

PROGRESS REPORTED IN PENDING SALE OF BLUE LEDGE

BY W. W. WATSON.

An increasingly strong sentiment prevails locally that something is about to happen that will definitely put shape to plans for extraordinary activity in the Blue Ledge district early this year. It is by no means without basis in fact. News concerning progress being made in the deal of eastern capitalists for the Blue Ledge mine must necessarily be covered by those whose privilege it is to give it out. Those of us who are supposed to publish news about transactions of public interest, especially in an unusual case of this nature, are limited in our privilege by that condition.

The absence of published news about this big transaction has given rise to a measure of impatience that has provoked suggestive inquiry. This is merely the intimation of a querulous mind. Many times it is not intended to do harm, but it tends to disturb the atmosphere of confidence that has recently characterized the situation in this city.

Progress Is Reported.

The option held on the Blue Ledge by those who recently have been making very careful investigation of that property extends to April 1. An affirmative answer before that date would be hailed with enthusiasm; but no one has a right to demand it. It may be said, without violating confidence, that reports concerning progress being made on that deal are all reassuring. The principals in the deal are not concerned with our anxiety. The transaction involves several hundred thousands of dollars. Along with these favorable reports concerning the negotiations is the statement that the sum involved will include the cost of a railroad to the Blue Ledge from the Southern Oregon Traction company terminals, which will make the deal considerably over \$1,000,000. Details of the progress of such deals are that are not hawked on the streets to satisfy community impatience. Should the deal be consummated, it will be by far the biggest thing in a business way that ever happened to southern Oregon and northern California, not alone in its individual effect, but in its far-reaching influence on the entire cluster of mineral areas in this territory.

Others Are Waiting.

Assurance may be given to those who are watching this transaction with profound concern that, should the purchasing principal in this case fail to acquire the Blue Ledge property, another corporation with immense facilities, financial and otherwise, is waiting to take advantage of the selling principal's offer. It has already been stated by a representative of the latter investing company that, should it purchase the property, immediate operation, with every necessary facility, including the railroad from Medford to the mine, will be begun. In fact, many of those familiar with the situation with respect to both of these propositions openly favor the latter, but, as previously stated, Mr. Cowen has until April 1 to decide what his people will do.

Another interesting feature of each of the possible deals alluded to is the report by responsible parties that, no matter which one may be concluded successfully, a smelter for this district will soon materialize. The hundreds of thousands of tons of ore now ready for delivery to a smelter near by would command its services for months. Much of it is low grade, compared with the ore now being mined at greater depths; but meaning the latter could be blocked out in immense tonnage for a full capacity run. Outside of the Blue Ledge, a number of properties in that field have large tonnage of ore running from 8 to 15 per cent, and some of them better than that, ready for the smelter. The establishment of which in that district would be followed by development work in scores of other properties.

The situation, together with the outlook in three other districts in this vicinity, is full of good omen. Impatience at this time possesses no virtue.

ZEPPELIN OPERATED UPON BEFORE DEATH

LONDON, March 8.—Count Von Zeppelin was suffering from dysentery for some time prior to his death and a complication of the malady necessitated an intestinal operation, according to a Berlin dispatch to Reuters. The operation was successful and his recovery was hoped for when mumps developed and later inflammation of the lungs. He died at noon Thursday.

HIGHWAY WORK AT CRATER KILLED BY FILIBUSTERERS

(Portland Telegram.)

Completion of roads and trails in Crater Lake National park will not be made this year unless congress holds a special session and passes an appropriation bill for continuing the work. In the sundry civil bill, killed at the session ending March 3, an appropriation of \$50,000 for the park project was carried.

A sum of \$75,000 was named as being the amount necessary to complete the work, but this was cut to \$50,000. According to George E. Goodwin, assistant United States engineer, who has charge of the park improvements, the original sum specified will be necessary to complete the roads. If the matter of making funds available is delayed a year he declares that the completion of the enterprise will be more costly. For that reason he believes that the chamber of commerce and other civic bodies of the stage ought to communicate with the Oregon delegation in Washington and insist upon the needed appropriation being made this spring or summer if congress convenes in extra session.

