

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

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Friday, July 13, 1903.

A BIG SAWMILL FOR JACKSONVILLE.

The Sentinel is in receipt of a letter from President C. Hafer, of the Iowa Lumber Company, stating that his Company has decided to put up a big sawmill modern and up-to-date in every particular, to replace the present small one now operated by his Company. President Hafer while on his recent visit to Jacksonville carefully looked over the situation and decided, what all who are posted on the mill business know, that the place for their sawmill was not back in the woods but in town where a ready market can be had for the slabs and sawdust waste to other manufacturing establishments. The present method employed by the Company in getting the lumber from the woods to the cars involves so much handling it that the profits are seriously cut into. By having the sawmill, lumber yard and planing mill along side of the railroad track this needless expense would be obviated.

As to a good location for the new plant of the Iowa Lumber Company there is none better in the vicinity of Jacksonville than on the extensive gravel bar of Jackson creek opposite and above the depot. At this place there is all the space available that the largest mill would require and it is to one side of the town thus lessening the danger of fires from other buildings. As the bedrock is but from 6 to 10 feet below the surface of the gravel an absolute solid foundation to the mill could be had at little expense. A good foundation is half the success of a mill for if that is faulty the machinery is continually getting out of line and breakdowns are the result. As to danger from high water in Jackson creek there is absolutely none, for there is never drift of big trees or other things to carry away the foundation posts. Jackson creek is so small that the water in it could be at the highest flood and then no damage would be done to a mill and lumber yard, provided the stringers to the foundation were above the water level. Every sawmill in Portland and those at Astoria and other Columbia river points are built on a piling foundation, and a mill and lumber yard here in Jacksonville could be built on posts in the creek far cheaper than to grade down a hillside location or on a level track of land that would be available.

MR. CLARK AND THE BLUE LEDGE.

The diamond drill at the Blue Ledge is still boring away with no likelihood of it stopping in the immediate future. Through certain facts it is known that Mr. Clark will have the drill operated until the properties controlled by him have been thoroughly prospected. It is also known to those on the inside that Mr. Clark considered the mines of value enough to justify his purchasing of them, and he is now carrying on negotiations through Dr. J. F. Reddy, who holds the bond from the Blue Ledge Company, with Green Adams and the other members of the Blue Ledge Com-

pany to acquire their interests in those famous ledges. It is quite certain that Mr. Clark is satisfied that the Applegate copper district is a profitable field for investment notwithstanding the adverse statements that he is making in newspaper interviews. Mr. Clark is a shrewd business man and he keeps his ventures from the knowledge of the public as much as possible until he gets them in shape to handle and then he is very free with printers ink. These being his characteristics it is quite probable that though he may buy the Blue Ledge claims, yet he may not permit the deal to become known, until he is ready to begin putting in a smelter, or has bought up all the adjoining claims that he desires. Thus it is that it may be six months or a year hence before Mr. Clark's plan with regard to the Applegate copper district is known to the public.

As to there being copper in paying quantities in the Applegate district that is a conceded fact by all who are familiar with the opening of the great copper mines of Montana, Arizona and California, and who are not interested in discrediting this district in order to enable them to buy up claims cheap, for the surface indications are quite as good as they were at any of the great producing mines of the West. It is not an improbability that by a year hence a thousand or more men will be at work on the Applegate opening up the great copper mines of that district and erecting concentrators and smelters and Jacksonville being the nearest trading point and the county seat will reap a rich harvest from the trade that will be created by the establishment of this great industry in this vicinity.

