

TO START WORK ON HUGE DAM

Freehold Mining Company Has Under Way Many Improvements on Their Property in Josephine.

GRANTS PASS, Dec. 25.—The Freehold Mining syndicate, an incorporated company of which organization T. J. Beard, is in personal charge, is putting in a large dam on their property on Briggs creek at the mouth of Swede creek. This is the old Walidon property which has the general reputation of being a rich placer. It consists of 450 acres. The dam mentioned will be 300 feet long and 30 feet in height, made of cement and stone and will furnish the water for five hydraulic 18 inch pipes. The improvements will cost \$12,000, but the money will be expended, as it will permit the working of the entire property, which will take many years to exhaust. This mine is located about 18 miles up Briggs creek from the Wonder postoffice. Mr. Beard has had a force of men at work on the property since early in the spring and much headway has been made in the development. This property has on it a hundred foot ledge of the famous ore found in the Alameda formation. The location is on the opposite side of the mountain from the Alameda and as the crow flies, about seven miles distant. It has long been known that the Alameda formation extended for many miles across the country. Mr. Beard is a man of large experience in mining and it is fortunate that he has found its way into this district, as his services have been greatly needed. He was one of the most successful miners, not only of Nevada, but of Australia, New Zealand and several other countries. Men who have employed him and followed his advice have invariably made money. He came in town a few days ago and remained a couple of days to attend to business matters and on Monday night took the train for Portland, where he resides. His intention is to return to Grants Pass about January 15. The coming year he will have large interests in other points in this county and will be joined by well known capitalists in enterprises of great moment in this section.

STATE CONSERVATION MEETING IN SPOKANE

POKANE, Wash., Dec. 25.—A general convention of state conservation advocates is to be held in Spokane this winter. At that meeting delegates from very section of the west will be invited and the fight organized to put the saving of forests, water power, coal and mining districts in the hands of the different states instead of under control of the national government. A call for a preliminary meeting has been issued by a special committee of the Spokane branch of the American Mining congress.

SENATORS WOULD STOP INVESTIGATION OF OFFICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Several senators who are strong partisans of Pinchot are quietly exerting what influence they can to induce republican leaders of the senate to side-track Senator Jones' resolution proposing an investigation of the forest service and the interior department.

The forest service does not court the investigation at this time and has lost all interest in the probe of the interior department, since it has been determined to investigate their own bureau as well.

WEBSTER MAY QUIT HIS OFFICE JANUARY 1

SALEM, Or., Dec. 25.—Although County Judge L. R. Webster of Multnomah county declined to commit himself in specific terms, it was gathered from statements made by him in an interview last evening that he will resign his position with the county about January.

He came to Salem this afternoon and, after a conference with Governor Benson, said that he had not filed his resignation and did not know when he would do so. He said: "I may resign in a few days and I may stay in office for some time. It all depends on certain business deals that I now have under consideration. If I leave the employ of the county I expect to take the presidency of the American Life & Accident Insurance company, an Oregon concern recently organized. Also I will devote some time to the good roads work and practice law."

THE STATE OF SISKIYOU

(Valley Record.)

The Oregonian of Sunday contained an editorial on Yreka, the county seat of Siskiyou county, ambitious to become the capital of the new State of Siskiyou. It was along the line that has made the Oregonian notorious as the boldest libeler in the northwest and its editor without a peer as a slanderer.

Its description of Yreka and Siskiyou county and its history as a piece of fiction and discloses its editor's sources of information concerning northern California to be as superficial and ignorant as is its conception of the state of Oregon outside of the Willamette valley where its editors had their life's work and experiences.

Siskiyou county throughout the history of California contributed heavily to the fame of that state in the varied channels of human effort and the little city of Yreka famous in the history of the coast, is today an exhibition of courage, resolution and progress that would shame many Willamette towns by contrast.

A few exhibits that act as thermometers of the collective spirit of a people will assist in bringing out some facts:

Yreka instituted a thorough modern sewer system years ago, at a time when scores of Willamette valley towns much larger breathed effluvia so thick you could cut it with a knife.

It had a municipal water works system and pure mountain water before the need of this luxury was felt as a real necessity in the Willamette towns and where the state capital, Salem, the seat of the state university, Eugene, as well as many other cities in that region, are drinking slough water from the Willamette and where a typhoid fever epidemic is now raging and has for years carried on a carnival of destruction that has advertised the waters and wells of mossback Oregon as poison breeders.

A fine high school structure, as important an edifice as some of the main buildings of the university of Oregon, was constructed at Yreka some eighteen years ago and a high school established at a time when the entire state of Oregon could not muster up a half-dozen high schools. It was maintained in a manner characteristic of the California spirit and afforded salaries that attracted instructors who obtained broad and liberal educations at universities whose character and standing would make Oregon feel ashamed and by comparison the heads of the state's two educational institutions at Eugene and Corvallis would look feeble.

Siskiyou county years ago adopted the system of bonding for the construction of substantial roads, built under intelligent plans and specifications, and its bridges are constructed in the same way. The result is that the county has good roads and the annual tax is very small because it consists of repairs and interest charges. This is impossible under a mossback constitution that has hung over Oregon since pioneer times that have passed away except on the editorial page of the Oregonian.