Thirteen Feet of Snow in Park.

Alfred L. Parkhurst, general manager of the Crater Lake company, which operates concessions in the park, granted by the interior department, is in the city. He says there is but 13 feet of snow now lying on the big pleasure grounds, whereas at this time last year they were covered in places to a depth of 30 feet. "The snow this spring," says Mr. Parkhurst, "is soft and will go off quickly. Last spring it was surfaced with a thick crust, causing it to melt slowly and it was late in the season before any work on the roads and trails could be done. It would be possible to begin work on them much earlier this year."

The concessions Mr. Parkhurst's company operates consist of a large hotel, lunchroom and rowboats on Crater lake and a stage line. Plans have been made for giving a daily stage service this season between Medford and points of interest in the park. Last season there was stage service only every other day.

Expect 30,000 in 1917.

"More than 12,000 persons from all parts of the world visited the park last summer," states Mr. Parkhurst. "This season we are looking for fully 30,000 to make the trip. Those who have looked it over assert that it is one of the most interesting pleasure resorts on the globe."

The park hotel is practically completed. It contains 64 guest rooms and has a frontage on the lake of 105 feet. The lounge room covers a floor space of 40x60 feet and has no pillar or post in it. It has a fireplace eight feet wide and six and one-half feet high, said to be the largest in the West.

INCREASING FORCE BLUE LEDGE MINE

The force of men at work at the Blue Ledge mine is daily growing. With the opening of an office in Medford for the purpose of securing miners and teams for hauling ore, each day has seen workers sent to increase the copper output.

Seventy-five men are now working at the mine, receiving \$3.50 and \$3 a day. The management is securing the country for single-jack men. Eight men who have been working in the Meadows district will go to the mine the first of next week.

Sixteen four-horse teams are now hauling ore to Jacksonville from the mine. Twenty more are engaged and will start to work within a few days. The pay for hauling ore has been increased to \$10 per ton. A four-horse outfit will haul three tons of ore, taking three days for the round trip. In addition teamsters have freight to haul to the mine practically every trip, for which they are paid \$10 per ton. For hauling men to the mine from Jacksonville they receive \$3 each.

WANT INAUGURATION POSTPONED TO APRIL

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Congress at its next session, will be asked to pass a constitutional amendment changing the inaugural day from March 4 to the last Thursday in April. Announcement to that effect was made today following a meeting of the Washington members of the national committee on the change of inauguration day.

AUTO LICENSES TO TAKE CARE OF ROAD BOND ISSUE

How the interest and principal on the road bond issue, to be voted on June 4, can be taken care of exclusively by the automobile licenses and the present millage tax, has been worked out by financiers. In twenty-five years not only will every interest charge be met and the entire bond issue retired, but there will still be on hand, at the end of that period, \$452,000.

The income from the present millage tax is \$329,000 a year. Income from the automobile licenses, which has been increased by a separate bill from the bond measure, will be \$110,000 a year. This will make a total revenue annually from the automobile licenses and the millage tax of \$439,000.

The road bond issue is \$6,000,000. In addition, the Bean-Barrett bill authorizes the issuance of \$1,900,000 to meet the federal road appropriation for Oregon. Both the road paving bonds and the bonds to meet the federal appropriation for post and forest roads can be paid for out of the automobile licenses and the millage tax of \$439,000 a year.

Won't Hurry Sale of Bonds.

It is not probable that the entire issue of bonds would be sold at once, for there would be no occasion for the state highway commission to have \$6,000,000 available in cash at one time. The commission is expected to dispose of the bonds only as money is required to carry on the work and the bonds would be sold over a period of years. As for the bonds to meet the federal road appropriations, the state board of control would dispose of only enough each year to match the government money dollar for dollar.

Even if all the bonds, aggregating \$7,900,000, were issued at once, however, the automobiles and the millage would take care of them without difficulty. At the rate of \$530,000 income a year from these sources, in twenty-five years this would aggregate \$13,250,000. The amount required to pay the entire principal and interest on the \$7,900,000 is \$12,795,000. Thus the licenses and millage will produce in twenty-five years \$452,000 more than enough to pay off all the charges.