What a payroll can do for a town is exemplified here in Jacksonville and the effects of the lack of one is equally apparent in Medford. In Jacksonville all is life and business activity and it is absolutely impossible for new-comers to secure a suitable residence building, while at Medford vacant dwellings and stores are all too plentiful for the town's good. Two years ago empty houses were very much in evidence in Jacksonville and the town was about as dead as a town could get to be and still be on the map. If two small sawmills and a planing mill and a box factory can bring such prosperity to a town what a growth Jacksonville would have if all the industrial establishments were in operation that it is possible to secure for this place. For each dollar that is put in by the property owners of Jacksonville to bring additions to the town's payroll ten dollars will be brought back to them in increased valuation of property, higher rents and greater business activity. Seattle is a fair example of what judiciously expended subsidies can do for a town. Having no particular advantages and having for years the hostile opposition of the Northern Pacific while that great railroad company was trying to build up the rival town of Tacoma, that city has pushed itself forward till it is a leading city of the Pacific Coast. Seattle has given well up to a million dollars in subsidies, giving at one time, in hard cash, \$100,000 to the Moran Brothers Iron Works to enable that firm to put in an addition to their ship-yard to enable them to build warships. Many other towns now prosperous cities have been built up by making such inducements as would bring to them employment for their people. Under the present competition between towns the town that sits down and waits for factories to come to it will have about as good success as Jacksonville and Medford has had in the years past—won't get any and the town will get the dryrot.

The proposition now being considered by the city council for that rebuilding of the break-water should be deferred to as

late a date as possible this fall for should the big sawmill be built by the railroad track near the depot there will be no need of another break-water for the posts of the mill would make an effective barrier to the force of the water in a flood in Jackson creek, for with the first flood the tailing would fill in around the posts of the mill and turn the current away from the south bank of the stream and end all further danger of the creek breaking over and running down C street by the railroad track to Daisy creek. As a fence break-water would cost \$200 or more it would be a stroke of economy to put that amount in on the subsidy toward the big mill for the fence break-water would be torn up again with the first big flood, while the mill would make a barrier that would last for years. If the mill should not be built on the creek by the depot and it be necessary to build a fence break-water that should be put off until October when the posts could be made of cottonwood and there would be a certainty of their growing. If planted deep and in a close row their roots would soon make a breakwater that would be both permanent and inexpensive.

Jacksonville has another industry added to its list of industrial establishments. True it gives at present employment to but one person, but that is no bad omen for many of the greatest manufacturing establishments in the United States had their beginning with but one man as the entire force. If given the encouragement that he should have Mr. Wade can build up his cigar factory from having work only for himself into one employing a dozen or more persons. The Ashland and Medford cigar factories are each proving a success and are important factors in the payroll of those towns. The conditions are just as favorable in Jacksonville for the success of a cigar factory as in Ashland or Medford and there is no reason why that within less than five years the factory now being started by Mr. Wade should not be one of the solid establishments of the town. But Mr. Wade can not do all this by himself and the citizens of Jacksonville should give him every encouragement possible and every dealer who handles cigars should make it a point to carry Jacksonville cigars in their stock and push their sale as far as possible.

Wooden awnings are things of the past in all modern towns. They are both unsightly and are an unnecessary fire risk. Most of the wooden awnings in Jacksonville besides their ungainly appearance are really a menace to persons passing on the sidewalks, for they are so decayed that they are almost ready to fall and it is only a question of time when a gust of wind or a snow will bring them down and should some one get hurt by the wreck the city would be in for a damage suit. The city council would be advancing the interest of Jacksonville if they would pass an ordinance prohibiting wooden awnings and allowing only iron or canvass to be used. The

Medford council forced the last wooden awning from Seventh street in that town last winter to the decided improvement in appearance of that street. A greater improvement in the appearance of California street could not be made by the Jacksonville council.

The way to build up Jacksonville is for the residents of this place to give their trade to Jacksonville people in every way possible. The larger the trade the local merchants have the larger stock of goods will they be able to carry, thus enabling them to give better selections and better prices.

The next five years is sure to bring great changes to the industrial and commercial interests of the Rogue river valley. With an Anaconda built up at the Applegate copper mines and a Spokane at the Ray dam on Rogue river there will be a shifting of present conditions in Jackson county.

Indiana has taken up forestry culture and has established a state forestry reserve of 2,000 acres, upon which trees will be grown, for distribution while young, under the observation of a school of forestry.

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