

Weekly Rogue River Courier
COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

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REPORTS CANNOT BE VERIFIED.

Again The Courier has been called upon to chronicle threatened railroad building out of Grants Pass. This time it is a line to the Blue Ledge mine, a property which will justify the expense of such a road, but so far The Courier has been unable, we are sorry to say, to verify the report which appeared in the columns of a Portland evening paper. The matter has been investigated by wire but up to the present time no reliable information in regard to the publication has been secured; therefore, we conclude that it is impossible to confirm the report. Everybody knows that a road will be built to the Blue Ledge property and when it is, it will be from Grants Pass up the Applegate, as railroad men long ago ceased to either build over or through mountains when there is an opportunity to reach the point by easy water grade, as would be the case in building from this city.

The Portland report bears evidence of having been made by a railroad promoter for the purpose of inducing the people of another town in this valley to put up a bonus to secure the road for itself. But such efforts are futile, as capital will not be thrown away building tunnels when there is no need of it. The Blue Ledge property is a very valuable one and the men who own it are financially able to build the road in question at any time they may consider it necessary. Grants Pass will at all times extend the glad hand to enterprises of this kind and especially to this particular road, as it will open up large timber interests as well as many rich mining properties aside from the Blue Ledge. The Courier will try to keep its readers informed in regard to railroad construction, but it feels it cannot afford to allow itself to be used by the speculator or take promoter. We take it that when the owners of the Blue Ledge get ready to build, they will proceed in a sane manner, procuring the services of the engineers and the right-of-way. When they are ready they will announce to the world their intention. We can all feel assured that the road will be built and that there will not be unnecessary delay in the undertaking as the price of copper is advancing from month to month and from this on rich mines containing this mineral will be operated to advantage.

KEEP THE CALVES ON THE FARM.

The farmers of Josephine county are pursuing a ruinous method by selling their calves to the butcher. During the past spring, and summer many hundreds of this kind of live stock have been brought to town and sold when in reality they should have been kept on the farm. The calves at this time of the year weigh from 70 to 80 pounds will next year tip the beam at from 250 to 500 pounds. The better stock, if kept on the farm, will add to our dairy interest and bring more livestock.

This killing of calves every year is the cause of raising the price of beef which comes from the scarcity of young stock which is not allowed to mature. It is time we had some legislation on this subject. A law like that of Argentina, which prohibits the killing of a female bovine until the animal has reached its seventh year, would make Oregon a stock country. Good beef would no longer be a luxury indulged in by

the well-to-do alone. Until such a law is passed let us have good sense enough to refuse to send our calves to the shambles.

THE HEROES OF THE AERO-PLANES.

The science of aviation has cost the country dearly this year. The toll of human life, so far this season, is 41 as compared with 73 for the whole year of 1911. The brave men who have lost their lives in the interest of science should be recorded among the heroes. That the flying machine will finally be a success there is no reason to doubt, but this can only come from repeated attempts to navigate the air and those engaged in the business must risk their lives continuously to bring about success.

Going over the list from the beginning we have the death of Lieutenant Thomas I. Selfridge, the first person killed in an aeroplane, in 1908, the list of fatalities has rapidly increased. In 1908 one man lost his life, in 1909 four, in 1910 thirty-two, in 1911 seventy-three, and to date for the present year forty-one persons have been killed, making a total of one hundred and fifty-one.

THE COLORADO BURBANK.

Word comes from Greeley, Colo., that Edward House, the "Colorado Burbank," is developing a seedless watermelon and a hybrid peanut by crossing the sweetpea with the peanut vine, which he hopes will grow peanuts above ground. He declares that he will yet cross a breakfast food with coffee and reduce the cost of living thereby materially. There is plenty of room for experiment along this line and it would be well for the country if we had a whole regiment of "Burbanks."

THE PARCELS POST PROBLEM BEING SOLVED.

A dispatch from Washington says that there is a fair prospect that we will make a beginning at this session of congress in solving the parcels post problem. The house in passing the annual postoffice appropriation bill included the following provisions: First, raising the weight limit on parcels from 4 pounds, as it is now, to 11 pounds, and reducing the rate from 18 cents to 12 cents a pound. Next, it establishes a parcels post on rural routes going out from any town, charging 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound.

This is all right for a beginning. We have been advocating this much for a number of years. It is, however, only a beginning. The house recognizes this by providing for a joint committee of three members from each house to make further study of the question and report to congress in December, 1912.

THE LIGHT IS BREAKING.

Conditions around Grants Pass and in this part of the Rogue River valley are certainly most encouraging. Some months ago the Courier remarked, editorially, there was an old saying "it is always darkest just before the dawn," and it can now give assurance that the light is breaking. Before many weeks we shall all be aware that the dawn of prosperity is with us. Politics has delayed the coming of the better day, but in spite of these delays we have reached a period in our history when conditions are ripe for the promotion of great enterprises which will make Grants Pass the center of coming prosperity.

