

Weekly Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, ORE., FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1911

UNFORTUNATE LOSS OF GOOD ROADS BILLS

It is to be regretted that the good roads convention and the hard work done by many citizens of the state outside of the legislature has all come to naught. This is unfortunate, as it will cause to Oregon the loss of two years' time and a large amount of development work in every county in the state. Could the good roads movement have gone forward this year it would have been one of the best things that could have happened the state. Just what was the matter it will be hard to tell; there were four bills passed and the governor seemed to take delight in placing his veto on each of them. It looks as if our chief executive lacked the time, the patience and, to some extent, the desire to carefully go through the different bills, and he, therefore, resolved to make short work of them. After discussing in a general way the good roads subject, he concludes as follows.

"Under all the circumstances I am convinced that the best interests of the state require that this subject and the laws necessary for economical and effective operation under this section of the constitution should have further and much more deliberate consideration by the people, and especially by the legislative assembly."

Of course, it is useless to find fault with what has been done, and yet it is hard for the people to lose the two years which must intervene before anything can be done to repair the disaster. In this matter someone has blundered, for through the campaign and up to the time of the meeting of the legislature the good roads movement was the most popular measure in the state. It should now be referred directly to the people and give them an opportunity to either pass the measure or reject it.

TOWNSITE OF SOUTH GRANTS PASS

The foundation for active operations in the new town of South Grants Pass has been laid by the platting of the lots and getting ready for their sale, which will begin in the very near future. The townsite has been well selected and there is no doubt of its becoming within a short time one of the most beautiful sections of this city. The opportunity for drainage is all that could be desired and the soil is mostly of the porous kind that makes good streets and walks at all times of the year. The locality has many natural advantages, including a big butte where a reservoir will be built to hold the water supply of the town. This reservoir will be at an altitude sufficient to give abundant pressure for fire and other purposes. The townsite company having the property in charge are taking care to have modern conveniences put in, so that South Grants Pass will possess all the natural and up-to-date advantages, both as a residence and manufacturing center.

TIME TO CLEAN UP THE CITY.

The time has come to clean up the city that we may be ready to receive the homeseekers who will leave eastern points on March 10, and may be expected here in from three to five days later. We understand the Mayor will issue a proclamation asking all property owners and householders to clean up and make the city presentable to visitors. The authorities will co-operate with the citizens in this matter and make the work an easy task. For the sake of the health, as well as pride, the cleaning should be done in a most thorough manner. We suppose the Mayor will set the time, and the Courier hopes that everybody will act in unison on this occasion. Remember that "cleanliness is akin to Godliness."

THE EFFORTS BEING MADE FOR IRRIGATION.

The new board of directors of the Josephine Irrigation and Power Co. is composed of a body of strong workers, and there is every reason to believe that they will be able to show good results in the way of securing irrigation in the very near future. During the past two years the work of obtaining water for the land of this part of the valley has, to a large extent, been most discouraging. Had it not been for the accident at the Golden Drift dam a year ago last November, by which a portion of that structure was carried out, farms would now be under irrigation. By this means fully two years will be lost unless a satisfactory arrangement for water can yet be made with the minority stock-holders of the Golden Drift Dam. This, of course, will depend on the ability of the receiver to have the repairs made in time to furnish the water for the coming irrigation season. The new board of directors are now engaged in the important work which relates to securing capital for the construction of ditches, and this is to be done by organizing an irrigation district. President Thikey, in speaking to a representative of the Courier says:

"It will be our aim to perfect the organization of an irrigation district at the earliest possible moment. To this end the petition for same is prepared and is being

circulated, about two hundred names being already thereon.

"Every property owner in the district should feel interested enough to come in and sign said petition without causing solicitor's expense and delay of hunting them up. Remember the signing of the petition carries with it no obligations, simply asking the county court to call an election that the voters may express themselves on the subject.

"An effort was made to get together on common grounds with several interests of the Golden Drift Mining Company for immediate relief, but some of the parties declined to take up negotiations, hence no progress was made in that line."

THE BORN RADICAL IN POLITICS

There are a class of individuals who never get credit for the good they do in political movements, and these are the radicals. It is never safe to follow these people, but for all that they have instituted reforms and made government worthy of the age in which we live. It is undoubtedly true that the best results in legislation are gained by compromise, but good legislation would never have been brought about had it not been for the radicals. It is so natural for men when they fail to get their way in national or state legislatures to cheerfully accept a compromise as a substitute for the radical measures advocated, and opponents are, for the same reason, induced to take a step forward for the sake of peace and harmony.

We have fallen upon strange times and our government is undergoing what must prove to be a revolution. Strange to say, if we ever reach the old and smooth track where harmony is to be found and the best interests of the people are served without friction, the credit will be due to the radicals. This class comes from no school, but is born to take extreme positions on all political subjects. To illustrate, it was the anti-slavery radicals who made the United States worthy of the name of a republic. But they gained their highest good by compromise, and this united the people under a new amendment to the constitution.

MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PAYS 10 PER CENT

The opponents of municipal ownership of public utilities will do well to turn their attention for a few minutes to the city of Pasadena.

That city owns and operates its own electric light plant. Before the city installed its own plant its citizens were compelled to buy electricity from the Edison company.

As long as the Edison company held an absolute monopoly it charged the people of Pasadena 15 cents per kilowatt hour claiming that it could not reduce the price without incurring financial losses.