Bonds Bear Four Per Cent.

The bonds are to bear 4 per cent interest. They are to mature serially, the first bonds of the series to be retired in the sixth year, and thereafter a portion of them will be retired each year until at the end of twenty-five years all have been paid. Interest charges of \$7,900,000 for the first six years amounts to \$316,000 a year. As the income from millage and licenses will be \$530,000 a year, this will give a surplus of \$214,000 a year to be placed in a sinking fund to retire the bonds. This surplus for five years during which time no part of the principal is payable will amount to \$1,070,000, and this surplus of sinking fund will be on hand when the first bonds become due.

"Come on Over, See My Corn Fall Off!"

"I Put 2 Drops of 'Get-it' on Last Night—Now Watch—"

"See—all you have to do is to use two corn right off. That's the way 'Get-it' always works. You just put on about 2 drops. Then the corn not only shrivels, but loosens from the toe, without affecting the surrounding flesh in the least. Why, it's almost a pleasure to have corns and



"See how 'Get-it' gets them off in a hurry and without the least pain. I can wear tight shoes, dance and walk as though I never had corns. 'Get-it' makes the use of irritating acids, handling bandages, tape, plasters and other things not only foolish, but unnecessary. Use this wonderful discovery, 'Get-it', for any sort of hard corn or callus. It is in the new, simple, easy, quick way, and it never fails. You'll never have to cut a corn again with knives or scissors, and run chances of blood poisoning. Try 'Get-it' tonight. 'Get-it' is sold everywhere. Be a bottle, or sent on receipt of price by Lawrence & Co., Chicago, Ill.

Sold in Medford and recommended as the world's best corn remedy by Lewis B. Haskins, Medford Pharmacy, and Heath's Drug Store.



MEDFORD WINS FIRST GAME FROM ASHLAND HIGH

Medford last night captured the first game of the Medford-Ashland basketball series on the Ashland floor by the score of 36-11. During the first half the play was practically even, the Medford aggregation being unable to shoot with any degree of accuracy. The half ended with the score 11-8 in favor of Medford.

The second half brought confidence to Medford and nervousness to Ashland with the result that the Medford end of the score grew.

Throughout the game both team work and accurate basket shooting were lacking on the Medford side, due probably in large measure to Ashland's hand-box floor. Young, if anyone on the Medford squad, deserves mention for his playing.

Tonight's game on the local floor is expected to be close and hard-fought. Ashland will endeavor to

"come back" as Medford did in the Roseburg series when she drubbed that team, after being soundly trounced herself.

The Medford girls defeated the Ashland girls 15-14 in a hard-fought game. When the whistle blew the score was a tie, 14-14. Medford converted a foul after three minutes of play, winning the game. Charlotte Howells was the star for Medford, winning the game largely through her ability to convert fouls, missing only two out of nine tries.

ALLIED FORCES LOSE 91 AEROPLANES IN MONTH

BERLIN, March 9.—The entente military forces on the various fronts lost 91 aeroplanes during February, as compared with 24 lost by the Germans, army headquarters announced today. Its statement reads:

"During February we lost 24 aeroplanes. Our enemies, on the western and eastern and Balkan fronts lost 91 aeroplanes, of which 37 are in our possession and 49 were observed to fall beyond our lines, while five were forced to descend."

CALLS CONFERENCE OF COUNTIES FOR BOND CAMPAIGN

HILLSBORO, Ore., March 8.—Requests from counties in eastern, southern and western Oregon have been received by Dr. W. D. Wood, state senator from Washington county, asking him as senior member of the state legislative committee of eight, to take up with that committee the advisability of calling a conference of all the counties to arrange for financing and organizing a state headquarters to serve the local and county roads organizations in providing maps, pamphlets and other information asked for in their road bond campaigns.

