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BUILD HIGHWAY WITH CONVICTS

State Has Sent Equipment to Grangeville and Prison Men Will Come Soon as Work Can Be Prosecuted.

Construction work on the north and south highway will be commenced in this county between Whitebird and Lucile as soon as the weather conditions will permit. This is the report made by State Highway Engineer E. M. Booth, who has been in conference with the county commissioners and citizens who are interested in the working of convicts on the state road.

The equipment for the convict camp, the tools and supplies are now in Grangeville and will be moved to Whitebird within the next few days to be stored until the weather conditions are favorable for the beginning of construction work along the river. Mr. Booth stated the Grangeville and Whitebird people expect the work can be commenced the latter part of the month.

Engineer Booth explained the construction work on the highway between Whitebird and Lucile will consist largely of improvements to the present road.

At points the road must be raised above the high water mark, at other points the grade must be reduced and in other places the bluffs must be blown away to reduce the curvature and eliminate the danger now existing at such places. It is planned to expend at least \$10,000 in this construction work and one-half of the sum will be provided by Idaho county, while the remainder of the fund will be provided by the state. It is also expected the settlers along the river will make subscriptions to the fund, as much interest has been aroused in the proposed improvement and a number of the Salmon river residents were at Grangeville to confer with Mr. Booth during his recent visit there.

The plans provide for bringing 40 or 50 honor convicts to the Salmon river camp. Foremen of the work will be in charge of the party but no firearms are allowed in the camp and the men are entirely on their honor from the time they leave the penitentiary at Boise until they return. It is expected the convicts will be transported from Boise to Grangeville by train and an overland trip to the Salmon river will be made from Grangeville.

The camp and its equipment is identical with that of any construction outfit and to an observer there will be nothing by which the camp and the men could be identified as being from the state penal institution.

County Commissioners Favor Some Radical Changes

Boise, Jan. 28.—The delegates to the seventh annual convention of the county commissioners' association of Idaho put in busy days discussing the problems with which they have to deal and framing suggestions for legislative relief. They know what they wanted and they succeeded in compressing their requirements in concrete form. Each suggestion was carefully threshed out and expressed the will of the convention. The resolutions adopted are as follows:

We recommend the organization of the state tax association, under the supervision of the department of political science in the University of Idaho, and pledge our support and cooperation to it for the purpose of arriving at a solution of the problems of taxation in this state.

We favor the creation by legislative enactment of a state bureau of accounts for the purpose of installing a uniform system of accounting, auditing and reporting in all governmental units within the state.

We favor a uniform budget system for all counties in the state; and pending the creation of a state bureau of accounts, we recommend that a committee of the convention be appointed with instructions to devise a suggested form for a budget; and that said committee be instructed to confer and cooperate in devising such form with the state examiner and with the officers or a committee of the state tax association.

We favor the reorganization of county government for the purpose of rendering it a more efficient business unit. As an initial step in such organization we favor an amendment to the constitution providing that the term of county commissioners be extended to six

years, and that the bill be so drawn that one commissioner be elected every two years and that all salaries and bills may be paid monthly.

We favor amending the present revenue law so as to permit counties to place their finances upon a cash basis. We particularly recommend that the fiscal year be made to conform to the tax year; that the present system of payment of taxes in two installments either be abolished, or, if retained, that it be so amended that both installments shall be paid in the same year for which the taxes are levied. For the purpose of enabling counties to change from a credit to a cash basis, we favor legislation authorizing a small levy to create a sinking fund, which will gradually and over a series of years permit such change of financial basis to be made.

Whereas, several thousand dollars were spent by the Panama-Pacific exposition of the state of Idaho for moving picture films, showing the resources of Idaho; and

Whereas, the Panama-Pacific International exposition is now closed; therefore be it

Resolved, that the county commissioners' association of Idaho, assembled in convention at Boise, Idaho, do recommend and urge that the moving picture films advertising the resources of Idaho, upon the ceasing of the Panama-Pacific International exposition commission of Idaho, be placed in charge of the state board of education to be used to advertise the state of Idaho and for educational purposes.

We favor the tract index system and recommend that it be installed in each county.

Calico Ball a Howling Success

The "Calico Ball" given Tuesday evening at the K. of C. hall by the local order Knights of Columbus was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and was quite largely attended. The dance was an invitation affair, the invitations being sent to the members of the order and others secured by them for their friends. Plain clothes were the order of the day and bib overalls and calico dresses were largely in evidence, the finer sort of raiment being strictly taboo. Dancing started promptly at eight o'clock and the large hall was soon filled to full capacity with merry dancers, young and old, who disported themselves in the good old fashioned way when everyone went for a good time and "style" was a forgotten quantity. Quadrilles were as popular as the waltz and two-step and the older folks set a pace that the younger people found hard to travel. At midnight the dancers repaired to the council chamber upstairs where their lunches were spread on tables provided for the occasion and hot coffee and cream was furnished by the council. Afterward dancing again held sway with unabated fervor and the merry crowd did not disperse until about the hour of four a. m. Quite a number of people were present from neighboring towns and all present join in saying the dance was one of the most enjoyable ever given here. Music for the occasion was furnished by the popular Reubens orchestra.

