

Newsy Notes from Rogue River Valley Towns

Central Point Items

The membership of the Y. M. C. A. has now reached the 200 mark, and steps were adopted at the meeting of the executive committee last night to co-operate with the state secretary in plans for the raising of the building fund. It is expected that little trouble will be experienced in raising the necessary funds for a building that will be a credit to both the association and the town, and that actual work on the building itself will be commenced within a few weeks. Mr. Garnet of Medford will address the men's meeting next Sunday at 3 p. m. at the opera house.

R. F. C. Astbury, owner of the famous Riverside orchards, near Gold Ray, and former city engineer of Central Point, went north Monday night to visit friends at Portland, Astoria and Seaside.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Isaacs (Togery Bill) returned from an automobile camping trip to Crater Lake, where they enjoyed a most pleasant outing. Bill declares that not a shabby fish was in the lot—they were all wool and a yard long, the best line ever brought to Southern Oregon and caught at an expense of 25 per cent lower to begin with than those caught by other fishermen.

Dr. Kirchgossner, kaiser of the upper Rogue river, was in town Tuesday on business and declares that automobile tourist parties and other trespassers who are hunting and prospecting on his place are breeding much trouble for themselves. Doc declares they pay no attention to his private road signs and will shoot at anything they see from a tom-tit to a turkey buzzard.

John Grieve came in from Prospect Tuesday and is looking and feeling fine. Mr. Grieve's legion of friends here are pleased to note his splendid recovery from sunstroke.

Carl A. Hellstrom of Pasadena, Cal., who bought a portion of the Jim Hurley place, was in town on business Wednesday.

C. B. Bade, of the Jacobsen-Bade company, contractors, was in town Wednesday looking after the electric motor at the pumping station of the municipal water plant. The machine is not yet giving perfect satisfaction.

T. M. Jones is home from Phenix, where he has been engaged in camp meeting work.

Scott & Tex, the electrical firm of Central Point, are busy wiring the new Norcross residence; also the residence of W. J. Freeman and other houses. This firm also did the wiring on the new palatial residence of William A. Cowley.

W. E. Trigg, who recently purchased the Welch place, left Wednesday for Iowa on a business mission. While east Mr. Trigg expects to dispose of his property there and invest the proceeds in Rogue River valley lands upon his return.

Phil Simpkins and Miss Frances Shields attended the camp meeting at Phoenix Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Isaacson will return tomorrow from their seaside vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Taylor and son, Edwin, father, mother and brother of our esteemed townsman, Frank Taylor, will arrive in a few days from Burlington, Ia., for an extended visit with their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor, of the Central Point bakery.

George W. Stacey, road supervisor, of the upper Rogue river country, passed through Central Point Wednesday on his way to Jacksonville to confer with the county court regarding road work in his district.

Rev. M. E. Coen of Woodville was in town Wednesday.

Mrs. P. P. Jeffers brought to Central Point Tuesday a limb which was broken from a silver prune tree which contained a cluster of the largest prunes ever seen. The fruit from the one cluster filled two quart fruit jars.

John P. Kline of Rawlins, Wyo., is visiting in Central Point for a few days.

Harvey Graham of Alexandria, N. D., is in town for a few days.

Clean up your back yards, alleys and streets. Marshal Holmes is coming.

All the carpenters in town are busy and there are no "For Rent" signs up in any of the windows.

It is reported that the state health officer will be in Central Point next week to inspect the sanitary condition of the jail. If he does, he had better bring a change of clothes with him, for the walls of that historic bastle contain a million of athletic microbes.

Central Point needs a new city hall. The old hall, when first built,

was sufficient, but things have changed and the city needs a hall more in keeping with modern civilization.

