

Rogue River Courier

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

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NO. 48

CHICAGO-ROGUE RIVER RECEIVER

CONSPIRACY TO DEPRESS LAND PRICES IS HINTED.

GEO. SORANSON APPOINTED

Local Claims Against the Company Amount to Approximately \$20,000.

The Chicago-Rogue River company was put into the hands of a receiver late Monday afternoon at Ashland by Judge F. M. Catkins of the circuit court of Oregon for Josephine county on application last evening of local creditors of the company.

George W. Soranson, who was formerly a United States postal inspector handling fraud cases, has been appointed receiver to clear up the financial muddle.

The creditors allege a criminal conspiracy to depress values and an attempt to get the property for a cheap figure.

The main office of the company is in Chicago. A. J. Witherall, of the Chicago Solder company, is president, and P. Phillip, of the P. Phillip Bank, Chicago, is the treasurer. C. M. Leonard, of the Leonard Construction Co., of Portland, Or., and Chicago; P. Phillip and A. J. Witherall comprise the executive committee of the board of directors.

About four hundred Chicago stockholders, with a cash investment of approximately \$500,000 are involved. There are about \$1,000,000 involved, as the company owns the irrigation right of Rogue river and a power plant near Grants Pass, costing approximately \$260,000, which is connected with a system of irrigation ditches under construction. The company controls directly and indirectly about 4,000 acres of orchard lands.

The claims against the company amount to about \$20,000. It is alleged that the directors refuse to pay the accounts, hence the operating office has been entirely without funds for over two months. It is further alleged that C. M. Leonard, associated with P. Phillip and R. B. Slaughter, of the Chicago banking house of A. O. Slaughter & Co., owes the company, approximately, \$70,000 under a contract to finance the company, and that none of this money is being made available. The creditors have asked the court for an order permitting the receiver to force collection, and it is understood that personal suits will be instituted.

The entire community here is indignant because they allege they have proof that the money is withheld for the purpose of depressing land values, and that these men are taking advantage of it by buying land, and have already purchased about 2,500 acres of land at panic prices, as the land owners are entirely dependent on the company for irrigation, and all work on the system was suspended last November. Mr. Leonard is alleged to have caused the local office to give out that no construction work would be done this year, and to buy all the cheap land to come under the ditches.

It is alleged that the officers and directors of the company pledged local business men and the Commercial club to do certain things this year. Messrs. Leonard, Phillip and Slaughter visited the valley the first part of February and it was only after their visit the people realized their predicament. While here pledges were made to business men that the accounts would be immediately paid, but failure to keep these pledges participated the receivership.

A subsidiary company of The Chicago-Rogue River company owns the power plant, and it has been in the hands of a receiver appointed out of the same court about two years ago after a flood seriously injured the property. The officers and directors of the Chicago-Rogue River company got a court order permitting them to repair the dam, the parties agreeing

GREAT ENTHUSIASM AT POULTRY MEETING

The adjourned meeting of the poultry men to receive the report of the committee appointed last week met at the Commercial club assembly room at 2:30 Thursday afternoon. Something like 150 ladies and gentlemen were present, and from the very first deep interest was shown in the proceedings.

H. H. Basler was chosen temporary chairman, and for temporary secretary E. G. Harris was selected. The report of the committee was read and that part of it relating to the organization of a poultry association was adopted, after which the election of officers was taken up. J. D. Stinebaugh was elected president, John Summers, vice president; Edward G. Harris, recording secretary; E. S. Veatch, corresponding secretary; W. S. Maxwell, treasurer.

After considerable discussion and the proposing of several names the "Grants Pass Poultry Association" was finally agreed upon. A committee of three persons was named for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions to a fund, from which to aid any one to enter the poultry business who possesses the natural facilities but who have not the ready cash to begin the work. It is proposed to loan the money for six months or one year without interest, but the persons to be thus benefitted are required to own real estate in the city.

The proceedings were interspersed by earnest and snappy impromptu speeches, and that the entire assembly meant business was clearly seen.

ELK DONATED TO OREGON BY UNCLE SAM

Oregon is to have a herd of elk for propagating purposes. A bunch of 15 of these animals has been donated to Oregon by the United States government. They have been crated in the Jackson Hole country in Wyoming, and are now on their way to their pasture in this state.

