

Weekly Rogue River Courier
COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

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IMPORTANT RAILROAD NEWS.

The most important news published by the Courier in many months appears in the article on our first page relating to the railroad from the coast up Rogue river to Grants Pass. We have long known certain facts in regard to this proposed line but have not until the present had sufficient information to justify making public the outlines of this railroad situation. Practical men have long known that the water grade afforded by Rogue river was in part the practical key to the situation. To build a railroad it must be recognized that tonnage is required and in this instance enough is offered in the shape of coal and timber, as well as incoming and outgoing agricultural and mineral products to insure business for the proposed line.

HOME COMING DAY.

Grants Pass is of sufficient size and importance as a community that it should begin to lay the foundation for fixed days for annual observance, like the rose carnival, grange fair and the like. In connection with the last named event, the Courier would suggest that we name and enroll a new day to celebrate, and that should be a "Home Coming Day." This is by no means a new idea, nor do we give it as such, except its application to this city. Home coming day as celebrated in other states is an occasion set apart for the return home of those who make summer tours, camping outings and other trips. It is an occasion also for a visit of those who live elsewhere and desire to visit their relatives or friends in Josephine county.

The plan is to name a day which will come during the Grange Fair this year and the district fair next year. If we inaugurate home coming day this year, it may not be an event of great importance during 1912, but will be by 1913, when by that time it will have taken form and shape and become an event widely advertised, which, consequently, will make of it an event of importance to most people in the county, as well as to those who may select a day for visiting their relatives and friends here. The fair will be an event which will assist greatly in entertaining all who may choose to come.

"WHY NOT MORE HOGS?"

There is certainly something wrong with a greater portion of the state in regard to the failure of our farmers to supply the markets with pork. Our soil will produce the feed while the climate is all that could be desired by those who raise hogs, and yet the supply is far short of the demand. The Courier has urged the farmers of Josephine county to enter the business and while some have taken the advice many have not done so. Of course it must be understood that feed for swine can not be produced without irrigation. Alfalfa or clover are among the hog producing foods and these can be grown in abundance in this county where conditions are favorable.

Under the heading, "Why Not More Hogs?" the Sunday Oregonian gives some facts and figures which are worthy of the attention of every farmer who has irrigated land. The article mentioned is as follows:

"Recently attention was called to the fact that a new census bulletin showed that on May 15, 1900, there were 251,496 hogs in Oregon and only 217,517 on May 15, 1910. This

during the ten years in which we had gained in population 259,229 people, an increase of 52.7 per cent, the number of hogs in the state decreased 63,829, or a loss of more than 22 per cent.

"These figures ought to cause every citizen of the state great anxiety, for there is surely something wrong when hog raising, one of the most profitable the general farmer and dairyman can annex to his chief industries, takes such a slump as that. We must remember, too, that for the last three or four years, or practically ever since the new stockyards were constructed at North Portland, the proprietors of those yards, ably seconded by the railway companies and the officials of the Union Meat company, have been making an active campaign toward increasing the number of swine on our farms and ranches, while the officials and faculty of the Oregon Agricultural College have fully and heartily co-operated with every effort made by the railways and the stockyards and packing houses.

"Meanwhile every person who has followed the advice of these people by starting in the hog business or increasing his herd, has, if he has acted with intelligence, made money on his investment—more money than in almost any other branch of animal industry or agriculture. There is something wrong and the trouble does not lie either with a slump in the profits of hog raising or adverse conditions in Oregon for the pursuit of the industry. Large numbers of landowners cannot, of course, follow the raising of hogs with profit. To make the industry profitable there must be plenty of water and plenty of the proper feed close at hand, and in large areas in the state one or both is lacking.

"On the other hand our climatic conditions are ideal. In no section of the country is the risk of the hog raiser of losses by disease so low. In many sections no swine disease of any nature has ever been known. This is notably true of the Willowa and Powder Valley sections, where many farmers are making great success in both raising and fattening hogs for the Portland market.

"Just what can be done to raise the number of hogs to increase even in the same ratio as our population, the ablest and wisest advisers cannot see. If any man could induce those who are now keeping hogs to increase their herds ten per cent, and at the same time induce ten per cent of those who are now 'hogless' to get a brood sow or two, he would do the state more good than the planting of many orchards. Perhaps that brings us down to the meat and pith of the matter. Too many of our landowners have sold off their hogs and put the money into fruit trees and the planting of them, while those who have cleared and brought into cultivation more land have utilized most of it for orchard purposes.

