ray shouldered his rifle and went after game. He struck a buck trail and followed it up Sucker creek from his father's placer claim and ranch. He followed it over the divide into the head of Thompson

creek. Here, far up on the hillside, he came upon the game and fired. He missed killing the buck, but when he clambered down the mountain side he tripped on a stone that was particularly heavy and when uncovered proved to be gold quartz. Breaking off a fragment it glittered bright and yellow. He knew it was full of gold. When he showed the rock to the family they went wild with joy. Supper and all was forgotten. The hand mortar was brought out and the stone gave up \$900.00. A remarkable example of phenomenal luck is shown, but it's a fact that Ray Briggs did actually come across and kill a deer on his way home. Daylight found Briggs and his boy on the way to the place where the rock was found, and they were soon on the ground, to find that instead of a stray rock, there was actually a mammoth ledge of gold quartz in place on one of the mountains that make up the Siskiyou. It is here that the greatest gold mine discovered in recent years is located. So was discovered the famous Briggs mine, the glory hole, with a world-wide fame that will lead hundreds of men into the new field the coming year. The mountain side is covered with heavy pine timber, at your feet flows Thompson creek and here to, within a few hundred yards distant, is snowcapped Tennant Peak and at its base the site of Goldenview camp.

The Briggs family took out \$3800 in gold in one day, and \$34,000 in a week, and sold the property to local capitalists for \$140,000.00. It is to the everlasting credit of Ray Briggs that he divided his find equally among the five members of the family when the riches could have been his alone. The local people, shortly thereafter, sold to an eastern corporation. Subsequent developments, amounting to 1200 feet of tunnels and drifts, proved the find to be a big, permanent ledge of immense value. Assays and tests show the gold ore ranging from ordinary mill dirt to hundreds and even thousands of dollars per ton in value. Reliable men who have been at the mine have pronounced the gold ore to be without end, and all this in a land of fertile valleys, timber, water and game. A veritable mining paradise.

George E. Sanders informs us that the mine would now be a producer and dividend payer if it had not been for the mismanagement and the greed that developed among certain stockholders, which was ended last spring by a change of management, who, in the interest of harmony, gave a bond and lease on the properties to the Oregon-California Consolidated Mines Co., a new corporation.

The company started work at Goldenview as soon as the snow was off last May, since which time new trails have been built, the camp reconstructed, enlarged and made comfortable and sanitary. The mine has been re-timbered where necessary and put in first-class shape, drifts on the ore are being extended to give a larger available supply of ore for a mill that will built next spring. A saw mill is now being taken in for that purpose. Besides this, two good ditches a mile and a quarter long, taking in the water of four creeks, have been dug along the mountain side, which will give an ample water supply for a hydraulic placer plant now being installed and which will be producing the coming month.

Last summer numerous and thorough tests were made of the soil and gravel on the hillside and gulches below the Briggs strike and the ledge in which it was found, which crops out for about 3000 feet along the surface. Many pans of dirt yielded from \$0.25 to \$1.00 per pan, and there are whole acres of this kind of ground. It is estimated it will require three years to work the best of the hillside and the two miles of creeks immediately below the ledge for which the mill will be built. The gentlemen on their recent trip of inspection, actually picked up small pieces of gold on top of the ground. So its value as a hydraulic proposition will be all that one could ever wish for. This comes as a most agreeable surprise, as the stockholders went in on the quartz values and it has opened up as both quartz and placer. During the past month the company made a very valuable discovery of other rare and precious metals, the details of which will be withheld for the time being. This

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