Yreka is agitating the construction of bitulithic paved streets and its officials are examining the work in Ashland and Medford with a view of introducing it in that town. The extension of the Yreka railroad to Scott valley and beyond is close at hand.

It was the location of a splendid county hospital building and grounds many years ago while practically every county in Oregon was continuing the mossback habit of farming the county's aged and infirm out to the lowest bidder, whose treatment was customarily so tough that grand juries and the criminal branch of the law had to interfere, and whose condition was a positive disgrace, with other \$25,000 modern structure, with modern surgical appliances, operating rooms, etc., was completed a year ago. A hall of records, new palladium to court house was constructed recently and scarce are the counties in Oregon that will exceed it in modern equipment and facilities for transacting the public business in safety and dispatch.

In the '70s when California through its patronage of education and liberal arts, became enlightened and discovered that its old constitution was intended for conditions that were obsolete and that progress would be facilitated by a moderate document the state was thrown in a great upheaval and out of it a great constitutional convention was born and a modern charter for the state was constructed and adopted. About this period Yreka supplied the great state of California with one of its greatest and most useful chief executives in William Irwin, editor of the Yreka Union. Siskiyou county brought forth a congressman that served the district ably at Washington for several terms at an important period; the late ex-U. S. Senator John P. Jones, who represented Nevada until his death, got his start in mining and statesmanship in Siskiyou county, while a famous sheriff of Siskiyou county, David D. Colton, was one of the constructive intellects that made it possible for Stanford and his associates to bring about the completion of the Central Pacific railroad to the coast. The name of Ex-Lieutenant Governor John Daggett is familiar to all of California and among great mining men through out the coast from Alaska to Mexico. There are other names too numerous to mention who have achieved distinction in California affairs in recent times as well as in the past and there are few counties on the Pacific coast that have exceeded Siskiyou in their contribution of talent as constructive statesmen and industrial developers, as well as its full quota of lawyers, physicians and editors, while in literature and poetry it has contributed some important work.

The route chosen for railroad construction through the county was the only important factor that prevented Yreka from maintaining its lead as the chief city north of Sacramento, but it wasted little time in constructing a branch line out of its own energy and finances at a period when a less resolute people would have wrapped itself in Willamette moss-backism and sung the tune that invites fossilization and decay. Through its own energies and enterprise it has steadily grown and become a more beautiful and sprightly little city than it ever was before in all its history, and the introduction of electric railways in that county in the near future as well as the development of some of its dormant resources will see Yreka well prepared to entertain the first legislature of the new state of Siskiyou in a manner that would make Salem look like a has-been.

In variety of rich and important resources capable of producing great wealth, we do not know any three counties in the Willamette that will exceed it. It has a splendid exhibit at the A. Y. P. exposition, is always on hand at the California state fair and can be depended upon all occasions to show the proper spirit under all kinds of ordeals. The prompt contribution Yreka made while San Francisco was laid low by earthquake and fire was simply phenomenal for a city of its size, and in every way the history of its influence and actions puts the lie to the Oregonian's slanders.

The gallantry and spirit of the Siskiyou people is famous, it comes up from the earth and permeates the air. There are but two places in the world's history where a few men held out against greater odds than did the Indian on the lava beds during the Modoc war—the Pass of Thermopylae and Alamo.

\$4,000,000 TO EXPLORE MINE

Big Things Are Doing in the Galice District—May Start Alameda Smelter in Near Future.

During the coming season there will be inaugurated in the big Galice district a large amount of practical work in mining for which the capital has already been provided. The work in contemplation will require the expenditure of \$4,000,000 and this large sum has been furnished by mining men who know the business from the bottom up. This big combination of money and experience means much to southern Oregon and especially to Grants Pass, and it is to be hoped that our citizens will make the most of it. Investigation into the mines of the extensive Galice district have been going on for many months but it was not until a few days ago that the parties in interest completed their deal and put up the enterprises in hand.

It has long been desired to attract the attention of certain mining people of Nevada, California and other points and now that it has been accomplished little remains to be asked for by those earnest workers who have done their part in this important capitalization of these properties. It may not be understood by outsiders that the Galice mining district covers a large territory and that it is one of the richest in the country. All that it has needed has been transportation an deapital to open up its wealth of gold, silver and copper. Aside from what has been said about the mines we are informed that the long talked of electric road to connect with the Southern Pacific will soon be built and the Alameda smelter will be started up as soon as the men who are now at work can complete the erection of the machinery.

WORTHLESS CHECK GAME USED AGAIN AT ROSEBURG

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 25.—By means of two worthless checks accepted in payment for small bills of goods, two Roseburg business houses, Wollenberg Bros., dry goods, and Mrs. H. Easton, grocer, have been swindled out of money by a man and woman, who left the city last Saturday night after working their game. The swindle was not exposed until yesterday, when the Security Savings & Trust company of Portland, on whom the checks were drawn, returned the paper with the information that no account was carried in its bank by "Mrs. F. G. Hart," the name of the payer. With the four days' time which the swindle had in which to flee, there is little likelihood of their being caught. They have an infant with them.

