

Weekly Rogue River Courier

A. E. VOORHIES, Pub. and Prop.
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1912.

OUR BOUNDEN DUTY.

We learn from what should be an authoritative source that in all probability the Grants Pass and Rogue River railroad will be pushed to completion this season. All that is needed on the part of our citizens is a little patience and some good work; we will then experience the pleasure of seeing Grants Pass go forward with greater strides than in any time of the past. The fact that one company had financial trouble should not dishearten anyone. Most railroad enterprises have these setbacks and we need not go far to illustrate what has happened in the past.

Everybody who was here three or four years ago must remember the experience Medford had with the Pacific & Eastern. That was a terrible affair as compared with our little fiasco. The whole town and surrounding country was seemingly dependent upon the success of the great enterprise and all of a sudden it turned turtle and there was a crash. The boom had "busted" and Medford went dead for a time. People picked up and got out of town between two days and everything stood stock still; in fact only the fellows with iron nerve were enabled to withstand the shock. That was hard and yet Medford got over it and is a better town today for having had the experience. That railroad has been built and the fellows who started that enterprise have inaugurated even greater things and they have nerve and ability to carry them out.

There is only one trouble with the Grants Pass fellows and that is they get panic stricken too easily. We only need faith, hope and courage with plenty of hard work, and we will not only build here a real city but will develop productive farms and producing mines. All this can be done if we will make a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together. If someone is secured to complete the railroad up Williams creek, through the great forests and on to the marble caves, Grants Pass will become a lumber center of the highest importance, and a place where tourists from all the great cities of the country will stop to outfit in order to spend the season in our Marble Halls. Grants Pass has made wonderful strides in the past twelve months and this is admitted not only by our own people but also by visitors. Attorney General Crawford said only two days ago that it has not been his pleasure to visit this city for a year until this occasion and that he was surprised, not only at the growth of the town, but its general appearance of prosperity. He spoke of the new hotels, the great commercial blocks and the handsome stores generally. This should encourage our citizens to go forward and accomplish even greater things.

The work to do first is to meet the men who will come here to investigate conditions and necessity for the construction of this important line and show them our faith in Grants Pass and the country through which it is proposed to build the road. We can afford to speak words of encouragement to capital for if this railway is built, it will add to Grants Pass a large territory from which to draw additional trade now going to other points. More than 500 new families will occupy farms in the valleys through which the line will run. Remember that the road is needed and that the country adjacent will offer great inducements to new settlers. There has for some months been a spirit of apathy and indifference on the part of some as to the future. Why not wake up and

try to convince ourselves and the world that we are still alive. We don't need a boom but we do need courage and confidence in the Rogue River valley and especially in Grants Pass. Less than this will prove, in a financial way, to be worse than suicide. There is plenty of money to do all needed things if we will only have courage to embrace the opportunities as they are presented to us.

DISCUSSING COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The following communication is on a timely subject in which a very large share of the people of Grants Pass are interested. It sheds light on the commission form of government which must be taken up and discussed by the many in time to be thoroughly understood before the next regular city election takes place. This communication covers the subject not only in a practical but thoughtful way:

Editor of Courier:

Here are some thoughts which I desire to express through the columns of your paper. The commission form of government for this city would centralize the control into a few hands and would eliminate party lines; putting all officers on a salaried basis. That might not be for the better in some ways, but upon the whole we have the recall and the people behind it should any emergency demand. By and through this recall, the ambitious official would be curbed. Official duties should always be under the close scrutiny and final control of the community to whom they have to answer. To make this form of government more acceptable than any other, we must rely entirely on the charter back of it. The initiative, referendum and recall should be the main factor and the state laws should be so amended to give each municipality its own governing power to levy and apply its own taxes for municipal purchase and municipal construction. Many cities are today handicapped by state legislation that prohibits local advancement in the form of city improvement.

