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HOW TO PREVENT FOREST FIRES

SUPERVISOR FROMME DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE COURIER

HIGH AUTHORITIES AGREE

This Interesting and Important Subject Fully Covered by Numerous Correspondents.

August 24, 1910.
Editor Grants Pass Courier.

Dear Sir: If you can allow me a little space, I should like very much to criticize a short editorial which appeared in your paper last week under the heading "Forest Fires Needed Often."

While it is undoubtedly a fortunate disposition that is able to look on the bright side in time of adversity and to always evolve a golden reason for each disaster, still I can not help but feel that with the critical conditions now confronting us, it is a very dangerous thing to publicly make light of the true significance of the numerous forest fires now burning throughout the west. Of course, I do not mean to infer that the above editorial was written for the express purpose of inciting in the minds of the general public an insane desire to immediately get out with flaming brands and set fire to what timber in southern Oregon this season's fires have not yet reached, with the idea of killing orchard pests—but, nevertheless, by trying to squeeze out some presumably good result from the forest conflagrations now under way, you tend to encourage a feeling of carelessness or possibly even opposition to proper forest protection which I can not help but consider extremely serious and dangerous.

I am sure, however, that it was not your intention to call for general public rejoicing over the fact that valuable timber, representing hundreds of years of steady growth and a value of millions of dollars, has been and is being destroyed; nor that you wished to entirely offset this inestimable loss by trying to encourage a belief that "most of the orchard pests come to us through the forest and the annual fires would clean these out." I firmly believe that you are in favor of the practice of forestry on mountain lands, at least the protecting of timber on natural timber land, but that you merely differ with the present methods of the forest service in the matter of fire protection.

It is my intention in this space to say a few words in favor of forest fire protection through posting of notices, careful patrol, establishment of look-out stations, construction of trails and telephone lines, the punishment of offenders, etc., as opposed to the annual or periodic burning proposition you suggest; but first I should like to take up your statement that many of the orchard pests come to us through the forest. I can not believe that you have any real grounds for making such an assertion, for, if you will carefully look into the subject of forest and orchard entomology, you will find that any insect which attacks forest trees or down timber has nothing whatever to do with orchard trees, vice versa; that for each tree, and in a few cases closely related species, subject to insect attack, there is a distinctly different species of insect, and no injurious insect has ever yet been described which works on both forest and orchard trees. The Flat-headed western cedar heartwood borer (*Trachykele blondelli*) for instance, which attacks the western red cedar, the Douglas fir beetle (*Dendroctonus similis*), the redwood bark beetle (*Phloeosinus sequoiae*), and the many other destructive timber insects which have been studied have never been found to molest orchard trees; nor have the really injurious fruit tree pests, such as the codling moth, or apple worm and the various scale insects, ever been known to attack forest trees; nor do any one of these insects make use

of more than one kind of tree in following out its natural life cycle, as for instance breeding in a forest tree and working on an orchard tree or fruit, and vice versa.

Then again, a fire which is hot and furious enough to destroy forest insects must completely destroy all timber in its path; while it is a well known and much stated fact, by those who study insects and trees most carefully, that forest insects very rarely attack vigorous, healthy trees, but only those which through various causes, the most serious of which is fire, become weakened and unable to resist such depredation. Thus, your argument in favor of forest fires for the benefit of fruit trees by decreasing orchard pests is unsound for two reasons: (1) No orchard insects or fungus diseases originate from, nor at any time during their life cycles exist on, forest trees, and (2) forest fires by weakening or killing the trees greatly encourage the re-production of insects, which without the assistance of fires find conditions much less favorable to their work and propagation.

Now, as to your remedy for the prevention of disastrous fires by burning over the forest annually, which you call the old Indian way. In the first place, I am not going to credit the Indian with being able to do so systematically and carefully burn over all mountain lands as to destroy the brush and undergrowth without injuring the mature timber, nor am I going to blame him for the large percentage of brush areas and some almost worthless mountain lands due to numerous past fires. I do not say that he did not follow this practice, because I have never been able to determine this point to my satisfaction, but I do say that whether it was the Indian, who would not wish to scare out the game, or really the pioneer white man, burning off the timber because it had no value to him and because it made the new country difficult to travel over and hid the much longed for quartz-gold outcroppings, we inherit the result in numerous extensive old burns with poor, badly washed soil, and often rather inferior and irregularly scattered young growth. If, when the forest service took hold of the administration of the national forests there had been no indications of past fires there would be a very good reason for believing now that we are either interfering materially with the better methods of nature or that we do not know how to protect our forests as well as the people before us. On the contrary, however, it is an impossible feat to travel over the

(Continued on Page 9.)

