

Weekly Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, ORE., FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1911

GRANTS PASS MAN STARTED IT

The decision in the railroad case, which has been all the talk for the last few days, has brought to light some of the facts bearing on the history of the commencement of this suit. The Southern Pacific company in withdrawing their lands from the market, did a great injury to southern Oregon, as it hindered development. It has been discovered by someone that W. B. Sherman, of Grants Pass, was the first man to go before the public with this matter. He had been invited to make an address before the Oregon Development League convention held at Eugene, in September, 1906, in which he spoke of the conduct of the company in regard to their lands. Referring to the construction of the line of railway, he said, "The railroad was built, and the company received as a bonus one half of all the land on either side of their road for from twenty to thirty miles. However, the government held the strings of this transaction. The railroad was to sell this land to bona fide settlers, not over 160 acres to each settler and not to exceed \$2.50 per acre. This, the company did until four or five years ago when our locality commenced settling up. They then took their lands off the market and they are not available now at any price. The government gave these lands to this company in order to develop Oregon and it was presumed they would sell them as per contract, but instead of the growth of Oregon, the Southern Pacific is retarding its development, and, as it were, violating this contract with the government. The motive of our government in entering into this agreement is good, but the contract is being abused, and it is up to the people of the state of Oregon to look for a remedy. If we intend to do anything in the immediate future in developing the wonderful resources of Oregon the railroad abuses should receive our first attention."

This speech was the keynote of the campaign which secured the action of congress. It was printed in The Oregonian and in nearly every other important paper in the state. San Francisco papers also printed the talk and made, editorially, comments on it. In 1907 Senator Multit, of Jackson county, secured the passage of a legislative memorial to congress. This memorial contained almost the exact words of Mr. Sherman's speech. Congress in 1908 took up the matter and authorized suit to begin, to recover title to the vast holdings. The balance of the story has already been told and it only remains for the courts to act to settle the whole matter. As the records show, a citizen of Josephine county took the first steps to bring about a suit, which has become famous because it has been successfully waged against a corporation that has ruthlessly trodden down the rights of thousands of our citizens.

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOCATING

The prosperity of Josephine county has enough behind it to insure its continuance for all time to come. Its orchards, its alfalfa and stock farms and its mines are the corner stones on which its future prosperity rests. Every day there arrives in Grants Pass men of capital who desire to make investments. They are not speculators, they are not men who are foolish enough to believe that twenty dollar gold pieces grow on every bush, but they are of that class who know opportunities when they meet them in the road. The citizens of Josephine county are not booming their lands or their mines, but they offer to those in search of locations an opportunity to secure them at small cost. The Rogue River valley, the Applegate valley, the Illinois and a dozen other localities contain the wealth of an empire and those who have the courage to help develop farms and mines will share in the rich harvest offered. Our cheap lands will make valuable farms and our mines are the foundation of prosperity for those who have means to develop them.

OUR DUTY AT THIS TIME

The Higgins strike will have the effect of bringing the rich gold fields of Josephine county before the public and, as a consequence, that all-important class known as prospectors, will flock to this country. There is no better field in which to dig for gold and copper than will be found here, and the experienced searcher after mineral wealth will be richly repaid for his labor, should he delve among these mountains and in these valleys. This is to be the record year in mining discoveries in Oregon, and Josephine county will stand at the head of the list. It is important that the business and professional men of Grants Pass encourage the mining movement, which is now on, for it means great wealth, not only to miners, but all the interests of this city. Surely everything depends on the prospector, the practical miner and the man with capital. These three classes will add greatly to the wealth of Josephine county and Grants Pass. For the reason above given, the people here can afford to interest themselves in bringing the three classes mentioned into this territory. We need men from Colorado,

Nevada, Idaho and other mining states. Those who understand the business will be pleased with the country and the rich mines to be found here.

