

# Rogue River Courier

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## RAILROAD GRADE ABOUT COMPLETE

### MUNICIPAL UNIT SOON READY FOR THE RAILS

### CULVERTS ALL IN PLACE

Total Cost of Ten Miles of Grade to Wilderville Will Be Approximately \$32,000

The grade on the municipal railroad will be completed to Wilderville by Saturday night. The entire roadway will then be ready for the ties and rails for the first ten-mile unit, and as soon as the funds are available from the bond sale the road can be completed that far without further delay. Mr. Keeler, representing the buyers of the bonds, is now in New York city, and expects that the legal questions surrounding the issue will be cleared away within a few days and the transfer made.

The work done by the city to bring the grade on the first unit to completion will show an expenditure of approximately \$32,000, the statement prepared by the engineer on the first of December totaling \$29,639 to that date, with a probable \$2,500 for the present month. The culverts are now all in place, 53 having been laid in the ten miles at a cost of \$1,983.65. These culverts are of cement tile of home manufacture, and are from six inches to 36 inches in diameter. The bills for the clearing and grading of the ten miles amounted to \$23,769.35, considered a most reasonable figure in view of the yardage of dirt moved.

### VOTING BONDS FOR ROADS IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Riverside, Cal., Dec. 17.—A heavy vote was being cast today in Riverside county on a proposed bond issue of \$1,225,000 for good roads. As the result of a long campaign proponents of the issue predicted an easy victory.

### WILSON BACK ON THE JOB

Washington, Dec. 17.—The cold which kept President Wilson confined to his apartments in the White House for several days, has almost entirely disappeared today. His condition was so much improved that he was permitted to resume his duties in the executive offices.

### AVIATOR TO CARRY MAIL

Paris, Dec. 17.—Jules Vedrines, the aviator, announced today that he would shortly start from Paris to Peking, carrying the mail. This will be by far the longest flight ever made in an aeroplane in case Vedrines succeeds.

### ASHLAND REMAINS DRY BY VOTE OF 6 TO 1

Ashland, Ore., Dec. 17.—Complete returns today from yesterday's election showed that Ashland had gone dry by a vote of 793 to 144.

C. Cunningham and Louis Wert were re-elected to the city council and R. P. Cornelius was elected without opposition to fill a vacancy in the council.

F. E. Watson was elected park commissioner without opposition.

### MERCHANTS OFFER PRIZES FOR SHOOTING

The committee having in charge the shooting tournament on the gun club grounds on the 21st inst. has arranged an especially attractive program from the scatter gun artists, and there will be Xmas presents for all. The program will include 15 events of ten blazrock targets each, with first, second and third prizes. There will be a turkey, a duck or a chicken, and a merchandise prize in each event, the winner to have first choice of the prizes offered, and second and third their respective choice. The merchandise prizes are donated by the various houses, as follows: Peerless Clothing Company, umbrella; Grants Pass Hardware Company, hunting knife; Golden Rule Store, box sox; W. H. Hodgkinson, pair shooting glasses; Joe Wharton, pocket knife; R. L. Bartlett, pair house slippers; Geo. S. Calhoun, pair gloves; Skillman & Lawrence, pipe; Josephine Grocery Company, groceries \$1.50; National Drug Store hair brush; C. P. Bishop & Co., shirt; Jewell Hardware Company, gun case; J. V. Schmidt, box tobacco or cigars; Brown & Pernoll, box cigars; O. F. Wittorff, clock.

A rifle shoot will also be held on the gun club grounds in South Grants Pass at the same time the shotgun shoot is in progress, there being all kinds of poultry and beef prizes offered in this.

### POULTRY FROM ACROSS THE SEA HAS ARRIVED

The Wilcoxons have added one more breed to their poultry stock, receiving Wednesday morning a pen of Silver Campines, which were imported from England, having been shipped to Ontario, the distributing point. The Campines resemble somewhat the silver penciled Hamburgs, prolific layers of large, heavy, white eggs. While this breed is comparatively new in this country, it is well known in Europe, where the Campine of today originated, probably from the old Chittiprat or "everyday layer." The people of the Campine district claim origin, and go so far as to say that when Julius Caesar left their country he took back to Rome a number of these fowls, which the Roman epicures pronounced "food for the gods."

These birds in the Boston poultry shows for a number of years past have carried off the first prizes for the best dozen eggs.

### BODY OF MAN MISSING SINCE 1912 IS FOUND

Jas. Smith was called to Etna, Cal., Tuesday by a telegram from his mother stating that the remains of a brother, who had been missing since July, 1912, had just been found in a slough in the vicinity of Etna.

The disappearance of the man had been a deep mystery. He was last seen in July, 1912, at the office of the tax collector, where he had paid his taxes, and was known to have considerable money when he left the office. Foul play was held responsible for his disappearance, and search was made at that time for his body, it being the generally accepted belief that he had been killed for the money on his person. Identification of the body just found was made possible through a number of trinkets that were found with it.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Declaring the potato is threatened with extinction, Congressman Lindquist of Michigan today asked the agricultural department to extend the diseased-potato embargo to every country where the potato disease has ever existed.

