

ANOTHER ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

Prairie City People Will Draw Power from Middle Fork of John Day.

On Tuesday night a meeting of the Middle Fork Electric Power company was held in this city.

This company has been organized for the purpose of building an electric power plant on the Middle fork. The meeting Tuesday night was of a preliminary nature and the corporation will be perfected immediately and the many matters of detail receive careful attention.

At the meeting R. C. Reese was elected president; Sam Newman, secretary; Dr. V. C. Belknap, treasurer and Joe Reese, general manager. The company will build an electric power plant that will cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

It is estimated that they will be able to generate a 700-horse power, and this will furnish power and light for the Dixie Meadows mine.

It is, however, a distinct corporation, and has no connection with the Dixie Meadows Mining company.

This is a great enterprise and will result directly to the benefit of Prairie City, as its power can be utilized for running sawmills, planing mills and innumerable concerns that might take advantage of it. The company will also supply light and power to all the mines in the district.

It will be a stimulus to all the mines here, as it will offer facilities that will cheapen the development and operation of them.—Prairie City Miner.

MINING INVESTMENTS THE PRESENT FINANCIAL FAD

Conservative investors are now buying mining stocks to an extent not known since the Leadville discoveries. The public also has taken an interest in them. Mining capitalists purchase mines as a whole. Some of these are incorporated and stock offered the public. Such men, versed in mining, put up their own money, and usually have asked no help from the outside, if so, only from friends. They know how to invest. The layman does not, yet is desirous of investing in desirable mines. His only course is to seek for stocks, and he buys into various propositions, if he is prudent, not risking all in one. In this way stocks in mines have become widely scattered, mostly in small sums.

We have heard of one corporation that has six thousand stockholders. The largest number now interested in mining are of this class. It is encouraging to the mining industry, which is as legitimate as any industries, and followed with the same good judgment as is used in industries, is just as safe, and at the same time fraught with bonanza possibilities, involved in no other industry. This attractive feature leads to impositions on the part of impostors. But they play their hand in other pursuits, also, and the mining industry should not be responsible for

them. It invites scrutiny into the character of a corporation, the same as would be used in any other investment.

There is abundant testimony that the successes which are phenomenal are in larger proportion than can be found in other pursuits, and the failures are less in percentage, and involve less money.—Pick and Drill.

Procuress Wants School Girls.

Additional developments in the work of procurers in this city came to light today. After reading the announcement in the East Oregonian last evening that an attempt was being made to secure names of young girls here who would be available for beer joints, dance halls and other immoral purposes, School Clerk John Halley jr. remembers that a strange woman called at his office on Wednesday and insisted on having access to the list of school children of this district, without giving her object or design. Mr. Halley flatly refused to give her the names and had difficulty in getting rid of her, so persistent was she on her mission, although he did not suspect at the time what her business could be. The woman was a stranger in the city and has not been seen since, and while there is no direct evidence that she was procuring names for improper purpose, Mr. Halley now believes that this was her business. She has left town and he has no knowledge of her whereabouts. She claimed to him to be connected with the woman's clubs, but would not give her object in securing the names.—Pendleton Oregonian.

Government's Ledger.

The government's ledger for the fiscal year which has just ended, says a Washington report, shows that the expenditures exceeded the revenues by \$41,352,326, the receipts aggregating \$541,539,071. The expenditures include \$50,000,000 paid for the Panama canal right of way and \$4,600,000 loan to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Compared with the revenues of the previous fiscal year the revenues show a falling off of \$17,700,780, while the disbursements increased \$21,752,481. The decrease in the revenues from customs amounted to \$262,068,483, or \$21,823,235 less than in the fiscal year 1903. The receipts from internal revenue aggregated \$232,435,695, exceeding those of the previous year by \$2,320,440. The increase in expenditures was mainly in the navy, which expended a total of \$102,757,073 or \$20,061,271 more than last year. The item for pensions also shows an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 on account of the service pension. The receipts from customs were reduced between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000 by the operations of the Cuban reciprocity treaty.

Ginseng Swindlers.

The ginseng advertisements that were a feature of the magazines about a year ago have disappeared, but the Agricultural Department at Washington hasn't forgotten them. A veritable craze for raising ginseng has spread over the country, and the department is besieged with requests for plants and seeds. Upon good authority it is stated that the plant grown in this country could find no market, as the Chinese get an ample supply from farms in Corea. The ginseng advertisers represented that the plant brought fabulous prices for medical purposes, and that a small

patch in any old back yard plaited with the root could make a family rich beyond the dreams of the most gullible patron of get-rich-quick schemes. According to the New York Sun, there has been fraud in connection with the ginseng advertising, some of the firms sending to patrons seeds that, when planted, produced the common or garden variety of turnip.—Printers Ink.