Our duty as a community demands that we take immediate steps to make known the true conditions regarding the undeveloped and uncovered wealth within the confines of Josephine county, and, in this matter, now is the time for action, and let us by all means tell the world the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, in the exploitation of our resources.

REPORT OF BOARD OF HORTICULTURE

The tenth biennial report of the board of horticulture has been printed and a copy has reached The Courier. It is a book of 176 pages and is replete with information regarding fruit of all kinds. Each of the commissioners comes in for a share of the work of making up this report, and added to this is the report of the president of the board, W. K. Newell. The volume is complete, all the subjects being treated with great care. Commissioner A. H. Carson of this district covers many subjects and writes interestingly on every page he occupies. He opposes the single crop theory or "putting all your eggs in one basket." There is sound sense in his argument. Here is what he says on this subject.

"There is a tendency in the third district to plant every available acre to fruit that in my opinion is wrong. After the Civil war the southern states became single-crop planters. Every acre that would grow cotton was planted to the exclusion of all other crops that they needed to make a cotton crop. Their hay, bacon, flour, nearly every necessity they required to make their cotton was bought from the north. They paid heavy transportation charges for necessities that they could easily raise on the farm. The southern planters lost money until they were worked out of their single-crop system.

"Will not the apple, pear, peach and prune growers in the end lose money if they persist in planting every acre to fruit and neglect to grow hay and other necessities they have to have to grow a fruit crop? Thousands of tons of hay the past year was shipped into the third district, which the fruit growers bought at \$20 to \$25 per ton and hauled to their orchards to feed the stock necessary to cultivate and care for their orchards.

"This system is wrong. It should be discouraged. Especially when it is possible on any fruit farm to set aside a few acres and grow alfalfa for hay that is so badly needed for the stock that cultivate the orchards. A few years ago I went to one feed firm in Grants Pass and got a statement of their imports for feed that they sold for a year to the farmers growing fruit in the county, and found that for the year is aggregated \$102,000. This was only one feed firm out of several in that city. This amount of imported feed one firm sold, when it is possible to grow all the feed the county requires, and have a surplus for export. Why should the fruit growers of Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas counties pay transportation charges to the Southern Pacific for necessities that they can so easily grow with any reasonable business system?"

REPORTS FROM RED MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Favorable reports continue to arrive from the Red Mountain district north of Kerby, near the head of Slide Creek, and the Higgins "treasure vault" is the subject of conversation at every group you run across on the streets. The expert mining engineer, C. L. Mangum, was showing today, in the different business places, a bottle of nuggets washed from a single pan of quartz porphyry taken from this claim. It was estimated that the yield of the pan was \$45 or over. Seeing is believing. The nuggets were shown to a group of working men and one of them said, "Let us jump our jobs and go right up there, boys." This illustrates the fascination which gold has for most men. It is reported that men are gathering in this particular section from all points and that fifty, at least, leave the main road every day to reach the Higgins neighborhood. It is amusing to watch some of the more careful men here in town, who are never carried away by any excitement. They are urging people to wait and see how things turn out. One of this class was laboring with a friend to keep him from being hasty, but the other answered very deliberately by saying, "I have always taken your advice before, and I am free to admit that I have been a darn fool all my life. This time I am going. Good bye."

The newspapers of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and other points asked this morning for reports of the big strike. Within a very few days a number of other strikes will be announced. Several experts have been sent here from the outside to examine properties, and the indications are that one or two of these will be favorable.

The city of Medford is very anxious to know the whereabouts of certain contractors who have been laying pavement in that city. This is the penalty that our neighbors must pay for greatness for every big city has its boodlers, its fakers and men anxious to get a contract, even at a low price. They have nothing to lose, but the amount they owe to local firms is clear gain. The gentlemen referred to were laying what they called brickolithic pavement.

M. J. Anderson was showing some remarkably rich copper ore on Tuesday, which came from the neighborhood of the Higgins strike. It is claimed to be nearly pure copper, but carried a small amount of gold.



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