While the ball game last Saturday afternoon was entertaining enough, and while the two nines played fairly good ball, the fact still remains that no attendance sufficient to support a team showed up and leaves one stronger of the opinion that Central Point is too small for weekday ball. Those who oppose Sunday ball to a more or less degree oppose baseball in its entirety, as low, vile and ultra-partisan, and will not attend on any occasion, and those who are fond of the national game, believing it, as we do, to be clean, wholesome and desirable, cannot attend on a weekday, and especially is this so on a Saturday. Saturday is the best day in the week for all business men. People come in from the country to trade and not to play ball. To ask a merchant to close noon is simply asking him to invite noon is simply asking him to invite his customers to go to Medford for their wares, which in time they would do. The barber, the printer, the groceryman, the hardware man, the drygoods man and all lines of business are affected the same. Saturday ball is well enough, but to close the stores in order to get a crowd would work a lasting detriment to the commercial standing of the town and we would far better have no ball at all.

Mr. and Mrs. William Brook of Snowy Butte orchard, visited Butte Falls Sunday in their automobile. They encountered very rough roads between Eagle Point and Butte Falls and other places, to which fact the attention of the county court is respectfully called.

To sell it cheaper than any one else is important store advice. If you let the people know about it, you'll get them interested in your store—scores of them, who only "know" where it is now.

Haskins for Health.

Butte Falls Items

There have been a party of "lads" here for some time, among whom we have found Ralph Dent, Charley Angles, Harry Porter and Harry Ling, all of Medford, camping in the hills and enjoying themselves in such boyish sports that only boys know as the well of living. They are all doing well. One would think that we were here in the midst of raging war, if they should conclude from the terrific cannonading, both day and night, that greet the ears, that the battle of the giants was being fought, and mother earth's bosom, rent with the pitiless slaughter of her cruel offspring, but it is only the Pacific & Eastern railroad gang blasting rock and stumps and preparing the right-of-way for our steel railway, which is fast approaching completion. The grading is nearly done, and already ties are strung out along the way, timber for bridges, cars for transportation and men for work can be seen from the desert to several miles to the north and everything betokens that Manager Greig is pushing his iron steed rapidly to his mountain retreat.

Rev. McClean of Grants Pass, Rev. Shields, Giboney and Mr. Potter, of Medford, have been here attending to the interests of the Presbyterian church to be organized, and on Sunday morning, after an excellent discourse by Dr. McClean, the Presbyterian church of Butte Falls was organized by pledging the members, electing Messrs. Frodenburg and Bailey, ruling elders, and Messrs. Mills, Frodenburg, and J. P. Hughes, trustees of the church property, and instructing them to incorporate and the articles for which are prepared and being signed. In the evening Rev. McClean favored the people with a most interesting and instructive sermon, which was calculated to help parents and particularly the young people and the Doctor received many expressions of thanks and good will for the timeliness of his words, and young men were moved to pronounce for a better future life. The organization started off very favorably and will have a most sightly location for its church building, a beautiful lot having been donated by the Butte

Falls Lumber company, and soon work will start on the building. This is one of the wisest of moves as a community with God and religious influences dominated it can not but achieve the highest success. We have a fine schoolhouse and now we will have uplifting spiritual and moral helps so that we are safe in inviting people to take residence among us and make Butte Falls one of the most desirable country places. We have openings for business and no one need be afraid of starving for want of work, as our mill is rapidly approaching a point where it will find it necessary to have both day and night shifts and many men must be employed; and these men and their families—i. e. we prefer men of families—must be fed. There are several fine opportunities for merchants of modern ideas and methods to open up a paying store.

Lee Edmonson and family passed through town during the week on their way to the upper hills. Mr. Edmonson has just taken unto himself his second wife, and many congratulations are extended to Lee, and may joy and flowers and love crown his path, and Mrs. Edmonson be a helpmeet of whom the world cannot but say: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her and she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

Mesdames Enyart, Telfer and several other parties, whose names we did not learn, have been roustabouting in the mountains with "Shorty" Miles and family and report a splendid time. Mrs. Enyart and Mrs. Telfer have left for the valley.