There is a general feeling abroad that the day of development has reached the country districts of Josephine county, and it is everywhere apparent that irrigation, alfalfa, hog raising, dairying and fruit growing will soon give us a reputation which will attract that class of men who have capital to invest and who possess the ability to carry forward these undertakings which are needed to

make Grants Pass a city of importance. We hear much about railroad building and perhaps many of us have little confidence that this will be brought about at an early date. But let us assure our friends that our section is to be, in the very near future, the storm center of railway construction. If we will but possess our souls in patience we can see and feel that the dawn of prosperity is near, and the year 1912 will see these conditions inaugurated.

MAKING WAR ON INSECTS.

Down in California the owners of vineyards are making a war on that class of insects which have been damaging grape vines seriously during this entire season. The State Horticultural Society has taken steps which will result in great benefit to the owners of vineyards. The insect which is doing the most damage is known as the Tenebrionid beetle and is common in both orchards and vineyards throughout the state of California. The United States agricultural department has been requested to send a pathologist to make a thorough investigation of the various districts to determine the real cause of the trouble and to be able to come back successfully with the pest.

CROP PROSPECTS GOOD.

The hay, alfalfa and the apple crops are most satisfactory in Josephine county. It may be that it will be necessary to import a small amount of hay for next winter, but it will be more than 75 per cent less than it was a year ago. The money for the difference will remain in the hands of the people of this county and it will do a world of good.

A BETTER DAY IS DAWNING.

The leading, active and earnest business men of Josephine county have resolved that factional fights shall no longer disturb the harmony which should exist in this community. Animosities have been forgotten, bitterness has vanished and harshness has been softened so that all realize the beauties and profitableness of peace. Today men are determined to act together for the welfare of the community and consequently the future looks bright. Josephine county abounds in opportunities for the homemaker, and the man who has means to develop farms or enter into business of any sort. All that we have to do is to make known our resources to bring us the class needed to develop the hidden wealth which awaits those in search of opportunities.

MAKE HASTE SLOWLY.

Those men who have voted the republican ticket for generations need not be in a hurry making up their minds to leave their party and join the democratic ranks. There is so much in democracy that is not for the best interests of the country that the members of the party of Lincoln, Grant and McKinley should hesitate before casting their lot with that political organization. The men who compose the rank and file of Woodrow Wilson are opposed to the protection of the American working man and farmer, therefore the success of democracy is not for the best interest of the industrial classes.

It will be remembered that the people cried for a change in 1892 and when the change came there came with it a calamity that cost millions of dollars and a dozen years' time to restore the country to its normal condition. At the first opportunity after 1892 the people overwhelmingly repudiated the democratic doctrine of tariff reform for revenue only. In the election of McKinley to the presidency and the passage of the Dingley tariff act of 1897, which brought relief, restored business confidence and placed the business of the people and of the nation upon a stable basis.

No, the people will not embrace the deceptive free trade doctrine in

1912. However sugar-coated it may be presented, for they have had their bitter experience and are not desirous of another schooling in those democratic institutions—the bread line and soup house.

BULLETIN ON SOILS.

The scientists who make a business of investigating soils have found out many things of value to American farmers. According to bulletin No. 97, of the United States department of agriculture, all soils are made up of varying amounts of materials having the three fundamental soil colors—white, black and red. Grayish colors are considered to be composed of mixtures of black and white; yellowish, mixtures of white and red; brownish, mixtures of red and black. Whittish or gray soils are not generally of much agricultural value. They usually lack organic matter and iron, and have a high content of silica and alumina. But light-colored clayey soils are generally fairly rich in potash. Yellow soils owe their color to small amounts of ferric oxide, more or less hydrated. Black soils are rich in organic matter and frequently in lime. The color is thought to be due to black humus bodies having formed from decaying organic matter and lime. Black soils are universally esteemed highly. Of course, mechanical condition must also be considered. Red soils owe their color to ferric oxide. The color indicates good drainage, as stagnant water would dissolve away the coloring ferric oxide. Red soils are generally older, in a geological sense, than yellow ones, and the drainage is better.

THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TARIFF PLANKS.

The one important point of difference between the republican and democratic parties during this campaign is the tariff. The democratic party demands a tariff for revenue only, while the republicans maintain their policy of protection to the industries of the county. The republican tariff plank in the platform reads as follows:

"We reaffirm our belief in a protective tariff. The republican tariff policy has been of the greatest benefit to the country, developing our resources, diversifying our industries and protecting our workmen against competition with cheaper labor abroad, thus establishing for our wage earners the American standard of living. The protective tariff is so woven into the fabric of our industrial and agricultural life, that to substitute for it a tariff for revenue only would destroy many industries and throw millions of our people out of employment. The products of the farm and of the mines should receive the same measure of protection as other products of American labor.