Our present mayor and new council will probably make an appreciable change in our city government. It is well; the times demand it. All over the world the heaven is lifting, all eyes are on our officials high and low and, with the recall in the hands of the electors, much can be expected. Many cities have an officer empowered by the council to closely watch for the health of the city, arrange for the unemployed so that they can work, look after all weights and measures, see that people can purchase and sell to advantage, in other words, institute market places, and handy conveniences for trading and visiting people. The municipality should by all means, immediately or as soon as possible, control the necessary home industries that the community uses and the surplus earnings would give the city some funds to construct others and not be everlastingly raising taxes.

The opportunities are varied and unlimited: laundries, bakeries, slaughter houses and other undertakings could soon be put on a profitable basis and would lessen the hand drudgery and be kept in a sanitary condition, employing more people and giving every one an interest to be shared alike. These are no Utopian dreams. They might have been a few years ago, but now the people are demanding them. Political action must conform to the will of the people. Our writers have been drumming into our ears that "Westward the course of Empire takes its way." Sometimes it looks as if it is westward the course of destruction takes its way. When we look around and see all the natural resources being used up and slipping from the hands of the people, we are almost convinced that the latter statement expresses the true condition.

O. J. KNIPS.

OPPORTUNITY FOR HOME SEEKERS.

It is a pleasure to announce that there is constant inquiry from the middle west regarding opportunities for homeseekers in this part of the Rogue River valley and they are already arriving and not a few have located within the past thirty days. These newcomers are charmed with the climate and conditions of this section. It is certainly in contrast with the arctic weather which has been experienced of late in all parts of the middle west. Josephine county should draw large numbers of farmers from the frostbound states where conditions during the past few weeks have been well nigh beyond endurance.

NOT MORE BUT BETTER FARMERS.

One of the able men of the country is James J. Hill and he may be put down as one of the deep thinkers in the world of gigantic enterprises as well as a strong advocate of general development. Of late he has taken up the "back to the farm" movement. In discussing this subject, he says:

"The only thing that would drive people back to the land is empty stomachs. When times are bad there is always a certain number of people who go to the country because they feel they can have a roof over their heads there and enough to eat. Otherwise, they are bred and wed to city life and would feel as homesick and out of place in the country as a born farmer would be in a crowded tenement district. Some people are better off in the city in ordinary times. Let them stay. There is competition enough already in the country. The need is not for more farmers, but for better ones."

NOTICE.

Gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, coal, oil, gas and water positively located. I will locate any or all of the above, tell you which of the minerals you have, whether one or more and what kind, whether much or little, and if heavy, can tell for 1 1/2 mile distance, and go directly to the heavy deposit and place you over the center, can tell you which way it runs. I manufacture all of my own instruments, will positively sell none, so don't ask it, as I only do locating. And those desiring to know what they have, whether much or little, will address me at 1191 E 19th St., Portland, Oregon. M. D. Green.

LA GRANDE BOOMERS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Dr. N. Mollot—Physician and Surgeon.

Walter M. Pierce—Proprietor Hot Lake Sanatorium.

E. Polack—Proprietor City Grocery and Bakery.

P. S. Robinson—Wenaha Lumber Co., president La Grande Commercial Club.

Jas. A. Russell—President Grande Ronde Meat Co.

B. M. Sherwood—Proprietor Isis Theater.

Mac Wood—President The Golden Rule Co.

J. M. Rice—Pioneer Flour Mill.

Samuel Brooks—Farmer and Stockraiser.

Frederick Dutil—Baker.