The legislative committee of eight consists of Senators Wood of Washington county; E. D. Casick of Linn county and Julian A. Harley of Malheur county, and Representatives W. E. Schimpff of Clatsop county; W. H. Gore, of Jackson county; C. C. Clark of Gilliam county; O. Laur-

gard of Multnomah county and Roy Rittner of Umatilla county, the latter five being members of the House Committee on Roads. It has been appointed in pursuance to a joint resolution passed by the legislature requiring the naming of committees to prepare the official argument for the state pamphlet to be sent to voters prior to the special election June 4.

Representing the entire state as it does, this committee, it is stated, would be the proper body to call the state-wide conference that is proposed. This would insure that whatever headquarters are established would be under the domination and control of the counties outside of Multnomah, and would insure that the headquarters be kept free from the influence of paving contractors. It would also insure that whatever campaign funds were raised, should any be deemed necessary, would come from the people of the whole state in small subscriptions, and that no contributions would be permitted from any paving interest.

Senator Wood has the suggestions under consideration, and states that if he calls the meeting of the legislative committee of eight he will do so some time next week.

Mrs. L. Smith of Ashland is a Medford visitor for a few days.

Our Opening Sale of Spring Fabrics IS NEAR OVER

Never has any previous Silk, Dress Goods, and Wash Fabric Event reached the success that this Display is ash Fabric Event reached the success that this Display is performing right now. Materials of every hue, weave and fabric are included in what will be long remembered as Our Greatest Opening Sale on Dress Goods.

Chiffons, Silk Poplins, Satins, Sport Tussahs, Crepes, Taffetas and a Brilliant Assortment of Wool Dress Materials and Wash Fabrics

of the most fashionable variety are now being offered at very moderate price. All are brand new, 1917 materials of the finest qualities. Better hurry if you want some.

First Showing of Suits and Coats

"La Vogue" styles in the striking new spring colors such as Gold, Green and Rose. Priced from

\$12.50 up to \$50

New Sport Coats.

in misses and women's sizes. Very "chic" styles. From \$8.50 up to \$15.

Handkerchiefs.

Beautiful new Shamrock Lawn Handkerchiefs in blue, pink, rose and lavender, worth 25c, special (2 for 25c) 15c

Hand Bags.

All leather, new styles, worth up to \$1.50, very special 98c

Notion Sale

Perfect Neck Bands, all sizes, 5c each.

Real Hair Nets, cap shape, special 10c.

Novelty Edging in fast colors, very special, 5c a yd.

Pocket Whisk Brooms, very special, this sale, each 25c

Baby Bunny Garters, all colors, this sale, per pair 10c

Ribbon Remnant Sale



New Suiting

In sport stripes and plaids, beautiful combinations of gold, green and blue, 56 inches wide, all wool, very special, a yd. \$2.25

Corded Silk

For collars and cuffs in the new bright colors, special 1.39

Georgette Crepe

40 inches wide, extra fine quality comes in all colors, a \$2.00 1.75 cloth, special

Crepe De Chine

in the much wanted shades of emerald, coral, peach, rose and worsted, a good heavy quality, worth \$2.00 a yd. special 1.75

Pongee Silk.

34-inch Heavy Imported Pongee Silk, worth today, \$1.50, very special, yd. 98c

Selma Silk

For underwear and linings, all colors, 36 inches wide, very special 59c a yard

New Sweaters

We are showing a wonderful line of Angora and Wool sweaters in the new sport styles, at prices much lower than they will be, as the price of wool has advanced materially. Sale prices from \$5.48 up.

Ribbons.

100 pieces all silk hair bow ribbons, extra wide, values up to 35c, sale price, a yard 25c

Corsets

100 pairs good coutil corsets, worth \$1.50, sale price 98c

Braissieres

100 doz. beautiful new styles, neatly trimmed, up to \$1.00 values, sale price, each 69c

Saturday Sale of Toilet Articles

Sewing Machine Oil special 5c
Blue Seal Vaseline 5c
Colgate Cup Soap 5c
Vaseline Camphor Ice, special 10c
Colgate Toilet Soap special 10c
Colgate's Talcum Powder, all odors, special 15c

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