

WORD FROM PANAMA

Chief Engineer Stevens Writes Canal Will Be Built On Time

COST WILL NOT BE EXCESSIVE

General Manager Abbott Has Direct Information From the Chief in Charge—Fine Climate and Condition All Right

E. T. Abbott, general manager of the Klamath Lake railroad, is in receipt of a letter from John F. Stevens, chief engineer of the Panama Canal, and "second in control of the canal zone. The letter, in part, is as follows:

"Isthmian Canal Commission, Department of Construction and Engineering, John F. Stevens, Chief Engineer, Colon, Panama Canal Zone, Nov. 9, 1906. Friend Abbott: Your characteristic note of the 14th received. I did not know you were in that part of the world.

"I am very well, and enjoying life as much as one can—considering. This is a fine climate and no more sickness, or chance of it, than in any of our (trial states—possibly not so much.

"This is a hard job, but one that can be done in a reasonable time and expense.

"I have been well ever since coming here and can see no reason why, with care, any man cannot keep so.

Sincerely yours, John F. Stevens. It will be seen from the foregoing that the Panama canal, while a colossal and difficult undertaking, is not impossible of construction in a reasonable time; and that there is no reason why a man cannot enjoy perfect health in the canal zone. Mr. Stevens evidently looks at it like Mr. McDonald looked at the subway in New York. When asked if he did not fear the hardships and difficulties of his task, he replied: "No. It is just like digging a cellar—only it is a little longer." So it is with Stevens—he has no fear of accomplishing his task, for he is a man without fear. And this calls to mind a story of the time, about twenty years ago, when he was chief engineer of the Northern Pacific. He came to the Hill road from the Canadian Pacific, where he and Mr. Abbott were associates. Soon after going to the Northern Pacific he ran up against Louis Hill, J. J.'s son. Stevens is a man of iron will. He will not tolerate interference from anyone, and when the young stripling undertook to transgress Stevens promptly whooped him. He went after Hill just as he went after everything—hammer and tongs, and when he got through with the job resigned. He immediately joined Archie Guthrie and together they formed a contracting company. But this venture was doomed to short life, for when J. J. Hill, who was away at the time of the row, returned home and heard the facts he went to see Stevens and persuaded him to return. Hill saw what was in him. Stevens was the only man on the Northern Pacific before or since who ever had the backbone to "stand pat" with Hill and run his office after his own ideas. And Hill liked him, for he saw in the chief engineer a great future.

RETIRES FROM BUSINESS

L. F. Willits has disposed of his general merchandise business to W. T. Shive & Sons, Oscar and Alex, who will take possession December 11. Thus will pass from the busy mart of trade one of Klamath Falls most respected and best known merchants. During the many years Mr. Willits has been in business here he has been honored by his fellow business men and has always possessed the confidence of the purchasing public, who will hear with regret his determination to retire.

His successors are well known throughout the county, the senior member having before been engaged in the mercantile business both here and at Fort Klamath. Oscar has a host of friends throughout the county, gained by the gentlemanly and courteous treatment he has always accorded the patrons of the county clerk's office, where he was a deputy. Alex has for some time been one of Mr. Willits' clerks.

The new firm starts in business under very favorable circumstances—succeeding to a business that has a recognized reputation of the best, and they themselves possessed of the requisite integrity, popularity and business acumen necessary to assure success.

MARRIED IN OAKLAND

The San Francisco Examiner of last Sunday contains the following: "That 'journeys end in lovers' meetings' was exemplified at the courtship in Oakland yesterday afternoon, when John D. W. Thorne, a wealthy builder of Fort Klamath, Ore., traveled from the latter city to marry Martha Matilda Taylor, of Fitchburg. He is fifty-three, she is fifty-six, and both had buried their former spouses, but as the blushing bride expressed it, "We were so alone in the world that he decided to share my burdens and I his." The bridegroom stated that he intends to engage in the real estate business in Oakland.

If you want a home with cement sidewalks, nice wide and clean streets, sewer system, Hot Springs water, beautiful view of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Pitt, and a view from Lake to Lake, don't fail to buy in the Hot Springs Addition.

POSTOFFICE MAY BE CLOSED

Postmaster Murdoch Says the Public Must be Clean.