The elk will be pastured, temporarily, on the Wallowa forest reserve, from which place they will be distributed throughout the state as they propagate. Inasmuch as the government has provided the animals and a place for them to roam, it has been proposed that the people of the state should pledge themselves to stand the expense of feeding the animals during the balance of the winter and up to the time when they can forage for themselves.

Elk lodgements of the state, whose name will always perpetuate the fame of the splendid creature that is so rapidly disappearing, have taken an active interest in starting this fund, which will not total more than \$1000. The Portland lodge headed the subscription with a donation of \$100, followed quickly by the Pendleton, Joseph, Wallowa lodges, and other towns have also contributed enthusiastically.

A small sum remains to complete the fund, and the Evening Telegram at Portland is acting as custodian of the fund.

to pay all bills thus incurred and about \$15,000 of the unpaid accounts are on account of such construction which has been completed, and the failure to keep the pledge to the court creates a novel legal situation that may establish a new precedent. A prominent local attorney has advised these creditors that it is his opinion that the court will have to mark up a personal judgment against the parties, or sell the property to pay the accounts.

Farmers and the people at large in his vicinity are indignant, as the matter involves the material prosperity of the entire community, and failure to provide irrigation will severely injure many of the innocent settlers on the lands under the proposed system.

The written contract with Leonard and associates pledging the payment of the \$70,000 and the subsequent written statements pledging payment of indebtedness, which has not been paid, are in evidence, having been given to the business men some time ago to stay proceedings.

LIQUOR SITUATION WEEK'S DOINGS

EXECUTION AGAINST PROPERTY OF KENLIEN AND SAUER.

WHISKEY OUT IN GUTTER

Lee York Gets 10 Days in County Jail and Fine of \$150 and Costs.

Prosecuting Attorney B. F. Mulkey has ordered County Clerk S. F. Chesbire to issue execution against real estate of Sam Kinlein and John Sauer, to be followed by the sale of the same to satisfy judgments (liquor fines) against these parties to the amount of \$700.

It is claimed that the defendants expect to liquidate these judgments by "laying out" their fines at \$2 a day. The prosecuting attorney claims the statute is clear that the property of the defendants may be sold to satisfy these fines. "Not only that," said Mulkey Saturday, "but there is a line of decisions clearly showing that after these defendants had served long enough in jail to amount to the face of the fines their property may still be sold to satisfy the judgments against them."

In regard to George Altpeter, the district attorney said he could find no realty in Altpeter's name, hence, unless Altpeter voluntarily pays his fine, he will continue in jail, being allowed \$2 a day until the fine is liquidated. Altpeter's two fines total \$350, which means incarceration 175 days.

Jones Didn't Appear.

Attorney Mulkey went through Grants Pass Saturday morning to Merlin to try H. Jones on a charge of selling liquor in prohibition territory. It is alleged that on Saturday night, February 24, a dance being in progress at Merlin, Jones appeared in that town with a suitcase filled with bottled whiskey for the purpose of selling the same to thirsty residents; that Ed. Williams, who had been made a deputy constable, bought a bottle of whiskey, paying \$2 therefor; that as the transaction was completed Milton Mason, the constable, and who had witnessed the sale, told Jones he was under arrest, whereupon Jones turned and knocked the constable down. Mason was on his feet instantly and the fight continued with about equal honors until Williams, the deputy constable, hit Jones on the back of the neck with a revolver. This ended the contest and Jones was locked up.

Subsequently Jones gave bond in the sum of \$500 for his appearance in the justice court, with Charles Burkhalter and W. I. Sweetland of Grants Pass as sureties.

At the instance of the defendant the trial of the case was continued to Saturday, March 2, but Saturday when the hour for the trial arrived, the defendant did not put in an appearance.

Jones is alleged to have been peddling liquor for an establishment in Grants Pass, now closed, since the new ordinance regarding revenue licenses went into effect.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Yesterday, at Merlin, before a jury, Lee York was convicted of bootlegging and was fined by Justice Chas. Crow \$150 and costs and to serve ten days in the county jail. York appealed the case, and was released on bond.

The state was represented by Prosecuting Attorney B. F. Mulkey and Attorney O. S. Brown. The defendant appeared by Attorney Fred Williams. The jury was out 15 minutes.

Testimony was that on the evening of February 24, while a dance was in progress, York, in company with H. Jones, appeared on the scene, York carrying a suitcase which he informed Milt Mason was full of "booze,"

GRANTS PASS DEBATERS GO TO KLAMATH

From Thursday's Daily.