Returns from the Seaside.

Geo. S. Calhoun, the head of the big clothing house on Sixth and Front streets, this city, returned on Monday from a two weeks' visit at the Newport watering place. He had the good fortune to be able to leave the care of the business behind, so as to fully enjoy his much needed vacation. He comes back with renewed energy for doing a larger trade than ever. In speaking of his visit to Newport he said that this is the best season in its history, as several thousand more people have been there this year than in any other. Some days there were as many as 10,000 people at this popular resort, and one day while Mr. Calhoun was there the arrivals numbered 3900, and the sea beach presented on that occasion a very animated scene. Mr. Calhoun said that he spent the time while there in fishing, boating, bathing and hunting moss agates, and of these he brought home many samples, quite a number of which he will have cut. He is enthusiastic over the Abbey house, the proprietor of which is well known in Grants Pass and Ashland, having been a former resident of the Rogue River valley.

Schools Opens September 12.

The Grants Pass schools will open on Monday, September 12, with a considerable additional attendance. This year there will be many country children in our schools and during the months of September and October a large number of families from distant parts of the county will take up their homes in this city for the purpose of giving their children better educational advantages than can be secured in country schools.

S. P. ENGINEERS AT LOVE'S STATION

PERMANENT CAMP LOCATED AT FOOT OF HAYES HILL

SEEK PASS OVER MOUNTAIN

A Hill Surveying Party Is Said to Be Operating on Evans Creek Above Woodville.

S. E. Andrews, assistant engineer in the surveying department of the Southern Pacific railway, left last Tuesday with a party of engineers numbering 15 and several wagons loaded with equipment and supplies, and have established a permanent camp at the foot of Hayes Hill, near Loves Station, and they have already commenced the surveying for the line of the proposed Grants Pass and Western railroad over the hill into the Illinois valley, and then on to Kerby. Later on they will run the lines to Grants Pass from Loves Station and complete the survey between these two points.

It will be necessary to construct a bridge across the Applegate river at a point east of Wilderville and another bridge across Rogue river north of the present county bridge.

The opening of the new Southern Pacific depot to the public will probably be deferred for some time yet, as General Manager J. P. O'Brien has been suddenly called east for conferences in Chicago and New York. Mr. O'Brien promised to be present at the opening celebration with other officers of the company, so the ceremony will necessarily have to be postponed until his return.

As we go to press report reaches us that a large party of Hill surveyors are at work on Evans creek, headed toward Woodville. It is thought that this is a possible extension of the Pacific & Eastern which will unite the cities of the Rogue River valley.

District Fair Notes.

Preparations for holding the fourth annual industrial fair at Grants Pass are progressing in a satisfactory manner. The board of supervisors, as well as the numerous committees, are working hard arranging the numerous details, and up to the present 14 committees have been appointed for the various branches of the work.

It is proposed to hold the exhibit at the new Calvert & Paddock brick block on Sixth street, which will afford a floor space of 10,000 square feet. In addition to this building, the newly constructed concrete block belonging to Claus Schmidt has been offered by him to the committee. This will afford 5000 square feet more. It is the intention to also occupy the vacant space at the rear of the Calvert block, which is 100 by 200 feet, including the numerous buildings and sheds for poultry, sheep, hogs, goats, etc. The carnival features will be located upon the vacant block at the rear of the Burkhalter stable and also up the side street and alleys.

Booths will be erected on Sixth street for the merchants' and manufacturers' displays and demonstrations. These booths will be leased to the business men at a nominal rental.

Much interest is being taken by the various towns along the line and applications for exhibit spaces have already been received by the secretary from Jacksonville, Ashland, Talent, Williams, Kerby, Wilderville and Selma.

Much interest seems to prevail in the poultry department. Jackson county in particular is active in this regard and it is up to the breeders of Josephine county to get a hustle on if they want to hold their laurels gained at the fair three years ago.

The dairy industry of the Applegate and Williams section is one which is going to be a most attractive feature of the fair. Exhibits of Jersey cattle, creamery butter, and

the splendid alfalfa grown in that section are going to be an "eye opener."

The Illinois valley is likely to win the special prize for the best general display. It will be remembered that three years ago it presented by far the best general exhibit, but Williams Creek is also likely to be heard from, for they say that the farmers are turning everything up "topsy turvey."

Every colt, stud and brood mare in the county should be in the parade. Jackson county is sending down some they think pretty fine. We should give them a lively race. The best is bound to win.

There will be special premiums offered by the business men of Grants Pass for various products and exhibits. Every farmer should have some article to display. There is a whole lot of glory in knowing that you have the best of its kind in such a country as the Rogue River valley, where everything grows to perfection.