When the postoffice was removed from the old to the new headquarters, it was the hope of Postmaster Murdoch that its imposing and cleanly appearance, together with an ample supply of signs, would be sufficient to deter the patrons from making it the filthy nuisance the old office had been. But he has been disappointed. It is a regrettable fact that some of the patrons of the office have no regard for the common rules of decency, and persist in expectorating on the floor, woodwork and wall and scattering refuse hither and thither. The time has come, however, when this must stop, for Mr. Murdoch is determined to maintain an office that will be a credit to the city. In this undertaking he should have the hearty support of everyone. In referring to the present trouble the postmaster said:

"The postal regulations require me to keep that office so clean that the most sensitive may enter it without being disturbed by filth. I have posted signs conspicuously, but without avail. Fortunately these same regulations provide ways and means for enforcing cleanliness on the part of the public. If this spitting on the floor is not stopped, I will prohibit smoking in the lobby, and take steps looking towards the enforcement of that restriction. If this does not stop it, I will call on the civil authorities for assistance to enforce the rules and regulations. If this does not avail, I will close the office entirely. The postal regulations provide for these conditions.

"I do not care to assume the role of a dictator, and I only ask the public to accord to the lobby of the postoffice the same consideration they give the banks or other offices of this city. If it does not do so without the adoption of stringent measures, they may expect such steps to be taken.

"It is needless for me to go into the danger lurking in indiscriminate expectorating in public places. It has come to be recognized as a menace to public health, and I for one am not going to be a party to the dissemination of disease by permitting the floor of the postoffice to be turned into a hotbed of disease-producing germs deposited there by the needless carelessness of the patrons of the office."

Doubtless it will not be necessary for Mr. Murdoch to put in force his full authority to carry out the reform he asks. The postmaster is supreme in the postoffice and he has ample authority to enforce his regulations; but the public will doubtless hearken to his warning and desist from a practice due more to thoughtlessness than a disposition to be unclean. If, however, it will not listen, it is to be hoped that the postmaster will stringently enforce the regulations and bring about this much needed reform.

JNO MCKAY Found Dead at the Moore Ranch in Poe Valley.

Jno McKay, who was quite well known in this city was found dead early Saturday morning at the Clara Moore ranch in Poe Valley. He went to the place Thursday and remained at the home. Friday the members of the family went to a dance, and on returning missed Mr. McKay. Search revealed his remains at the gate between the house and the barn.

Coroner Martin was summoned and an investigation indicated that death was due to natural causes, probably heart failure. Interment was made in the Poe Valley cemetery.

Mr. McKay was well along in years, and was for years a resident of Wood River valley. A few years ago he removed to Klamath Falls.

The Seventh and Eighth grades of the public school gave an entertainment in Assembly hall last evening that was a credit both to the faculty and the pupils participating. One of the notable features connected with it was the large attendance, which denoted the deep interest manifested by the citizens in the work of the pupils of this institution. The faculty is to be congratulated, Principal Dunbar especially, who has shown that he fully deserves the high esteem and confidence reposed in him by the patrons of the school of which he is the head. Through his ability and indefatigable energy, as well as that of his corps of assistants, the public school of Klamath Falls today stands in the front rank.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Yaden are back in the city again, preferring this metropolis to life on their homestead during the winter.

WILL ORGANIZE COMMERCIAL CLUB

Movement to Found a New Organization

Klamath Falls is to have a Commercial club. This will be the outcome of the action taken by the Chamber of Commerce at the special meeting held last Saturday evening. At that meeting a report of the committee, appointed to devise ways and means governing the new headquarters, was submitted.

When the decision was reached to retain the lease of the rooms contracted for in the Murdoch block, the question arose as to whether it would be advisable to introduce the social feature into the Chamber. Some of the members were opposed to this innovation, others heartily in favor of it. It was to solve this knotty problem that the committee was appointed, and its report undoubtedly disposed of the question in a wise manner.

The report submitted provided for the lease of three of the rooms to a social club. To be eligible to membership in the Social Club, the applicant must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Provision is made against gambling and the sale of intoxicating beverages in the Club rooms, and the Chamber will have authority to see that this provision is enforced. It will thus be possible for those who wish social connections with the Chamber to have their wishes gratified, and for those who were opposed to the innovation to retain his membership in the Chamber under present conditions.