Erle Best and Nell Allen of the Grants Pass high school debating team left this morning for Klamath Falls, where they go to engage in a discussion with the Klamath Falls team Friday evening. Superintendent R. R. Turner accompanied the young men.

Miss Helen Love, who is a valued member of the Grants Pass team was unable to accompany the party on account of illness. She went to her home at Myrtle Creek this morning, where she will remain until her health is improved.

No one was substituted for Miss Love, as she expected up to last evening to be able to take part in the debate. The team is considerably weakened by the omission, but the young men will make a strong effort to carry off the honors.

and which he wanted to cache some where. The liquor was then taken to a room where it was held for further reference.

Orin Noel testified that at 8:30 p. m. he bought a quart bottle of whiskey of York, paying \$1.75. There was other corroborating evidence showing to the satisfaction of the jury that the sale was made.

Later in the evening H. Jones is alleged to have sold a bottle of whiskey to Ed. Williams for \$2. Jones was arrested, complaint was filed and Chas. Burkhalter and W. I. Sweetland went his bonds in the sum of \$500, guaranteeing his appearance before Justice Crow for trial. Jones, however, cannot be found and his bondsmen are earnestly trying to ascertain his whereabouts.

Shortly before the noon hour today Judge J. N. Johnston, as a justice of the peace, issued an order directing Chief of Police C. E. McLane to destroy the barrel of liquor which was seized two weeks ago in the wagon shed at P. M. Wickman's residence, 215 West K street.

The officer got busy soon after the court order and rolled the barrel from the city jail, out into the alley at the rear, knocked in the bung, and the red fluid poured on the ground until the barrel was empty.

Witnesses were Judge Johnston and Policeman F. W. Capp.

The order was issued by Judge Johnston as the result of the appearance here today of District Attorney B. F. Mulkey, who came to dispose of the Wickman and Sauer liquor. The district attorney put the Sauer case before Judge James Holman, and after the brief formalities had been gone through, Judge Holman entered an order holding the matter in abeyance pending disposition by the circuit court of the Kenlien liquor, which case went to the circuit court as the result of an injunction originated by Attorney C. H. Clements for Kenlien.

There are about 60 quarts of liquor in the Sauer batch and \$1,000 worth, estimated at wholesale prices, of the Kenlien goods. At least \$1,000 were the figures used in the papers asking for an injunction.

Much interest was manifested in the city today as a result of a decision of the Oregon supreme court affecting saloons in the state. By the decision some interpreted that the case will apply in Grants Pass, where saloons could open for business. An attorney this afternoon stated that the decision would not apply to Grants Pass for the reason that it would have been necessary to have had the question voted on here at a general city or state election.

It was rumored on the streets today that an application for a saloon license would be applied for tonight to the city council, but this will prove to be erroneous, said a city official today.

The case before the supreme court is told in the following:

SALEM, Ore., March 7.—Holding that the home rule amendment of 1910 is self-executing, that cities and towns stand as separate entities and that the existence of precincts which extend partly within the bor-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

POLICEMEN GROUT AND ROGERS OUT

FRANK CAPP NAMED ON THE FORCE AS A REGULAR.

GARAGES TO PAY LICENSE

Nine Electors Appointed to Confer With Council on Proposed Municipal Power Plant.

An ordinance was introduced into the city council last night, which, if it becomes a law, means that it will be necessary in certain cases for property owners petitioning for street improvements to pay preliminary costs.

The first paragraph of the proposed ordinance reads as follows:

THE CITY OF GRANTS PASS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. That from and after the passage of this ordinance, the persons petitioning the common council for the improvement, or opening of any street or alley in the city of Grants Pass, shall tender with such petition a good and sufficient bond with two or more sureties; that said petitioners will pay to the city of Grants Pass the costs and charges of any preliminary survey of such improvement which the common council shall order, in the sum fixed by the common council should the council reject such application after having ascertained the probable cost and considered the advisability of such contemplated improvement, or should the abutters defeat the same by a remonstrance.

Regulating Garages.

Another ordinance proposed was one regulating public garages and autos for hire. It calls for a license fee of \$10 for any public garage; a license fee of \$15 for any garage where autos are kept for hire; a license fee, to be fixed later, for permission to run any auto for hire. This includes autos for passengers or freight.