WILL BAKER GET LAND OFFICES?

Now that the new federal building for Baker City is assured, it is highly probable, according to advices direct from Washington, that the Burns and La Grande land offices will soon be consolidated and located in the new government building at that place, in order to concentrate the business of the government and also to economize on expenses.

The movement to merge the Oregon City and The Dalles land offices in Portland is a forerunner of this important step, and it seems only a question of a few months until Baker City will be headquarters for all the government land business in eastern Oregon.

One vital reason for this movement on the part of the government is the fact that the vacant area of government land in eastern Oregon is now reduced to a very small amount, compared to the amount at the formation of the land office districts, and the extra expense of office rents and salaries of extra receiver and registers can be logically dispensed with, by this consolidation.

The federal building at Baker City will be occupied by the postoffice and the land office, and a possible assay office.

Baker City is also anticipating the location of the headquarters of the new federal district in eastern Oregon, but Pendleton is the logical location for the judge and court in the new district and will make the right kind of a fight to get it. Baker City is located on the extreme eastern border of the state, while all the new federal districts would be directly tributary to this city.—East Oregonian.

CHERRIES WILL THRIVE AT THIS ALTITUDE

It has been held that fruit trees will not flourish at this altitude, but J. W. Call, bookkeeper at the Bergman grocery, seems to have demonstrated the fact that at least cherry trees will thrive and bear fruit.

A couple of years ago Mr. Call planted a cherry tree in his yard on lower Mill street, and this year it has a good crop of cherries on it. While the cherries have not yet ripened, they are almost full size and there is every evidence they will mature in due season. Mr. Call is of the opinion that not only cherry trees will do well at this altitude, but that other varieties of fruit will flourish as well.

FOR SALE—New set light harness, one second hand wagon and two trucks. Sumpter Lumber company, Sumpter, Oregon.

EARLY STUDENTS OF ROCKS AND MINERALS

A. Cronstadt, of Stockholm, Sweden, was the first to recognize the distinction between minerals and rocks and to separate the two into different systems. He published a book in 1758 treating upon minerals and rocks, a few copies of which yet exist. In 1774 Abraham Werner, of Leipsic, published a work on the external character of minerals, which was a great advance on Cronstadt's book. He was the first to distinguish minerals by their external characters, and crystallography really began with him; he having recognized the great importance of observing the crystalline forms in minerals. Werner also proved that minerals had different chemical constituents.

The first work on mineralogy by an Englishman was that of Kirwan, who published a book at Dublin in 1784. The next most important work was that of Mohs, a German, called "Grundeiss der Mineralogie," and published at Vienna in 1822. This book was translated into a number of languages and is yet an authority. Mohs introduced "the scale of hardness," one of the most important features in the study of mineralogy, and this table, with one exception, that of rock salt instead of gypsum for No. 2, has remained the authority ever since. He also recognized the importance of luster, specific gravity and color of the streak of minerals and a large number of minerals were given names by him.

In 1856 a Frenchman, A. Dufrenoy, published a book called "Traite de Mineralogie." This book was an authority for a long time. The greatest works on mineralogy are doubtless those of James Dwight Dana and E. S. Dana, both of Connecticut, and their works being authority throughout the United States and other English speaking countries.—Mining World.

Special Excursion to The World's Fair.

The Denver and Rio Grande, in connection with the Missouri Pacific, will run a series of Personally Conducted Excursions to the World's Fair during June. These excursions will be run through to St. Louis without change of cars, making short stops at principal points en route. The first of these excursions will leave Portland June 7th, and the second June 17th. The rate from Baker City will be \$60 to St. Louis and return. Excursionists going via the Denver & Rio Grande have the privilege of returning via a different route. This is the most pleasant way, as well as the most delightful route, to cross the continent. The stops arranged give an opportunity of visiting the various points of interest in and about Salt Lake City, Denver and Kansas City. If you wish to accompany one of these excursions write at once to W. C. McBride 124 Third street, Portland, for sleeping car reservations.

Don't Go to St. Louis

'Till you call at or write to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. Office 134 Third Street, Portland, Oregon. Low rates to all points East, in connection with all transcontinentals.

W. S. ROWE, General Agent., Portland, Oregon.