"We do not desire to give the apple or any other fruit industry a 'black eye,' as the saying goes. Not a bit of it. We have a great fruit country and many large fortunes and much prosperity will come through fruit growing. But the orchardist who forget the hog business is not wise. Whether he has five acres or a hundred or a thousand he should manage to keep a few hogs—and cows. If he gets the cows he will surely, if he is sane, get some hogs, at least a brood sow or two."

WONDERFUL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Few people know of the real conditions which prevail in the agricultural districts outside of Grants Pass at the present time. H. C. Kinney of the firm of Kinney & Traas, said a day or two ago that more money had been invested in development work on the farms of this county during the last twelve months than in the previous four years. To those not acquainted with the improvements being on the statement may

seem large, but we can assure the reader from personal knowledge that Mr. Kinney is right, and what is more, the good work promises to continue indefinitely.

Truly the days of speculation in land around Grants Pass are gone and it is to be hoped, forever. The misfortunes of a country that gets into the hands of the speculator are many. Men buy and sell farms as a business and no one thinks of making improvements, but the day of reckoning comes. A few years ago speculators fairly had possession of this county, but another class are in evidence today. The homebuilder with money to improve his property and surround himself with the comforts of life, is to be found in every portion of the county. He is an advocate of good roads, good schools and up-to-date improvements of every kind, and we find him always willing to do his share toward paying for them. In every way this modern farmer is an up-to-date citizen. He talks intelligently regarding the best breed of stock, knows all about creameries and cheese factories, is an expert in growing alfalfa and swine breeding, and thoroughly understands the farm from a money-making point of view. His example encourages his neighbors and gives confidence to the business man.

Grants Pass people generally, as well as the best citizens of the entire county, rejoice that the new order of things has come to pass, and we only wait a more complete development of irrigation to attract a large number of these desirable homebuilders, but all this will come to us in due time, for there is an active demand for good farms under irrigation by men who have the money to develop the land. Our soil and our climate justifies the belief that the future has great promise in store for Josephine county.

AN EPIDEMIC OF KNOCKERS.

The knocker is admitted to be a bad citizen for any community in which he may locate. As a rule he is a ne'er-do-well—a dangerous character. His trade is to injure everybody who is in any way dependent on the prosperity of the city or county. Unfortunately there is no law, as yet, on the statute books to punish him, but the next legislature will be called upon to deal with this class. This fellow is worse than a pestilence and just now Grants Pass is suffering from an epidemic of these undesirables. Their only object and aim in life seems to be to injure the country and their neighbors. They do not understand that they injure themselves and friends, if they have any, and carry their animosity to the extent of driving would-be investors from the country. Of late this very thing has happened in a number of cases. People in search of a home have no use for a community that will harbor a knocker and the result invariably is they go to places less infested with this class.

GET READY FOR STATE FAIR.

Some one should take up the matter of making a Josephine county exhibit at the state fair this year. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity, but it will be too late if it is not commenced at once. We should send samples of grain of all kinds, and select our best live stock for exhibition. The State Fair association will be fifteen years old with the next exhibition and it is probable that it will be the largest and best showing of Oregon products ever gathered. Not only are the crops so excellent that fine exhibits may be made, but new departments will be added for the first time. Among these are the competitive showing of farm products, grown by school children of the state and the exhibition of students, both of which are arousing wide interest.

Tents at the Rogue River Hardware Co's.

AN IMPORTANT NEW INDUSTRY.

Here are some berry figures which will be of interest to the people of Josephine county. The members of the Commercial club should be interested in this matter and do everything possible to insure the prosperity of this branch of business. The following is the article referred to: "Loganberry culture, a new industry, is growing to large proportions in this state. At Brooks alone 34,000 crates were shipped to a Portland cannery, netting the growers \$21,000. A total of 37 cars of loganberries was shipped from Brooks this year. The acreage given to this fruit is constantly on the increase. One man will set 200 acres in Polk county during the fall and plans to install canning, drying and bottling machinery."

COMMERCIAL CLUB DISCUSSES KNOCKERS.