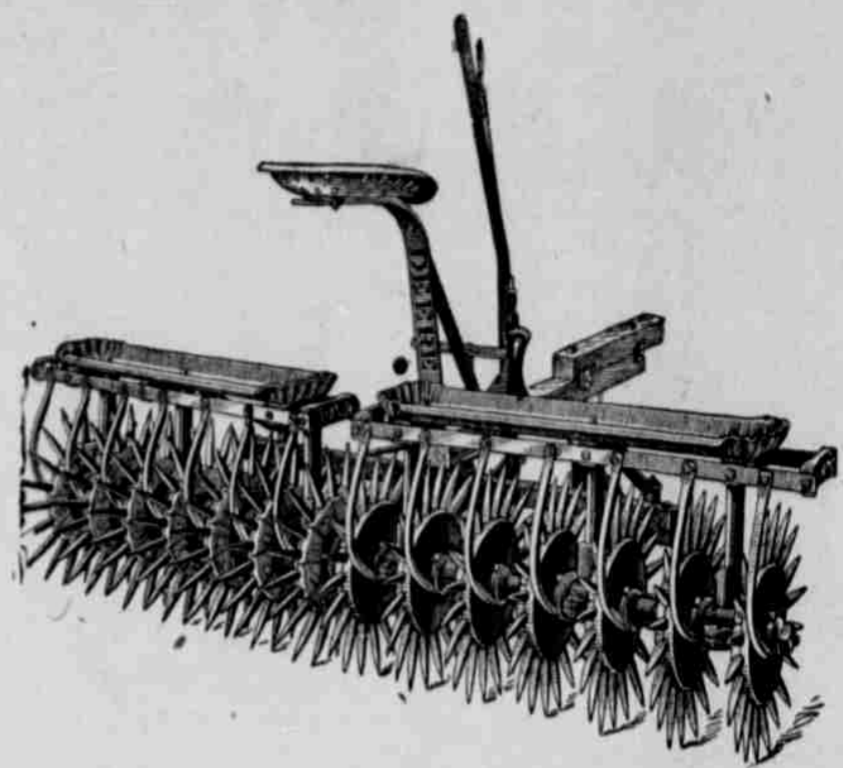
La Grande is located on the line of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company, and is in the midst of a rich section of the state.

Each of the visitors enjoyed his stay here. Auto rides and sightseeing generally occupied the morning and a luncheon at the Josephine, tendered by business men of the city, added enjoyment to the stay here. Toasts were proposed and toasts responded to and good fellowship lent zest to a happy occasion.

In the party is George H. Carrey, a really man of La Grande, but who once lived in the city of Grants Pass, leaving here 20 years ago. He was the publisher of The Courier, selling to J. Nunan, who later sold to A. E. Voorhies.

Mr. Carrey stated that it was almost impossible to reconcile the fact that he was really in Grants Pass, as he could hardly recognize it as the

A MONEY MAKER



Cultivate Your Alfalfa

With a John Deere

ALFALFA RENOVATOR

This machine is one of the latest devices for successful farming. The DEERE ALFALFA RENOVATOR acts like magic on old fields. It splits the plant roots, causing it to stool out and multiply. By chopping up the soil around the base of the plant it gives it oxygen and air which are absolutely necessary to a healthy growth. It kills the noxious weeds and grasses. Don't plow up your old meadows, cultivate them with the RENOVATOR and simply sow new seed.

One farmer who is now using the ALFALFA RENOVATOR, tells us that it increased the hay yield of his alfalfa field 40 per cent. Any farmer who has 20 acres or more, can make this machine pay for itself the first season. Come in and let us explain this new money maker.

