

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

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CHARLES MESSERVE EDITOR

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Friday, September 11, 1903

KEEP THE CAR OF PROGRESS MOVING.

At the board of trade meeting next Monday evening the chief topics for consideration will be those of the increase of the payroll of Jacksonville and the betterment and extension of the public utilities of this town and vicinity. Pertaining to the payroll proposition, a tiling factory and brickyard, granite works, a chair factory, a vinegar and preserving works to be enlarged into a cannery when more fruit is raised, a steam laundry and a bakery, is of present moment for they are each tangible, profitable ventures for which there is an opening here in Jacksonville. There is also an opening here for a tailor shop, a jewelry store, photograph gallery, a tin shop, and possibly some other vocation in the commercial line.

In public utilities the board should at once try to secure a morning mail service from Medford in addition to the noon and evening service now had. Under present arrangements Portland mail leaving that city on the morning trains is 30 hours in reaching Jacksonville, for it lays over 12 hours in Medford. Jacksonville business men receiving Portland correspondence by the noon train, provided it is on time have but two hours and a half, counting out the noon hour in which to make up their return mail and this is during the busiest hours of the day. The Oregonian, which is the chief daily for this town, has been read and forgotten by the people out on the main line before it comes to the eyes of the Jacksonville readers.

The securing of a better route for the Jacksonville-Medford-Central Point road is a matter of great importance to Jacksonville, for a wagon road wandering around in the channel of a creek that is rendered impassable many times during the winter months by torrents is not conducive to drawing trade to this town nor retaining for it the county seat.

A rural telephone system for this part of Jackson county is a matter of general necessity. California, the Willamette Valley, Eastern Oregon now have hundreds of rural telephone systems and the time has come when the Rogue River Valley should be supplied with this public utility that has become a necessity to both town and country people. As conducted in most places under a co-operative plan these telephones cost the subscribers from 50 to 75 cents per month. The Rogue River Fruitgrowers Union have given the assurance that they will heartily co-operate to secure a rural telephone service and all the farmers and miners of Applegate have signified their willingness to go into a co-operative telephone company with the people of Jacksonville and of the other towns and farming districts of this valley. By the board of trade organizing a co-operative telephone company it would be less than a year until Jacksonville would be connected with almost every farm home and the residences in the other towns in Jackson county.

But to secure all of the above helps to the prosperity of Jacksonville will re-

quire the united and persistent efforts of every person in this town, and that can be made the surer and the easier by all working as one body through the board of trade, for haphazard work never accomplished anything. So it thus behooves every citizen of Jacksonville to be present at the board of trade meeting next Monday evening and make a long pull and a strong pull to the end that it may become one of the most prosperous and best all around towns in all Oregon.

THE JACKSONVILLE-MEDFORD ROAD.

The question of relocating that section of the Jacksonville-Medford road that is in the channel of Jackson creek will come at the board of trade meeting Monday evening. There are three plans under consideration. One is to have the road where it is and grade up a road bed out of the gravel that would be taken from a channel that would be excavated for the creek along the north side of the road. Another plan is move the road over running it along just inside of the present road fence on the Duncan and Karewski places, the change being made from the forks of the road at C. M. Duncan's house and continuing to the west line of the Karewski place, from there the route would run south-west through a piece of gravelly land, now covered with willows, to Thos. Smith's house and there it run west the 20 rods on his private road to an intersection with the county road at N. Fick's place.

The third route would have the Medford road turn south at the point where it now turns north-west to pass through C. M. Duncan's place and continue to the south line of the Karewski field and thence turn west and on that line continue to an intersection with E. street, that passes along the north side of the school house. If this route is adopted it would require that the Central Point road be changed at Mr. Duncan's and instead of coming up direct to his house and up Jackson creek it would turn south at Mr. Duncan's east line and thence to an intersection with the Medford road at the present turn of that road. The advantages of this route for the Jacksonville-Medford-Central Point road is that it put the road out of the creek bed and onto ground where a permanent road way could be maintained at little expense. As to distance it would decrease the distance from Central Point to Jacksonville by about 12 rods while the Medford-Jacksonville road would be shortened almost half a mile. This change would take less of M. Duncan's land than the road now occupies and no more of the Karewski land than would be required to put the road out of the creek on the north side of the land.