This move also solves another vexing question—that of revenue. At present the revenue of the Chamber is about one-half what its expenses will be. Under the new order, its expenses will be reduced to a minimum and within its present income.

The wisdom of the proposition to organize a Commercial Club, an idea that originated with Mr. H. L. Holgate, one of the members of the committee, is proven already by the lively interest manifested in the new organization. That it will start out with a large membership is certain. A meeting will be held at 8 o'clock tomorrow evening in the court house, when the first steps looking towards its organization will be taken.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY W. J. MOORE HERE

W. J. Moore, district attorney for this district arrived in this city Tuesday. He commented very favorably on the absence of crime in this city during the past summer.

"In view of the fact that a large migratory population poured into Klamath Falls during the past spring and summer, it was natural to suppose that more or less crime would follow in its wake. It is remarkable, however, and speaks well for the men who have come and gone, that the city has been free from unlawful acts. Few parallels are to be found, and the citizens can congratulate themselves that they were fortunate enough to have the work on the great irrigation works carried on by such a law-abiding element.

"There is nothing of special interest in legal circles. Only the regular routine business."

DOUBLE WEDDING

One of the prettiest weddings that ever took place in Klamath Falls, was the double wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Newham, Tuesday evening, Nov. 27, when occurred the marriage of their daughter, Miss Lillian, to Mr. I. S. Vorhees, and their niece, Miss Nellie Waring, to Mr. William Dunham. Miss Newham and Mr. Vorhees were attended by Miss Louise Sargent and Mr. Phil Goodwin as bridesmaid and best man, and Miss Waring and Mr. Dunham by Miss Lita Nickerson and Mr. James Newham. The house was decorated in oregon grape, smilax and orange blossoms, and the brides carried shower bouquets of white carnations, and the bridesmaids bouquets of pink carnations. Promptly at eight o'clock the wedding party took their places, under a canopy of orange blossoms and smilax, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. W. G. Smith of the Presbyterian church. The ring service was used. After the ceremony, and a song by Miss Nickerson, the bridal party and guests repaired to the home of Rev. and Mrs. Smith, where the wedding supper had been prepared by Mrs. Vorhees. The tables were very tastefully decorated in smilax and carnations, and a bountiful repast served. The brides' gowns were of white crepe de chine with chiffon trimmings. Mrs. Newham's gown was white, and Mrs. Hale, of California, was dressed in a

NATRON LINE CONTRACT LET

Mason, Davis & Company Will Build 100 Miles Out of This City

WORK MAY COMMENCE SOON

cream lace gown. Many beautiful presents were received by the young people, as they have many friends, both here and in their former homes in the east. Mr. Vorhees is of the Reclamation Service, and highly esteemed both in the service and social circles. The gift of the U. S. R. S. to Mr. Vorhees and his bride was a cut glass water bottle and glasses. Mr. Dunham has but recently come to Klamath Falls, coming here from Alaska, where he has extensive holdings. Mr. and Mrs. Dunham will make their home in California.

The bridal couples left Wednesday morning for the south, Mr. and Mrs. Dunham on the way to Pasadena, where they will remain until the first of the year, when they will return to Klamath Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Vorhees will go east on an extended bridal tour, stopping in Wisconsin at Mrs. Vorhees' old home, and on to New York to Mr. Vorhees' home, after which they will return to Klamath Falls. They carry with them the best wishes of their many friends, formed during their residence in Klamath.