The ordinances introduced at a previous meeting regulating dealers in junk and prohibiting the keeping within the city limits any stallion or jack for breeding purposes, were passed.

Engineer's Salary Fixed.

The council last night fixed a regular salary for the city engineer. The amount is to be \$125 a month. This is a cut from former remuneration, as heretofore the pay of the city engineer has been \$7.50 a day, actual time. The engineer is allowed an assistant at \$4 a day by the new ruling; that is an assistant when necessary.

Property owners on Lawndridge petitioned for improvement of the street, asking for oil macadam.

Policemen Runt and Rogers were dropped from the force by the mayor, and Frank Capp made a regular officer. Capp has been on the force heretofore as an extra.

At the meeting of the city council last night a resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of a commission composed of nine electors of the city to act with the council in investigating feasibility of a municipal electric power, lighting and water system.

The mayor named on this commission George S. Calhoun, E. V. Smith, Samuel H. Baker, Alfred S. Letcher, George Lundberg, James Wolke, H. L. Gilkey, O. S. Blanchard, E. L. Churchill.

Returns to Seattle.

Mrs. Ralph D. Boyker, who has spent the past month with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hall of this city, left Wednesday evening for her home at Seattle. Mrs. Boyker will be remembered by many Grants Pass friends as Miss Hattie Hall, formerly a resident of Grants Pass. She expects to return to Grants Pass again in the summer.

ELECTRIC POWER FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES

From Tuesday's Daily.

A number of farmers located down the river gathered in J. E. Hair's office late yesterday afternoon in this city and were addressed by H. C. Stoddard, superintendent of the Rogue River Electric company, by H. L. Walthers, manager of the company, and by R. W. Clarke, local manager, irrigation from Rogue River being the subject.

It is proposed by the electric company to furnish power to these farmers for the purpose of pumping water for their lands. The matter was of much interest to the farmers and further steps will be taken looking to this end.

SPRAY WASHINGS KILL FISH IN BEAR CREEK

MEDFORD, Mar. 6.—Because the Rogue River Fruit & Produce association in washing out spray barrels allowed the washings to be carried away in the Eighth street storm sewer, a large number of fish in Bear Creek have been killed and Game Warden McGowan has taken steps to check the practice.

The company has been selling spray and afterward washing out the barrels before reshipping them from the warehouse a block south of Main street. The washings have been turned into a depression drained by the storm sewer. The spray has a deadly effect on fish.

TEACHERS' COMMITTEE TO AID GRANGE FAIR

The teachers' committee named to meet with committees from the Grange, the Commercial club and the Ladies' Auxiliary in the Commercial club room at 10 o'clock a. m. March 23 to perfect plans and make arrangement for a combined Grange and school fair to be held in Grants Pass next fall, is composed of John G. Hill, Merlin, Ore.; Henry L. Thomson, Fruitdale, Ore.; Supt. R. R. Turner, Edna Bryden and Hugh Herrick, all of Grants Pass.

This committee is given full power to act in any way it deems best to further the cause. It has power to appoint such other members as it may need and to appoint other committees. The county superintendent will co-operate with the committee in its efforts.

BIG NUGGET FROM OSCAR CREEK PLACER

From Tuesday's Daily.

Charles Burkhalter of Grants Pass was exhibiting today one of the most handsome chunks of native gold ever taken from a placer mine. The mass of yellow metal weighs \$120, and came from the placer of the Oscar Creek Mining company, located on Oscar creek in Josephine county, a mile and one half east of Murphy and about eight miles south of Grants Pass.

The nugget is carrying some white quartz, which really makes it more attractive and valuable as a specimen than if all gold. It weighs as gold \$120. Eliminate the quartz and it will be valued for the metal alone at something less than \$120. But it will easily sell at its full weight to anyone seeking beautiful specimens for a cabinet.

The mine is owned by Charles Burkhalter, L. L. Jewell, Alva H. Gunnell, all of Grants Pass, and Dr. Moore of Portland. The ground consists of 160 acres, and is noted for producing big nuggets, holding the record in this regard in Oregon. The ground is also considerably richer per square yard than any property in the state.

Not only the nugget just described but other gold was sent in today from the placer, and some of it, including the big nugget, will be placed on exhibition at the Josephine County bank.

M. C. Miller, a leading orchardist of Ashland, spent today in Grants Pass.