"We hold that the import duties should be high enough while yielding a sufficient revenue to protect adequately American industries and wages. Some of the existing import duties are too high and should be reduced. Re-adjustment should be made from time to time to conform to changed conditions and to reduce excessive rates, but without injury to American industry. To accomplish this correct information is indispensable. This information can be best obtained by an expert commission as the large volume of useful facts contained in the recent reports of the tariff board has demonstrated.

"The principal feature of modern industrial life is its enormous diversification. To apply tariff rates justly to these changing conditions requires close inquiry and more scientific methods than ever before. The republican party has shown by its creation of the tariff board, its recognition of this situation and its determination to be equal to it. We condemn the democratic party for its failure either to provide funds for the continuance of this board or to make some other provision for securing the information requisite for

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Intelligent tariff legislation. We protest against the democratic method of legislating on these vital subjects without careful information.

"We condemn the democratic tariff bills passed by the house of the Sixty-second congress as sectional, as injurious to the public credit, and as destroying business enterprise."

Below will be found the plank of the democratic party in full: The document is very wordy, but it simply means tariff revenue only. It is the same old plank that Cleveland experimented with and which reduced the workmen of the country to starvation prices for labor.

"Tariff Reform—We declare it to be a fundamental principle of the democratic party that the federal government under the constitution has no right or power to impose or collect tariff duties except for the purpose of revenue, and we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of government honestly and economically administered.

"The high republican tariff is the principal cause of the unequal distribution of wealth; it is a system of taxation which makes the rich richer and the poor poorer; under its operations the American farmer and laboring man are the chief sufferers; it raises the cost of the necessities of life to them, but does not protect their product or wage. The farmer sells largely in free markets, and buys almost entirely in the protected markets. In the most highly protected industries such as cotton and wool, steel and iron, the wages of the laborers are the lowest paid in any of our industries. We denounce the republican pretense on that subject and assert that American wages are established by competitive conditions and not by the tariff.

"We favor the immediate downward revision of the existing high, and in many cases, prohibitive, tariff duties, insisting that material reductions be speedily made upon the necessities of life. Articles entering into competition with trust-controlled products and articles of American manufacture which are sold abroad more cheaply than at home, should be put upon the free list.

"We recognize that our system of tariff taxation is intimately connected with the business of the country, and we favor the ultimate attainment of the principles we advocate by legislation that will not injure or destroy legitimate industry.

"We denounce the action of President Taft in vetoing the bills to reduce the tariff in the cotton, woolen, metals and chemicals schedules and the farmers' free list bill, all of which were designed to give immediate relief to the masses from the exactions of the trusts.

"The republican party, while promising tariff revision, has shown by its tariff legislation that such revision is not to be in the people's interest, and, having been faithless to its pledges of 1908, it should no longer enjoy the confidence of the nation. We appeal to the American people to support us in our demand for a tariff for revenue only."

PORTLAND, July 18.—Sanford Sprattler, deaf and dumb, reported to the police that a man had attempted to hold him up. Investigation proved the "hold-up" man was Patrolman Wellbrook, who thought Sprattler's actions suspicious.

PORTLAND, July 18.—Charles Jackson, colored, loaned Robert Burns, also colored, a diamond pin to wear to a party. A woman stole it from Burns. Since then Burns and a detective have searched 18 negroes for the pin, finally yanking it from the shirt front of William Hicks.

PORTLAND, July 18.—Just before they went to bed, David Pennman told his wife where he had hidden \$20. It was gone next morning. In its stead was a note: "Whisper it next time."

SAN FRANCISCO, July 18.—It took four policemen and a patrol driver to bring Hilda Schwartz to court. All were badly bitten, scratched and kicked in the mixup. She was wanted only as a witness at that.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 18.—A "wild man" with all Suto forest as his Utopia is in jail here, unpoetically booked as a common vag. He has forgotten his own name and most of the English language and has no knowledge of time, the high cost of living or the bull moose party.

LOS ANGELES, July 18.—An indiscriminating thief entered the home of Alice Stebbins Wells, pioneer police woman, and stole her handbag containing her police badge, powder rag, revolver, gum and \$1.50 in change. Detective friends have begun the search.

VENICE, Cal., July 18.—Fair mermads of this beach resort have won their first water polo victory, defeating a team of life guards. They are out with a challenge to meet any male team in the state. Two are blondes and two brunettes.

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ECLUS POLLOCK

of Grants Pass, Ore.

Regular Republican Nominee for

ASSESSOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Present Incumbent.

W. M. CHESHIRE

of Grants Pass, Ore.

Regular Democratic Nominee for

SHERIFF

Eight years in sheriff's office as deputy.

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