RELIGIOUS

Next Sabbath will be a day of special interest at the Presbyterian church. For some time the pastor has had under consideration a subject which every citizen knows something about, the women more than the men, and it requires a high degree of manhood and womanhood to face the subject squarely. So long have people refused to do this that it has become our national sin. I do not refer to the liquor traffic, and a false religion has risen to combat the evil, and this religion is making rapid progress because it is combating what all christian and good moral people know to be wrong. In nothing is the wisdom of Satan more evident than in the fact that with his religious he is combating recognized evils, a fact easily illustrated by the recent collapse of his false systems which directed his chief anathemas against what his leader took to be our national sin, and almost everybody agreed with him, but now they see the folly of Satan's wisdom. It was the purpose to speak on this subject at two successive morning services, but realizing the difficulty of carrying the thought over a whole week, it will be presented next Sabbath morning and evening. All may not agree with the speaker, but all will be interested.—W. G. SMITH.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The stockholders of the Klamath County Agricultural association are hereby called to meet at the store of B. St. Geo. Bishop in Klamath Falls, Ore., for their regular annual meeting on Saturday, the first day of December, 1906, at the hour of 8 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors and officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of other business that may be necessary. Representation by proxy duly appointed in writing and filed with the secretary is allowable. Geo. T. Baldwin, President. B. St. Geo. Bishop, Secretary. Klamath Falls, Or., Nov. 23, 1906.

Postage stamps of the issue of 1907, at 6000 Presidential postoffices, will bear on their face the name of the state and city in which the postoffice is situated. The chief reason for this innovation is said, at the Postoffice Department, to be the belief that it will help do away with postoffice robberies and make it easier to trace criminals.

The barn which has occupied the lot at the corner of Third street and Klamath avenue is being removed—a preparatory step to the erection of the two-story office building by the Telephone Company.

C. E. Heitkemper of Portland arrived here Tuesday evening. He has entered the store of his brother G. Heitkemper, Jr. He expects to remain here permanently and will make a valuable addition to our population.

Charles Horton of Bonanza was in the city Saturday.

Contract Was Awarded

Several Weeks Ago—Just Made Public—Successful Firm Have Large Store of Supplies.

The contract for the first one hundred miles of road between Klamath Falls and Natron has been let to Mason, Davis & Co. This firm is now engaged in completing its contract for the construction of the first division of the government canal, a work that will be finished before Spring.

When the Reclamation Service asked for bids for the second division of the Klamath Project some surprise was manifested that Mason, Davis & Co. did not bid on the work. They had given excellent satisfaction, and the progress they had made on the first division far exceeded the most sanguine expectation.

Their failure to put in a bid is now explained, for the railroad contract was under consideration at that time and was awarded to them some weeks ago. The contract was kept secret and only leaked out this week. Archie Mason, who has had charge of the government contract is now in Portland making final arrangements.

How soon work is to commence is problematical. If this section is favored with an open winter, ground will be broken just as soon as the last section of the canal is completed. If on the contrary the weather is too severe to admit of immediate operations, the stock and equipment will be housed and work commenced next spring. Comparatively little of the canal remains to be finished, outside of the tunnel, and only climatic condition will prevent railroad construction beginning at once.

The awarding of this contract is indicative of the intention of the Harriman system to rush construction work on the Natron branch, and if possible bring about its completion by the end of 1907. Every effort is being put forth to facilitate the rapid construction of the California Northeastern, and it is now generally admitted that this part of the line between Weed and Natron will reach this city by next summer. The question of procuring laborers has been carefully looked into and plans have been made to furnish not only Mason, Davis & Co. with plenty of men but also the contractors on the California Northeastern. The labor problem has grown to be such a serious one that a thorough re-organization of the employment bureau of the entire Harriman system has been effected, and the result of this change will soon manifest itself by a large influx of laborers.

Mason, Davis & Co. have for the past several weeks been accumulating immense stores of forage and other supplies in anticipation of this contract. At first it was supposed to be the intention of the firm to make an offer on the second division of the canal, but the real purpose of their heavy purchases is now apparent.

The letting of this contract assures the completion of this road and settles the question of Klamath Falls being on the through line between Portland and San Francisco.

A COLD BATH

Nine of the little folks of this city were treated to an ice cold bath this morning, while skating near where the dredger is now operating. The children got too close together for the thickness of the ice. Fortunately the water was only waist deep and aside from a scare and a thorough wetting they got off all right. This should be a warning to skaters not to be too anxious to get on the ice before it is safe to do so. Had this accident occurred on the lake, nine homes might have been robbed of its dear ones. Be careful. Don't risk too much and if doubtful about the thickness of the ice skate only over shallow water.

Mrs. R. E. Lee Steiner and little boy left for Salem Tuesday, where she will remain for the winter.