Drs. McDaniels of Portland and Porter of Medford are among us and enjoying themselves very much. Dr. Porter shot at a black bear near the town on Monday, but did not bag Bruin.

If a merchant is really selling some useful article lower than any one else in town, and is not getting out of that fact its full advertising value, he was never destined to be a merchant.

Haskins for Health.

will contentedly eat food which he knows has alternated with the manure heap as a feeding place for flies. One has only to look at a window pane or a lamp shade which has been exposed to flies in order to form some faint idea of the amount of filth which those same flies can deposit upon foodstuffs.

It is not sufficient, however, to insure the protection of food supplies at the home, as much of the food used, especially during the warm season, is brought into the house ready for use, either in the form of fruits or green vegetables, or of foods already cooked and prepared for consumption. The danger of infection from these sources is almost if not quite as great as from those already mentioned, unless the consumer is careful to see that these foods have been protected from contamination, especially while being prepared for use and while lying in the shop. For this reason, every precaution should be taken in hotels, restaurants, bakeries, creameries, grocery stores, fruit and confectionery stands, and all places where foodstuffs are prepared for eating or are sold ready to eat, to prevent contamination by flies, dust and other impurities, and for other obvious reasons, fresh meats, fish, game, etc., should be protected just as carefully.

It therefore behooves the consumer to patronize only those places where adequate precautions are taken to prevent such contamination. The practice followed by some grocers of displaying fruits and green vegetables upon the sidewalk in front of the store without protection of any kind cannot be too strongly condemned, especially in view of the fact that the articles so exposed are almost invariably of such a nature that they are supposed to be eaten without being cooked, or going through any other process which would rid them of such filth, or infection as they might have received through such exposure.

The fact that a dealer will so expose his wares that they are subject to contamination from flies, dust, the filth of the streets, expectation from careless passersby, and even worse pollution from any stray dog which may happen along, should be a sufficient indication to any prospective customer that the welfare of his customers is but a slight consideration to such a dealer, and in itself should be sufficient hint to such customer to go elsewhere for his supplies. Nothing will so quickly prevail upon such a dealer to protect his wares as they should be protected as to have his trade go elsewhere, where such protection is afforded. It would be well for the entire community, moreover, if all persons who find such a state of affairs, and who follow the above suggestions, would take pains to see that the offending dealer is apprised of the reason for his loss of trade. This is a matter

which is peculiarly within the domain of the housewife, and it is to her we must look for relief from this disgusting practice. Let the dealer understand that in order to hold your trade he must take the same care of his wares as he would of his food at home.

Once more, in closing, I wish to say to the people of Medford: Keep your homes clean—keep the flies out of your houses—patronize only those dealers who furnish you food which has been protected from contamination.

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TO PREVENT EPIDEMICS IN MEDFORD

A Talk on Health Conditions and a Warning to Citizens, by City Health Officer Shearer—What to Do and When to Do It—Filth in All Forms Should Be Fought Incessantly.

As city health officer I have recently been apprised of conditions in some parts of the city which warrant more than a passing comment, and while sounding a warning of the dangers which such conditions threaten, it seems an appropriate time to call the public attention to a number of precautions, which, although simple in themselves, if faithfully observed will practically eliminate the greatest danger of this season of the year, namely, typhoid fever, but the neglect of which will almost inevitably result in a more or less widespread epidemic of that dread disease, to say nothing of the many other evil effects which follow a neglect of the ordinary laws of hygiene.

The most common source of such epidemics—impure water—will be removed to a considerable extent by the new water supply of the city, as soon as the proper steps have been taken to rid the distributing system of all traces of the impure water which has filled it for so long, but there still remains a serious menace to health in many of the wells of the city. All those who are compelled to use well water should see that there is no possible chance of contamination of the well by seepage from any cesspool or faulty drain, and unless absolutely assured of this fact, should only use the water after it has been boiled.