Frank Terhars's machine shed broke down the first of the week under the accumulation of snow on the roof.

North-South Railroad Hope

Boise, Jan. 28.—A deal may be consummated at once for building the north and south railroad in this state from New Meadows to Lewiston, and to close it, either Jerome J. Day, state senator and millionaire mine owner of the Coeur d'Alenes, or Aaron Parker of Grangeville, member of the railroad commission, will leave immediately for Chicago.

Announcement to this effect was made here last night by Governor Alexander on receipt of a telegram from an engineer who last summer quietly investigated the route and tonnage available.

From Chicago this engineer telegraphed the governor as follows:

"Can you have parties interested in north and south railroad project come to Chicago immediately to close contract financing construction and to whom representatives of the syndicate, now here temporarily, will submit ample evidence of ability to carry project through? This is considered unusual opportunity."

Aged Indian Woman Dies

Mrs. Thomas Wilson, an aged Indian woman well past her 90th mile stone, died last night at her home. In her youth, her husband and herself, who were Snake Indians, were captured by the Nez Percés and were held as slaves by that tribe while the Nez Percés were in their savage state. But with the coming of the missionary this was done away with and Mr. Wilson and his wife remained here to finish their days. —Stites Enterprise.

NEWS AROUND THE STATE

Items From Various Places Reproduced for the Benefit of our Readers—Stories Refreshed from Exchanges.

A fuel shortage, which may become serious, is reported at Genesee.

The record price for wheat was paid last week at Peck when a local dealer paid \$1.04 per bushel for several hundred sacks of forty-fold.

Dr. M. S. Fite was convicted late last week at Lewiston on a charge of practicing medicine and surgery in Idaho without a license and was fined \$100 and costs. The case will be appealed to the state supreme court.

The Latah county commissioners have fixed the salary schedule for road work of \$2 per day for common labor, \$4 for man and team and \$1.50 extra for team. These rates will be in force for the year 1916.

Game birds are said to be starving all over central Idaho on account of the heavy snow covering all of the natural feed supply and an attempt is being made in many places to have them fed by farmers and members of the town gun clubs.

The newest county in Idaho—Gem county—recently squared its accounts with the mother county by turning over a check of \$28,941.74 to the treasurer of Canyon county to pay its share of indebtedness assumed when the new county was created.

E. Erickson, a farmer residing near Helmer in Latah county, was sentenced to six months in jail and a fine of \$200 last week for refusing to send his children to school. It seems Erickson had been defying the school directors and county juvenile officers for years.

The Lewiston Mercantile Co. last week placed an order for nine full carloads of fruit jars for the season of 1916. This is perhaps the largest order ever placed by this company and its size was due to the rapid advance in the price of zinc jar caps, due to the demand caused for that metal since the opening of the European war.

The farmers rochdale company at Nezperce, assisted by the business men of that place and residents of other sections of the county, have raised funds enough to retain A. E. Wade as farm expert for Lewis county for the present year. Mr. Wade was recently dismissed by the county commissioners after a protest signed by about 200 farmers had been filed with the board.

Numerous reports from Lawyers canyon, south of town, are to the effect that a cougar has been seen there several times lately, but up to the present no one has been lucky enough to get a shot at the varmint. However, Frank Billups and Andy Stellmon are making arrangements to give him a chase with their pack of hounds and it is safe to say that if he don't migrate before they get on his trail his pelt will be decorating some parlor in our city. —Nezperce Herald.

A black fox was bagged last week by Chas. Cromwell near Grinnell station in the Palouse hills. The animal took refuge under an old abandoned house where it was shot by Mr. Cromwell. The pelt of the animal killed is valued at approximately \$1500, due to the scarcity of black

foxes. The other two foxes started by the Palouse hunter are still at large. It is said to be difficult to account for their presence in that locality, but it is supposed that they drifted down out of the mountains before the heavy snow storms.