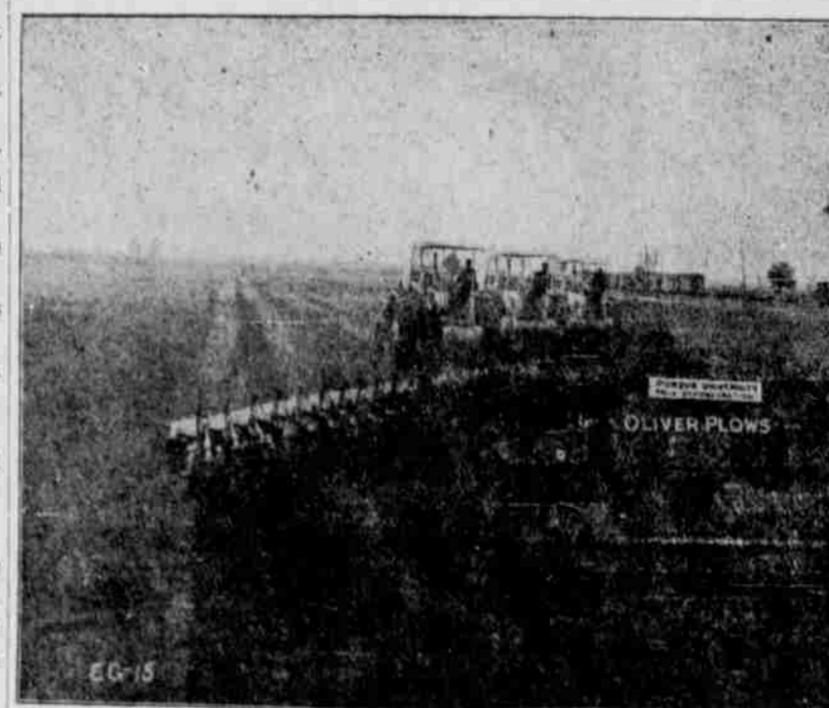
PRICE \$65

GRANTS PASS HARDWARE CO.

PLOWING FIFTY FURROWS AT ONCE, COMPLETING ONE ACRE IN 5 MINUTES

That a full acre of ground can be turned in less than five minutes with one outfit seems an impossibility, but to those who have seen it done it appears easy. It is a fact that not long ago the world's record for plowing an acre was broken on the great farm

new, although its quick popularity is attested by the fact that hundreds of them are already in use in Canada, the Dakotas and other western states. The test of the 50 furrow plow on the Purdue farm demonstrated the practicability of this wonderful modern invention and this was also fur-



of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., when an acre was turned evenly and perfectly in the astonishing time of only 4 minutes and 15 seconds. This was done by a 50 base Oliver engine gang plow. Three 30 horse-power tractors supplied the motive power. This engine gang plow is something

proven in a more recent exhibition in South Bend, where a 55 bottom gang plow, pulled by three great 45 horse-power gasoline tractors, was shown to an admiring crowd of men and women. Moving pictures of the plow in operation were made for exhibition purposes.

When the party assembled at the depot they again sang "Oregon, My Oregon." A jolly goodbye was given them and invitations to Grants Pass to visit La Grande were numerous and hearty.

The party proceeded to Ashland this afternoon and tomorrow will come back to Medford to attend the state convention of retail dealers of Oregon.

and hearty.

CASE AGAINST BILLIARD HALL OWNERS DISMISSED

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

E. R. Lawrence, part owner of the Waldorf Billiard parlor, and George Hull, one of the proprietors of the Owl Billiard parlor, who were arrested yesterday, charged with "suffering and permitting a minor to loiter about and remain in a billiard hall" will appear in the city court tomorrow morning to answer trial. The case will be tried before Police Magistrate J. N. Johnston. City Attorney Colvig will represent the municipality and Attorney C. H. Clements will represent Messrs. Lawrence and Hull.

From Thursday's Daily.

The trial of George Hull, who, with E. R. Lawrence, was under arrest for permitting minors in their billiard halls, was concluded this morning and Hull dismissed when the jury brought in an instructed verdict of acquittal on motion of City Attorney Colvig. The case against Lawrence was also dismissed on motion of the city attorney.

The instructed verdict was given on the grounds that at the time of the alleged offense the parties were not licensees of the city, inasmuch as their licenses had expired on November 30, 1911, and the ordinance is operative only against billiard halls licensed by the city. Examination of the city's books showed that the licenses had not been renewed.

Attorney Colvig stated that he would file complaint against Lawrence and Hull for operating billiard parlors without a license.

Both parties renewed their license for the quarter beginning December 1 and ending February 29. Mr. Lawrence stated that heretofore it had been customary for the auditor to take a license and receipt for fees paid to their place of business and collect the amount each quarter, and it was expected that the same course would be carried out and that neither one of the proprietors had any intention of attempting to evade payment of the license fee.