The following committees have been appointed:

Managing Committee—L. B. Hall, H. C. Kinney, H. L. Andrews, H. C. Bateham, Susie Bannard.

Commercial Club Supervisory Committee—O. S. Blanchard (chairman), L. L. Herrick, G. W. Donnell, Fred A. Williams, W. B. Sherman, Geo. C. Sabin, H. L. Andrews.

Sub-Committees.

Reception—H. L. Gilkey (chairman), J. G. Riggs, H. H. Basler, R. K. Hackett, Dr. J. C. Smith.

Program—Judge Stephen Jewell (chairman), Geo. S. Calhoun, A. N. Parsons, T. P. Cramer.

Parade—H. C. Kinney (chairman).

Equestrian Parade—Mrs. G. R. Satchwell (director).

Illuminations—C. L. Clevenger (chairman), B. M. Bush, Royal Whitmore.

Advertising—J. F. Kline (chairman), C. H. Demaray, Ed. S. VanDyke.

Merchants' Booths—Dr. F. D. Stricker (chairman), G. P. Jester, H. C. Bobzien, F. B. Olding.

Athletic Sports—Fred A. Williams (chairman), P. P. Proctor, Prof. R. R. Turner.

Music—F. H. Applehoff (chairman).

Decorations—Marcus Robbins (chairman).

Concessions—Geo. C. Sabin (chairman).

Confetti—Dr. W. W. Walker (chairman), E. V. Ingels, J. W. Lucas, Chris Eismann.

Dances—W. J. Mahoney (chairman).

Country Store—L. R. Stelhammer (chairman).

The various committees, entry clerks, judges, gatekeepers, attendants will be appointed in a few days by the board of fair managers. All persons intending to exhibit products should be making necessary arrangements now. The Cold Storage and Ice plant has given a limited amount of room for the purpose of storing such perishable articles as Bartlett pears, early peaches, etc., so bring in as soon as possible all such perishable articles.

C. C. Chapman, promotion manager of the commercial club of Portland, has been touring Western Oregon urging the landowners to cut up their tracts into such holdings as will permit the man of average means to acquire a home when he comes to the state. His argument shows that in many regions tracts are entirely too large now for the humble homeseeker to purchase. As the great future of the fruit business, dairy industry and other agricultural lines is with the small tract on which the owner does most of his own work, Mr. Chapman voices the general hope of the state that land will be so segregated that every man coming will have no difficulty in securing such acreage as he can work to advantage.

Band Concert Friday Night.

March....."Ohio National Guard"
Overture....."Banditenstreiche"
March....."North Bend"
Potpourri....."World's Peace Jubilee"
March....."Tower Light Infantry"
Serenade....."Monastery Bells"
Star Spangled Banner.

On account of the "Mikado" playing here Friday eve, Sept. 9, the band concert will commence at 7:30 and be over at 8:30 p. m.

WORK OF PAVING GOES MERRILY ON

SOUTH SIXTH STREET WILL BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY

NORTH SIXTH COMMENCED

The Warren Construction Co. Gets Additional Contract—Schell & Schell to Furnish Rock Work.

The council has been doing some highly important street work this week, and on Monday night an adjourned session was held at which the bids for work on South Sixth street from L to the river were opened. R. H. Gilfillan was awarded the contract for curb work for \$2,911.20. Schell & Schell secured the macadam contract for \$7,507.30, and the storm sewer contract was awarded to J. Wolke for \$1,835.30. These bids were very near the estimated cost furnished by the city engineer. The Warren Construction company also made bids on the entire work of this extension and those of the other bidders.

The property owners on the alley in block 49 have asked that the alley be paved with bitulithic pavement. The Warren Construction company received the contract for paving, widening of sidewalks and curbing the extension of G street, the price being \$2.12. The price for the other part of the work was the same as the former contract. They were also awarded the contract for the Eighth street improvements.

The council has passed an ordinance calling a special election, as noted elsewhere, asking a vote on the question of buying a steam roller. The date set for this election is September 21, and the following judges and clerks of the various wards have been named:

First Ward—R. D. Cole, H. C. Bateham and J. M. Jones, judges; J. E. Peterson and J. B. Paddock, clerks.

Second Ward—J. C. Randle, N. B. Meade and James Holman, judges; Ed. VanDyke and C. G. Gillette, clerks.

Third Ward—Larkin Robinson, T. Y. Dean and Jake Williams, judges; H. C. Perkins and W. M. Hair, clerks.