FRUIT UNIONS ARE LIKELY TO MERGE

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 25.—The joint committee from the Hood River Applegrowers' Union and the Hood River Fruitgrowers' Union is reporting a plan for the consolidation of both the organizations to a joint meeting of the boards of directors this afternoon. It is probable that the plan which will be approved will be for the apple union to absorb the fruit union and pay the stockholders of the latter organization for their shares in cash or stock in the larger corporation. The fruit union has specialized on strawberries, handling other berries, cherries and small fruits, while the apple union confines its shipments to apples and pears. The result has been that many orchardists of the Hood river valley have been members of both organizations, and they have felt that economy could be secured by consolidation. The two unions hold valuable adjoining leases along the railway, and by maintaining only one plant the fruit crops of the valley may be handled much more cheaply.

JEANETTE THINKS HE CAN BEAT JOHNSON

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Joe Jeanette, the negro heavyweight, who recently fought a 30-round draw with Sam McVey, in Paris, is back in New York for the holidays. He is confident that Johnson will beat Jeffries in the championship bout next summer.

"But Johnson is a much over-rated fighter," added Jeanette. "I am sure that I could whip him. I have fought him several times. Once he won a decision in a 15-round fight. Once I fouled him and the other scraps were all draws."

John H. Chester of Gold Hill spent Christmas day in Medford with friends and relatives.

WESTERN PACIFIC INVADES OREGON

Contract Let for Grading of Line From Alturas to Lakeview—Believed to Mean New Line Into Oregon.

PAISLEY, Or., Dec. 25.—The announcement has been made that the Nevada-California & Oregon line has let a contract to W. Nugent and the Richardson Construction company for the grading of an extension from Alturas, Cal., to Lakeview, Or.

Work will start in January. The line will be a broad gauge. The supposition is that this means the extension of the Western Pacific into Oregon, as the road reaches within a few miles of Alturas.

ONE OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS BALLS HELD ON BEALL FARM.

R. V. Beall, of Central Point, one of the pioneer farmers of the valley, spent Christmas day in Medford. One of the first Christmas balls ever held in Southern Oregon, occurred on the Beall farm, when the dancing was done on a punchion floor to the music of one fiddle. Part of the ball supper was brought by the people from Jacksonville in attendance, and the balance was prepared after the arrival of the company. Mrs. Elizabeth Kinney, the Miss T'Vault and the late Mrs. Jane McCully, were among the belles of the ball.

BARNEY OLDFIELD MAKES FASTEST WESTERN TIME

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—At the Ascot park this afternoon Barney Oldfield, before 6000 people, made the fastest five miles ever made in an auto competition race, beating Ben Kerseher, the German racer, about 16 feet. He circled the track five times in four minutes and 35 seconds. In an exhibition mile he circled the course in 53 3-5, which is the fastest time ever made in the west.

O'BRIEN GETS SHOVE UP IN COMPANY OFFICES

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—J. E. O'Brien, the St. Paul engineer of the Northern Pacific, has been appointed superintendent of power on the Western Pacific.

Medford, Oregon: This certifies that we have sold Hall's Texas Wonder for the cure of all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles for ten years, and have never had a complaint. It gives quick and permanent relief. 60 days' treatment in each bottle. Medford Pharmacy.

The city of Jacksonville, the business men of Jacksonville and the citizens of Jacksonville have had their experience with a cheaper form of light than electric light several years ago. Before considering a cheaper form of light get their experience. 240

Be sure you are right before you go ahead, is good advice that applies to the light business as well as other business. Electric light has stood the test of time as the safest and most economical light and before considering cheaper lights get the experience of people who have used them several months at least. 240

The Los Angeles Times says Oregon is sick of the primary law and wants to go back to the old convention plan. The Times should have said that Oregon's political machine was sick of the primary law.

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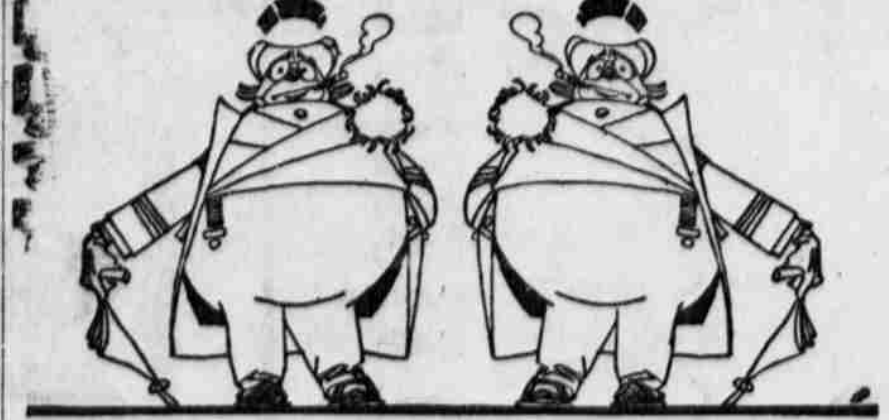
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