Then Pasadena installed its own electric lighting plant. The Edison company immediately cut its price to 12 1/2 per kilowatt hour.

The city-owned plant was able, however, to make a 7-cent rate and it did so.

The Edison company further reduced its rates, but after six months of successful operation the city plant was able to reduce the rate to 5 cents per kilowatt hour.

The Edison company promptly reduced its rate to 4 cents, but it had sinned away its hour of grace. The people of Pasadena are buying their electricity of the city at 5 cents rather than pay the Edison company 4 cents.

In the first six months of its operations, the city electric light plant had 1,420 customers. In the six months from July 1, 1910, to January 1, 1911, the number has increased to 4,142. Of the number only 487 quit the city service and went back to the Edison.

In the last six months of the year 1910 the city plant was able to supply electric current for 5 cents per kilowatt hour, pay all expenses of operation and earn a net profit of 10 per cent.

The Edison company claimed it would lose money if it sold electric current for less than 15 cents per kilowatt hour. Now it sells it at 4 cents per hour.

What Pasadena has done Grants Pass can do and so can any other city in Oregon.

The people of this state have sat idly twiddling their thumbs while a few shrewd, far-seeing capitalists have bought for a song the immense water power resources of the state; now the people are paying for it in excessive rates for electric light and power.

The day is coming when the cities of the state will have to buy back the utilities they practically gave away. The cost will be heavy, but in the end the people will gain.

J. C. DAVIS.

Mrs. Little Romero returned to Nevada City, Cal., Wednesday afternoon after a few days' visit with her mother, Mrs. R. V. Ames of this city.

James Wright, of Roseburg, is in this city, the guest of his nephew, A. A. Porter and family. He will visit here for several days.

STRAYED to my place on Slate Creek one yellow cow marked crop split and underbit in right ear, crop and underbit in left ear; also one yearling bull marked underbit in both ears. Owners may have them by paying for keep and advertisement. A. T. Cart. 3-3-5t

FOR SALE—Eggs to hatch from thoroughbred Buff, Brown and White Leghorn and Barred Plymouth Rock, \$1 per 15. Some breeding stock for sale. Evergreen Poultry ranch, R. L. Newman, R. F. D. No. 1. 3-3-tf

FOR SALE—Nearly new Buck's range. Price \$30. Inquire 411 West D st. 2-24-2t

FOR SALE—Single-comb R. I. eggs for hatching; 10 No. 1 for \$2.50. Utility stock \$1.00 a setting. C. R. Britchbill, N. 10th st. 2-24-12t

MR. NEWCOMER—You could not make a better investment than buying at Paddock & Manuel's new and second-hand store (207 S. 6th st.) New goods at second-hand prices. Cut this ad out and bring it with you and we will allow a discount of 5 per cent.

WHITE and brown Leghorn eggs for sale. 50c for 13. Phone or write E. Erickson, Wilderville, Ore. 2-17-St

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—House and lot in Grants Pass. Address owner, care the Courier. 2-3-tf

BE SURE and get the genuine Oregon Everbearing strawberry plants. Worthless varieties have been sold under this name. G. A. Hamilton, box 517. 12-16-12

FOR SALE—Timber claim, NW 1/4 Sec. 24, Twp 37, 7 West, Josephine county. For particulars address H. Walter, conductor, 3rd and Townsend streets, S. P. Co., San Francisco, Cal. 9-3-tf

IF YOU want strawberries from early spring till late in fall, get the Oregon Everbearing. G. A. Hamilton, box 517. 12-16-tf

TO EXCHANGE

REAL ESTATE TO TRADE—Improved or unimproved farms and ranches in Colorado and Nebraska to trade for farm land or acreage in this locality. The Best-Fuller Realty Co. 3-3-tf

LOST.

LOST—I will reward any party who can give information as to the whereabouts of any cattle marked upper half crop in right and under half crop in left ear, branded inverted U on upper right ribs. J. R. Tucker, Selma.

STRAYED.

STRAYED—There came to the premises of the undersigned in December, 1909, one dark red steer; over two years old; unmarked. Owner can have same by proving property and paying charges. Apply to S. E. Jess, R. F. D. No. 2, Grants Pass. 2-24-11-5t

STRAYED—Cow, about 8 years old. Right ear clipped and split, one crumpled horn, color, white and red. Owner can get same by paying for advertising and care of animal at my premises. J. S. Thompson, Merlin, Ore. —5t

WANTED

TEAM WANTED—1200 or 1300 pound, all-round horses. Address C. F. Dixon. 2-24-1t

WANTED to buy a relinquishment or farming land in Southern Oregon or northern California. Address Otto Timmes, 453 5th street, Astoria, Oregon.

WANTED—A small tract of land either improved or unimproved suitable for fruit. Not too far from town on good road. Give full description, prices and terms first letter. Owners only. Box 511, Grants Pass, Ore.

MISCELLANEOUS

ARTISTIC photographs, postals, stamp pictures, amateur finishing. Come and see samples at the Angelo Studio, 605 Sixth street. Mid-summer prices. 8-19-tf

RANNIE, the plumber, is ready at any minute to repair your plumbing. 609 H street. Telephone 140-R. 4-2-tf

EARL V. INGELS, B. S. Best-equipped custom assay office and analytical laboratory in Oregon. Ores, coal, soils, fertilizers, water, food and spray products, etc., analyzed. Toxicological analysis. Rooms 201-3 Calvert-Paddock building. Phone 370-J.

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