## TAX LEVY OF CITY REMAINS 7 MILLS

### COUNCIL REFUSES REQUEST TO MAKE INCREASE

### \$51,500 IN FUNDS FOR 1914

### Public Utility Commission Sent Communication to Council Asking That Change Be Made

The tax levy of the city of Grants Pass for general municipal purposes for the year 1914 will stand at 6 1/2 mills, regardless of attempts made by various interests to have it materially increased. The public utility commission presented a statement to the council at its last session asking that the levy be raised to care for certain obligations that had been incurred during the last year for railway purposes, and that were now overdue. Reference was made to \$12,000 of notes or warrants that had been made payable in October, 1913, and that were to have been retired from the proceeds of the bond issue, and that will be so retired as soon as the bonds are sold. To avoid complications should the bond sale be longer delayed, and to maintain the city's credit unimpaired, the commission, through Commissioners Gilkey, Moss, Williams and Herman, asked for the raise of the levy as advocated by Mayor-elect McKinstry.

Councilman Anderson came to the support of the commission's request when a motion to lay the communication on the table was made. He charged that there was more politics than business in the differences over the low levy made by the council. This was vigorously denied by other members of the council, Mr. Porter of the finance committee stating that the figures upon which the levy was made had been carefully compiled and that the levy, with funds to be derived from other sources, would be ample for the administration during the coming year. The motion to lay the request of the commission for an increase of the levy on the table was carried, Councilmen Atchison, Counts, Caldwell, Barnes and Porter voting in the affirmative, while Anderson and Morgan were opposed, and no change will be made in the levy.

Dr. Reddy addressed the council upon the subject of the levy, and while he saw no cause for alarm, either in the sufficiency of the levy or in the danger of funds not being available through sale of the bonds, he thought a slight raise, made at the request of the incoming administration, would best serve all interests. The doctor was positive in his contention that the money from the bond issue would be available in the very near future, and that the issue of notes of \$12,000 now due would cause no difficulty.

The council figures that from all sources the administration of 1914 will have \$51,500 in the general treasury. This is based upon the return to the general fund of \$13,500 transferred to the railroad construction fund; \$4,000 due from the improvement fund for money transferred; \$1,500 from county taxes; \$1,000 from K. M. C. Neill as balance on change of right-of-way for the railroad through his farm; \$19,500 from the 6 1/2 mill tax levy, and \$12,000 from saloon licenses.

### UNITED STATES READY FOR PENNY POSTAGE

Washington, Dec. 18.—The bill drawn by Senator J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois providing for government ownership of telephones, did not meet with the entire approval of the Wilson administration.

This much was made certain today when house leaders admitted they contemplated introducing at this session a bill providing government ownership of telephone and telegraph lines, framed at the direction of Postmaster-General Burleson.

Following an examination of Lewis' proposed measure by Burleson and his assistants, it was announced today that the former's bill would be withheld and an administration measure substituted and introduced providing it meets with the approval of a democratic caucus. It was expected that Congressman Moon, chairman of the house post office committee, would introduce the bill.

It was considered certain that President Wilson favors government ownership of telephone and telegraph lines, but is undecided regarding the wisdom of taking them over at this time.

Burleson has advised the president that his department has a considerable surplus on hand and that the proposed one-cent postage plan could be put into operation at any time now. Burleson thinks, however, that simultaneous with the postal reduction the government should initiate a plan for taking over the telephone and telegraph lines.

First Assistant Postmaster General Roper said that a committee had been investigating for six months a plan to take over the two public utilities and that it was expected to report soon.

"We feel," said Roper, "that English decisions holding that a telegram is a letter, and that the telephone, to all intents and purposes, is the same as the telegraph, will sustain the administration in its move toward government ownership."

### ELECT NEW OFFICERS

On Tuesday night occurred the election and installation of officers of Grants Pass Lodge, No. 84, A. F. & A. M., as follows: W. M., F. W. Russell; S. W., J. W. Lucas; J. W., A. K. Cass; treasurer, R. W. Clarke; secretary, Jose X. Nelson; trustee, C. H. Demaray; S. D., O. L. Ragan; J. D., R. Bratton; Tyler Peter Allison; S. S., Bert Scott; J. S., W. F. Gloeckner. Jas. Holman, A. A. Porter and J. E. Peterson were also elected cemetery trustees for three and two years and one year respectively.

### DAYLIGHT BURGLARY IS CLIMAX TO FRANCISCO CRIME

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Coming as a climax to an alarming series of hold-ups, sluggings, burglaries and other crimes of violence, the boldness of the robbery late yesterday of the Hahemann Pharmacy in broad daylight and in the heart of the city's shopping district, brought bitter comment on the police from today's morning newspapers here.

The afternoon News, however, took the view that many of the crimes are a result of the widespread poverty of many in the city, due to unemployment.