It has been clearly proven that it is an impossibility to keep up a passable roadway for the mile that the road is in the bed of Jackson creek. The road has been entirely rebuilt three times in the past nine years and now there is nothing but a gravel bar with the creek channel winding back and forth across it for teams to travel on. To dig a big channel and throw up a turn-pike would do were there no floods, but the first high water in Jackson creek would bring down tailings enough to fill up the channel and the water would cut away the gravel embankment as it would do so much sand, for the terrific current would carry the tailings on down the creek like so much dust. As this road is to be used for all time and is the leading highway to the county seat it should be on a route where it will be permanent and not be torn up by floods.

Grants Pass will soon have a chair factory in operation. For the present oak rawhide bottomed chairs will be made but in the near future other styles of chairs will be made. Heretofore most of the low-priced chairs used in the Rogue

River Valley have come from the Albany chair factory. Jacksonville has exceptionally good advantages for a chair factory as it is in the center of one of the largest oak districts on the Coast. Rustic chair work could be made a commercial possibility for finer material than madrona and manzanita could not be had. Chairs and settees made from madrona and manzanita would be far handsomer in appearance than those made from Eastern hickory or Oregon hazel. The bark of both is smooth and highly polished and each has an attractive color, the manzanita being of a rich mahogany, while the madrona has a bright red. If cut in the fall of the year when the colors are best and properly seasoned and varnished there is little doubt but what they would retain their color when made into furniture. Chairs made of these woods would be so substantial and of so pleasing appearance, for natural crooks could be had, that they would be readily salable and a good market could be had in the cities of the North and East as well as a profitable local trade. There is an immense quantity of both madrona and manzanita close by Jacksonville and an energetic man would find opening for a rustic chair factory and he would be given substantial encouragement by the Jacksonville board of trade.

Rogue River Valley could lead the Pacific Coast on strawberries as it does on apples, but it don't and while apple orchards of one and two hundred acres are not uncommon strawberry patches of one and two acres are about as large as are found here. Strawberries grow to perfection in this section and are prolific and everbearing to a degree hardly equaled in any other valley in Oregon. A proof of this statement is to be seen on the farm of Mr. Z. Cameron, one of the successful farmers of Applegate. Mr. Cameron has had fine, luscious berries in quantities sufficient for his family use and to give to friends from May, when the first berries ripened, to the present time. It was only last week that he sent to Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Wilson of this place a gallon of as fine berries as ever were brought to Jacksonville. There are hundreds of acres of land similar to that of Mr. Cameron's that could be had for berry growing and it is certain that at the price that straw berries sell for each season would be more profitable than most any other crop. As to a market there is not a year but what there is not enough local strawberries to supply the markets of Jacksonville, Medford and the other valley towns and California and Willamette Valley berries are shipped in here by the hundreds of crates. A veritable carrying coals to Newcastle is this bringing of fruit to

Rogue River Valley, the boasted fruit district of the Pacific Coast.

An institution that is deserving of support of every citizen of Jackson county is the Medford Business College. It is the only institution of the kind in Southern Oregon and it is better that we patronize home schools and accomplish a double purpose in keeping the money with ourselves and of having a school where the students will not be exposed to the temptations of a great city and where they will be near enough to their homes to be in touch with their parents. Prof. Ritner and his daughter, Miss Ritner are both thoroughly competent teachers and fully up-to-date. They are lately from St. Louis, where they each held positions in one of the leading business colleges of that city, the Professor teaching book-keeping and commercial law and Miss Ritner teaching shorthand and type-writing. The College began the fall term Monday of this week, but students may enter at any time. Full information of this school as to rates and expenses may be had by addressing Prof. P. Ritner, Medford.

Some people in the East have rather hazy ideas of orcharding in the West especially as to the size of the orchards grown here. An Illinois man has sent circulars to the manager of the fruit growers convention in Jacksonville describing the effective work that a machine he has for sale will do in fighting fruit tree pests. His machine is carried upon a man's back. A little hand sprayer in one of the great Rogue River Valley orchards would be a sight for one of our orchardists. After that Eastern man had seen one of the big Rogue River sprayers at work that is mounted upon a wagon drawn by a team of horses and the power for which is supplied by a gasoline engine with two men on the wagon to operate the nozzles he would conclude that his little hand sprayer would be some what out of its element here in Southern Oregon.

There is an irrigation scheme being considered by some parties that though requiring a big lot of money to handle it would prove a money maker if put in operation, and that is to put in an irrigation ditch beginning at Wagner creek and skirting the foothill to Jacksonville or possibly further. The plan is to take the water of Wagner creek, Anderson creek and Griffin creek, together with that to be had from great storage reservoirs to be located in the headwaters of these streams and in the large ravines along the line of the ditch to supply the farms of the valley. The scheme is feasible and will be carried out so soon as land gets more valuable in this section so that intensified farming is more the rule.

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