Fourth Ward—W. T. Coburn, Wm. Alfred and George Cronk, judges; B. A. Williams and E. A. Wade, clerks.

There is great activity along all lines of street improvements, including grading, macadamizing and paving, and much of this work will be done before the season closes. Ordinances are now before the council and will be passed relative to the protection of smooth surface pavement. It is generally understood that the council will prohibit traction engines and heavy trucks from hauling sand, rock or other heavy substances over the bitulithic pavement, and no load heavier than 10,000 pounds in weight shall pass through these streets. The penalty is from \$20 to \$100 as a fine and also imprisonment in the city jail.

There is an ordinance also in relation to the disturbance of bitulithic pavement by the laying of water, gas and sewer pipe. The ordinance provides that a written permit shall be required from the street superintendent and this will not be granted until a bond shall be filed with the notice judge and such bond shall be for not less than \$500 for every 200 feet disturbed. But any firm can file a yearly bond in the sum of \$1000 to cover all street disturbances. There is also an ordinance which forbids threshing engines or any other engines or machines which have wheels with rough surface from passing over bitulithic pavement.

The McLean Party Enjoys Trip.

The Rev. Robert McLean returned to this city Tuesday evening, having left his camping party at Ashland. The remainder of the party, Misses Christie McLean, Ruby Best, Clara

Calhoun, Ailene Leech and Jennie Dunkle, and Messrs. E. R. Hulbert, Frank McLean, L. W. Turnbull, Errol Gilkey and Noble Best, arrived by team on Thursday.

They left this city two weeks ago on Tuesday morning and following Rogue River by way of Prospect and Union creek reached Crater lake about noon the following Saturday. The atmosphere at the lake was so dense with smoke from the surrounding forest fires that the lake could not be seen until in the evening, when the smoke cleared away and a splendid view of the beautiful scenic wonder was obtained. The travelers were very fortunate in escaping the forest fires, though some inconvenience was experienced on account of the smoke. On Monday the whole party went down to the waters of the lake, and securing a gasoline launch made a tour completely around the crater, the time required being three hours. Four of the boys later rowed to the island, but as there was only one fishing license in the crowd they caught the limit of rainbow trout and went back to shore, where they were afterward told that it was not necessary to have a license, as they were in the national park, which is under federal control and the state has nothing to do with the fishing. The boys were, of course, greatly disappointed, as they might easily have caught many more. The voyagers remained at the lake until Tuesday, when they departed for Port Klamath and Wednesday evening camped on Williamson river. On Thursday they journeyed on to Klamath Falls, accompanied all the way by a good supply of wind and dust, and were consequently in fine shape for testing the cleansing and refreshing properties of the Klamath Falls hot baths. The whole crowd called en masse on the H. C. Telford family while in the city and were treated to a ride on one of the beautiful Klamath lakes.

The Matrons' Contest.

The matrons' contest on Wednesday evening at the court house was undoubtedly a success, both as to the exceptional merit of the program as a whole and financially as well.

The house was filled to the doors by an appreciative audience, many standing throughout the entertainment. The room was beautifully decorated with white bunting, typifying the pure life for all mankind, while the red, white and blue draped the chancel. Potted plants, sweet peas and roses were placed here and there, giving the room a delightful, homelike appearance. Miss Winnifried Flanagan's piano solo was pleasingly rendered and revealed the artist's hand in its execution. Miss Nina Paddock was never heard to better advantage than in her selection of "It Is Not Raining Rain to Me," while Mrs. Basler, in a double number, won a place in the hearts of her hearers in a sweet song entitled "The Story Never Old," and a charming lullaby. Miss Merle Caldwell was heard in her mirth-provoking negro dialect in "De Watah Mellen Sploushun" and being encored recited "Angeline." The ushers, Messrs. Geery McCracken and Roubaix Richey deserve special credit for their efficient work.

The medal contestants brought honors to the "girls with silver threads among the gold" and all revealed talent hitherto unknown. Mrs. Myrtle Cowdry received the highest number of credits and was awarded the medal, which was presented in a few well chosen remarks by Rev. Frederick Brooke.

Hop Picking Commenced.

Hop picking has commenced in the Rogue River valley and although the acreage is not as large as in former years, due to planting hop lands to fruit, the picking and curing of the crop will demand the services of hundreds. H. R. Moses, who bought the Edith Rehkopf place down the river, has about 40 acres, from which he expects to harvest 25,000 pounds of hops. He employs 45 pickers about two weeks.

We have just received another big carload of American Rabbit and Stock Fence direct from the factory and can make you better prices than ever before. Let us show you the fence and quote you prices. Rogue River Hdqrs. Co., Sixth St. 9-2-10