In order that the public may have a better understanding of the dangers of infection during the warm season, it should be borne in mind that the germs of typhoid fever are found in great quantities in the excreta of typhoid fever patients, and the disease is communicated by the introduction of these germs into the digestive system by either drinking water or milk or other liquids which have been infected, or by eating foods upon which the germs have been deposited by flies or other insects.

As an illustration of the vitality of these germs, and of their rapid multiplication, I will cite the epidemic of Plymouth, Pa., in 1885, where the evacuations of one fever patient were thrown out upon the banks of a stream which furnished the town's water supply, with the result that the waters of the stream became infected and typhoid fever

broke out in the town at the rate of 50 cases a day until 1200 were stricken out of a total population of 8000.

From this it can be seen that too much stress cannot be placed upon the importance of a pure water supply for domestic use, and I feel the more called upon to dwell upon this point in view of the unspeakable condition of many cesspools and surface deposits of human excreta even within the city limits. If anyone has any doubts as to the existence of such conditions, let him take a stroll through any of the outlying parts of the city on any warm afternoon or evening, and his olfactory nerves will furnish him the most convincing proofs that the filthiness of these things has not been exaggerated. And this condition is the more appalling when it is noted that it is allowed to exist in immediate proximity to sewers already established, and by persons of sufficient progressiveness to go to the expense of obtaining water connections in order to sprinkle their lawns and beautify their grounds, but still unwilling to expend the small amount necessary to enable them to dispose of their filth in a sanitary manner.

It is impossible for me, as health officer, to discover all of the localities where such conditions exist, but I earnestly request every citizen to notify me of the existence of any such menace to the public health, and will use my utmost endeavor in every such instance to see that the law is observed strictly and without favor.

In addition to avoiding the use of impure water, every possible care should be taken to keep insects, especially flies and mosquitos, out of the home, and particularly away from all foods and places where food is prepared for eating. The report of the government commission which investigated the spread of typhoid fever in the United States army camps during the Spanish-American war states that "flies were undoubtedly the most active agents in the spread of typhoid fever. Flies alternately visited and fed on the infected faecal matter and the food in the mess tent. Typhoid fever was much less frequent among members of the messes who had their mess tents screened than it was among those who took no such

precaution." From this can be seen the importance of protecting the food supply from such contamination. Fly screens, even if made of the cheapest mosquito netting, will keep out practically all the flies, and what few find their way into the house in spite of this precaution can be disposed of by means of fly paper, and this should be observed when in the farm house and upon the ranch or orchard as well as in the city, as the deposits of filth about the farm outbuildings furnish the best adapted breeding places for these pests. Careful observance of these precautions together with proper sanitary treatment of the refuse and offal from house and stable will greatly restrict the breeding places and food supply of the fly, and so lessen the danger from this source as to practically eliminate it.

A recent periodical has published some suggestions as to how to get rid of flies, which are so pertinent that I will quote them here for the benefit of those who have not seen them:

Manure heaps of horses or cattle should be kept in covered pits, bins or fly proof closets, and stables and pens must be kept clean of manure.

Outside lavatories should be kept clean and all excrement covered up or drenched with poisons, lime or oil.

Kitchen refuse should be placed in closed, cleanly kept garbage cans.

All decaying matter should be buried or burned.

All receptacles, such as cuspidors should be kept clean.

Until we are clean ourselves we cannot keep healthy, and until we keep our houses clean we cannot keep away flies.

If there are flies around or in your house, either you or your neighbor is careless with regard to absolute cleanliness. And until the flies are got rid of, as they can be with care and watchfulness, a positive danger to your own health and the health of your wife and children confronts you.

It is absolutely incomprehensible that a sane, thinking human being, whose senses revolt at the very idea of his hands or other parts of his person coming in contact with filth,

tion. Ignore those simple precautions and you will probably have to cope with a pestilence which may bring sorrow into your homes, and which will surely blot the fair name and fame of Medford as nothing else could.

J. E. SHEARER, M. D.,
City Health Officer.

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