### PRESIDENT'S HEALTH IMPROVES

Washington, Dec. 18.—The cold which has kept President Wilson confined to the White House for more than a week continued to improve today. It was announced, however, that the president would not visit the executive offices until next week in the meantime attending to routine duties in his office at the White House.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY READY JAN. 1ST

### MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS FOR READING ROOM

### SHIPMENT BOOKS COMING

### Commission Reports to Council that New Municipal Institution Is About Ready for Operation

The Grants Pass public library will be open to the public during the first week in January, if the present plans of the library commission are met. The commission made a report of its finances and its arrangements for operation to the city council at the meeting Thursday night, the report being submitted by Mrs. Mary Hair, president, and Miss Minnie Tufts, secretary and treasurer.

The rooms at the city hall have been made ready for the occupancy of the new library, the private association that had been housed in one of the rooms having moved to other quarters in the Blackburn building. The two rooms on the second floor of the city hall given over to library purposes have been connected with an archway, and shelving, tables and other furniture will be in place. Thirty magazines and weekly papers have already been subscribed for, and at least three daily papers will be received and kept on file. Books to the value of \$400 have been ordered for the first shipment, and these will be placed on the shelves and catalogued as soon as they arrive. The reading rooms, however, will be opened to the public on the first of the year whether the books are then in place or not.

The commission reported that it had engaged Miss Maude Barnes, a sister of Councilman Bert Barnes, as librarian. Miss Barnes is an experienced librarian, at present assistant at O. A. C.

There has come into the library fund to date a total of \$594.25. Of this amount the Ladies' Auxiliary gave \$300, the pupils of the East Side school \$14, and miscellaneous private subscriptions \$280. There had been expended \$57 for magazines and weekly papers, \$20 for daily papers, and approximately \$400 for the first order of books.

The half mill levy made by the city for library purposes will raise \$1,500 per annum.

The library will be conducted both as a reference and a circulating library.

### JAP LABORER MURDERED

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 17.—The body of N. Magio, a Japanese laborer, was found today near Mojave. He is believed to have been murdered for his blankets by a white tramp with whom he started to walk from Mojave to Bakersfield.

### SUFFRAGETTE BOMBS SHAKE CITY OF LONDON

London, Dec. 18.—Two explosions this evening shattered the windows of houses opposite Holloway jail where London's suffragette prisoners usually are kept. Suffragette bombs were supposed to have done the damage. How badly the jail was damaged could not be learned as the police surrounded it at once and prevented investigation.

### HORTICULTURAL COMMISSIONER ADVISES FRUIT GROWERS

Mr. J. F. Burke, County Fruit Inspector, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—It is the policy of the State Board of Horticulture to have a very thorough inspection of the orchards of the Third District for fire blight, anthracnose and San Jose scale, which have been so serious in the Rogue River valley the past year. It makes it much easier for the inspector when the fruit growers co-operate with him. It is to the interest of the growers to co-operate, as it is their money investments we seek to protect. However, the law is drastic enough to force this co-operation if it does not come willingly, as only with a painstaking co-operation and obedience of the orders on the part of the growers can we hope to eradicate the blight, which if left alone will destroy every orchard in Josephine county. You are hereby instructed and required to make a very thorough inspection of the orchards for blight, and will be governed in that inspection as per the following details:

In going into an orchard you will make a tree to tree inspection. When a tree is found diseased with fire blight germs you will have with you some cheap material, red in color, and if the tree can be saved by cutting out the diseased germs you will tie a red flag to the tree, so that the owner can readily find it. If you find a tree so badly diseased that there would be risk in cutting out the germs you will tie two red flags to such a tree, and the owner will be required under the law to cut it down and burn.

After you make an inspection, and have flagged the trees you may find diseased with blight germs, if you can obtain the description by legal subdivisions of the land on which the orchard stands from the owner or tenant of the land where you find the diseased tree, well and good, but if this description cannot be had from the owner, go to the assessor's office and obtain this description, and incorporate this description in the blank Notice of Disinfection I enclose you.

From the best legal advice we can obtain this notice under the law is sufficient to give us legal jurisdiction to prosecute any grower on whom it may be served for non-compliance of its provisions.

The method and remedy prescribed in this notice of disinfection must be strictly followed by the grower, or else he makes himself liable to prosecution, and further more having the trees so diseased declared a public nuisance, and have the same summarily cut down, with whatever expense for cutting down he would have to pay or have the same certified for payment to the county court, when the same would become a lien on the land on which the diseased orchard stands.

There is no remedy for blight eradication excepting to cut out the diseased germs and sterilize the tools you cut with with corrosive sublimate, one part of the sublimate to 500 parts of water.

Yours truly,  
A. H. CARSON,  
Commissioner Third District.

### REFUSED TO SPRAY AND FRUIT TREES ARE DESTROYED

Portland, Dec. 17.—Because he failed to comply with the state law requiring a yearly spraying of fruit trees, twenty-eight hundred trees on Herman Metzger's ranch near Portland were chopped down today on orders issued by State Fruit Inspector J. E. Stansberry. Eleven men sent by Stansberry did the chopping.