Is Well Pleased With Silo

Fred Ledford, who has been working for James Wright south of town for the past year and is caring for the farm this winter while Mr. Wright and family are enjoying life in California, dropped in Saturday for a few minutes' chat and stated that they were getting very satisfactory results from their silo this winter. The silo was erected last summer and was filled with field peas and finished out with wheat hay. Mr. Ledford says the ensilage is highly appreciated by the hogs and chickens as well as the dairy cows, and that the latter picked up wonderfully in their milk and cream production after being fed a silage ration along with their other feed. While no record was kept of this increase Mr. Ledford says it was a material one and was due entirely to the silage ration. Mr. Ledford is familiar with the silo from experience gained in eastern states and says that the wooden silo is about as good as any other kind but prefers corn as an ensilage crop because of its superior feeding value and that it is far less difficult to convert into first class ensilage than some of the other crops grown for this purpose. While peas and oats make fine ensilage if well packed, whether used separately or together, the difficulty is to get them packed sufficiently tight in the silo to prevent considerable spoilage from moulding, while corn, owing to its greater weight, packs easily and is very free from spoilage.

Westlake Items

There is from three to six feet of snow up here.

Literary every Friday night at Westlake and at Morrowtown on Saturday nights. A large crowd is always present to enjoy the programs.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Mathison attended the literary here Friday night and during the drive over the lady froze her feet quite badly.

January a Record Breaker

January was a record breaking month in the weather line for this part of Idaho, according to the records kept at St. Michael's Monastery west of town, all records for the past thirty years having been broken, and that period of time may elapse again before the present record is equalled or even nearly approached. According to the government record kept at the monastery the maximum temperature for the month was 43 degrees on the 23d, and the minimum 7 degrees below zero on the 29th. The total snowfall for the month amounted to 20.6 inches.

While the instruments at the monastery did not record nearly as low temperature as was recorded at this place and at many points on the prairie, the records show a temperature of zero and lower for eleven days out of the month, and the average temperature for the entire month was only 16 degrees above zero.

The Cottonwood Hardware Co. received a carload of Dodge autos yesterday for their spring trade and will be kept busy "dodging" around the country with prospective buyers as soon as the roads get good.

Entire Northwest Suffers From Severe Storms

After one of the coldest Januaries experienced in the Inland Empire in more than thirty years, February was ushered in with a big snowstorm which continued almost without cessation the past three days and is still at it. The snow is piled up to a depth of almost thirty inches on the level on Camas prairie and is much deeper in the mountains, while in places it is drifted over the fences and as high as the roofs of the smaller buildings. The snow is very light but is so deep that it is rapidly becoming a serious menace to travel of any kind, while a little wind would pile it up in the railroad cuts in such a manner as to completely block traffic for an indefinite period. The extreme weather has caused very little trouble here on the prairie but over in the range country along the Salmon and Snake rivers the deep snow is rapidly becoming a serious problem to the stock men and will occasion serious losses unless milder weather comes to remove the snow and allow the cattle to get down again to the grass below. The deep snow that covers the range at present makes it impossible for the cattle to get a particle of feed and the stockmen are forced to feed their herds every day. The larger firms are well prepared to do this and will not suffer unless the snow lays on the ground long enough to exhaust their feed supply, but

the smaller growers are not so well supplied with feed and no doubt many of them have just about exhausted their supply by this time. As it is almost impossible to get the cattle to feed or vice versa it will not take long to seriously cripple many of the smaller stockmen if the present weather continues.

Word came out this week from a sheepman over on the Oregon side of Snake river stating that he had about two thousand head of sheep there without a particle of feed and the snow was almost two feet deep. The man telephoned to Lewiston to have the gasoline launch bring up a load of feed but as Snake river is blockaded with ice jams at several points it was impossible for the boat to get through and the sheep will probably starve.

The central Idaho section is not the only part of the northwest subject to these weather conditions, for Lewiston has almost two feet of snow, Portland has a foot, and the snowfall in the Cascades is enormous. Seattle and other coast cities are also receiving their share of snow, while California is being visited by heavy rains and several sections have been severely damaged by floods. Altogether, the Pacific slope seems to be receiving the limit from the weather dispenser and what is yet to come before spring arrives time alone will tell.

Our Roll of Honor

The following have contributed to the Chronicle exchequer during the past week by handing in cash on subscription: M. G. Rambo, Grangeville; Andrew Popp, Fenn; Clem Waldmann, Green-creek; Henry Arnzen, Ferdinand; John Reisch, Minnesota; A. Gaukler, North Dakota; R. E. Bruner, Tony Baune, Montana; E. D. Lamb, Frank Forsmann, W. W. Flint, O. D. Hamlin (2), R. A. Nims (2), G. W. Phillips, C. W. Greenough.

The New York Minstrels will appear here tonight at the K. C. hall. They are advertised to give a street concert at noon but owing to coming in on the evening train the concert will be given on the street in the evening before the show opens.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Funke, the Misses Bertha and Maggie Ries, John Ries, Misses Emma and Nettie Weis, John Weis, Mr. and Mrs. John Hessler, Ollie Zodrow and Ben Doll were among the Ferdinand folks who attended the "calico ball" here Tuesday evening.