The ears of the Grants Pass knocker must have burned Monday evening during the progress of the meeting of the Commercial club, for he was sure talked about. The subject was first brought up when A. N. Parsons quoted a gentleman who has recently returned from an extensive trip throughout the east, who said that he heard only good words of the Rogue River valley away from home, but that he found the knocker still doing business here at home. A. E. Voorhies wanted strenuous methods adopted for dealing with the knocker. He was sorry there was no open season on the breed when they could be legally dispatched, but proposed that all knockers who were caught red handed in plying their trade be reported to the Commercial club, and a committee appointed to wait upon the offender. Mr. Voorhies called attention to the fact that nowhere could a better fruit country be found, yet if a stranger asked about fruit some knocker with a penchant for mining would discourage the fruit industry, and say this was only a mining country; if the stranger asked for mines, the fellow with the hammer would waste no time in telling him that this was a fruit growing region and the mines were elsewhere.

The tone of the club was not good for the knocker. President Hobart delivered an apostrophe upon the kind, and it was evident that the next time the knocker's hammer is heard, there will be something to talk about in town. The secretary read a communication from Supt. Campbell of the southern Pacific regarding the use of part of the old depot building for a display room. Mr. Campbell said that the company proposed the removal of the old building to a point further north, and back from the present location, when it would not be so available for the purpose of an exhibit room, and proposed that the club erect a small exhibit room near the passenger depot, where people on the trains could view it.

In his report, Secretary Quinlan laid special stress on the need for finding a proper outlet for the produce of the Rogue valley. He stated that conditions could not be expected to materially improve locally until the producer can market the product of his toil, and that the fact that farmers of tributary valleys were forced to seek elsewhere for markets was a detriment to this locality. He uttered a truism that was endorsed by the members present when he said "It is a pretty good plan to take care of the country first, for then the city will take care of itself."

C. L. Mangum, who was sent to the Yreka congress with the Commercial club mining exhibit, made a verbal report of the work at the congress. A vote of thanks was tendered him by the club for the very efficient way in which he handled the exhibit.

PACIFIC COAST LINE STEAMSHIP AGROUND.

By United Press Lensed Wire. SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—News was received here by the chamber of commerce today of the grounding of the Pacific Coast Steamship company's liner City of Seattle on the rock coast near Ketchikan, southern Alaska. Details of the vessel's plight are lacking, but it is feared she is in a dangerous position. She is a vessel of about 500 tons and had a passenger list of 186. Officials of the Pacific Coast Steamship company here stated their only advice had been resolved through the chamber of commerce, but they expected further details later in the day.

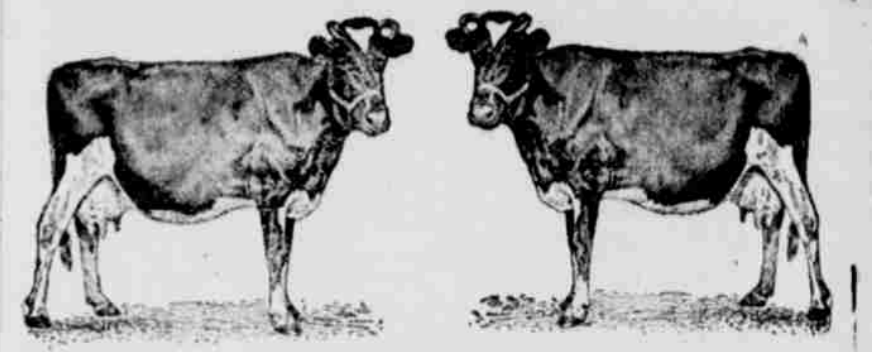
DELAYED PENSION CHECKS REPORTED DUE SATURDAY.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Two hundred thousand war veterans whose pensions are held up owing to a controversy in congress over the abolishment of pension agencies, will probably receive their delayed checks on Saturday, according to announcement here today. The senate is said to have yielded to the house in the pension agency dispute. The house will accept the pension bill today and the president will sign it tomorrow. The checks are all ready for mailing at the pension office agencies and as soon as the president affixes his signature to

the new bill authorizing their issuance they will be on their way to the old soldiers.

GIRL RETURNS HOME AFTER MYSTERIOUS ABSENCE.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—After a week's mysterious absence, Edna Gray of Brooklyn, who left her aunt's home here in an automobile with a strange man, returned today in a hysterical and exhausted condition. The girl reached home in a semi-conscious state, and continually raved about a roadhouse where she claimed to have been held prisoner. From all appearances she had been drugged.



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