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A GRAND WATER POWER

That Is To Be a Great Factor In Upbuilding Oroville and the Valley.

IT IS THE SIMILKAMEEN FALLS

A Property That Is Without a Rival for Power Production In the Northwest.

Hon. A. E. Faine, of New Straitsville, Ohio, who is financially interested in the enterprise, has recently issued a prospectus entitled "Facts concerning the Similkameen Power Company, Oroville, Washington." The occasion for this publication is that Mr. Faine has been appointed fiscal agent for the company, and the object is to raise additional funds to be used in increasing the efficiency of the present electric power plant to meet the growing demands for the product of that plant. The "facts" are an improvement upon the statements that are usually embraced in a document of this kind, for they are facts indeed, the unadulterated truth, as those who are familiar with the property exploited, and the country that is to be benefited by the great water power, and from which the same is to draw its support, can fully affirm with a clear conscience. Indeed, in looking over this prospectus, it can be said that the author has been extremely modest in his statements, and if there is any fault to be found it is in the moderation of the claims set forth as to the importance and eventual earning capacity of the water power the company controls, and the resources of the surrounding country that are dependant for development largely upon this electric power system. In the proposition that he lays before investors Mr. Faine has much to say relative to the richness of the country, both as to its mineral and horticultural possibilities, and the remarkable brightness of the future that is to be early realized. The writer met Mr. Faine a few years ago, and was impressed with his clear, logical and intelligent manner of discussing subjects of local and general interest, and his succinct and convincing reasoning. A man of education, polished by contact with the world and the bright minds that accomplish things, he was able to calmly and critically examine into and weigh the conditions and prospects as they exist in this new country, in the crudity of partial development, and draw his own deductions, and such conclusions as were not influenced by the frenzy of the self-interested boomer, or distorted by those who would exaggerate in order to reap personal gain by awakening anticipations from which there would be little hope of realization.

Oroville is particularly and directly interested in the enlarging and perfecting of the plant of the Similkameen Power company, and the bringing it up to the highest stage of its capacity of power production. There are a number of water powers in eastern Washington, two of which far surpass all others in the extent of the power that can be produced, and the ease in which it can be handled, and they are the falls of the Spokane and the Similkameen falls, which this company controls. The former has been the chief factor in building up a city of great magnitude, a city that has really just commenced filling the important place among the great metropolises of the country, and which is destined to become the largest inland city in America. We do not hope that the latter will make Oroville a place of equal importance with Spokane, but it will contribute toward building up at this point a city that will be no mean rival to the best cities in Washington. The writer has stood upon the banks of the Spokane river and gazed upon the magnificent cataract, when it was unmarred by the hands of man, before its latent force was utilized to turn the wheels of industry, and make radiant after nightfall a great city, supplying in abundance that system of strange, wonderful, and as yet far from thoroughly understood force, electricity, that has revolutionized the commercial and manufacturing world. It was a beautiful scene to contemplate, and as he many times stood and gazed he dreamed of the transformation in the surrounding country, then but sparsely inhabited, that has since taken place. He

predicted the changes that have come about in Spokane, and while his predictions were then considered visionary, the real changes have surpassed even the most extravagant pictures that he drew. He has also stood upon the rocky shore above the Similkameen falls, with the roar of rushing waters in his ears, with wilder and grander surroundings than those that compass in the rack of waters that tumble down the rocky bed of the Spokane, and felt that for a second time he had before him a grand force that would at some future day be dominated by the iconoclastic hand of man, the weird and wonderful beauty to be eliminated to produce pelf for those restless and eager builders up of industries, those harbingers of civilization, who apply their energies and capital in founding great fortunes, by changing the face of the wilderness into a land of homes, and scenes of commercial and industrial activity.

But probably the stockholders in the Similkameen Power company are more interested in a statement of a more concrete nature, covering the sources of possible income from an investment of the kind, with that happy and expressive resultant, dividends at stated intervals, than a descriptive treatise on waterfalls in general, and this nearby one in particular. In this day when cheap power for the generation of electricity is a much sought for possession, the individual, or company, that holds such an admirable power producer as the Similkameen falls is fortunate beyond the limits of calculation. It does not require a scribe out here on the edge of civilization to wise up people living in the thickly populated east, where electricity is supplanting all other systems of force entering into industrial life, and where a water power of one-tenth the capacity of the Similkameen falls would be worth a sum of money beyond the dream of avarice, as to the present and prospective value of a large water fall, the horse power capacity of which is only limited to the amount that the holders desire to develop and put to use. It is today the most valuable piece of property in the northwest. By this it is not meant that it is just now the most valuable because of the revenue it produces, but as a tangible asset that is yet to produce revenue there is no class of property, mine, ranch, manufactory, or what not, that is to compare with it for intrinsic value. If there was not already a plant, using an infinite portion of the power running to waste, upon the ground, the simple water right itself would be worth thousands of dollars. Besides the advantage of a sheer drop of the whole volume of water over a shelf of rock, there is a series of rapids above that gives additional fall to increase the amount of power development. The Similkameen river is a stream of considerable magnitude, flowing from far up in British Columbia. At the point where the foaming water churns over the rocky barrier, the river is compressed into a narrow compass between walls of rugged rock, standing perpendicular in places to the height of many feet. This rush of waters is not spasmodic or intermittent. It is a steady and heady flow that can be depended upon at all seasons and at all times. The plant now in operation at the falls has run steadily 368 days. If a stoppage ever occurs it is not from lack of water, it results from accident, or voluntary suspension of operations. That feature is especially important, for those who depend upon power want to know that the supply can be counted on all the time, and with the Similkameen falls furnishing power they know it is perpetual. It will thus be seen that those who have invested in the Similkameen Power company have an interest in something real, tangible, substantial, enduring and exceedingly valuable.

To reach the point of power production that the falls are capable of it will require considerable more capital for buildings, machinery and improvements. This increase of production will come about as the demand for power grows, and that demand will certainly expand from this time on. The company should prepare now to meet that demand which is absolutely certain to materialize. There are many uses to which electric power can, and will, be applied, and this country is on the eve of an awakening that will create uses. The present plant, among other sources of revenue, furnishes light for Oroville. This at present, is a comparatively small item, but the coming summer will see the inauguration of a new order of things that will push Oroville forward to the magnitude of a considerable city. Then the lighting of the place, and the supplying of power that will be required by factories, machine shops, etc., will be very large factors in the revenue of the

(Continued on page four.)

DRILLS POUNDING AGAIN

Renewal of Development at the Nighthawk Mine Is Reported.

IT IS TRIBUTARY TO OROVILLE

The Resumption of Operations Promises to Result in a Paying Mine.

Work started up Wednesday morning at the Nighthawk mine, under the supervision of J. P. Gormley, after a suspension of operations for several months. It is now confidently felt that the drills will be kept pounding steadily, and before long the stamp mill, all ready to perform its functions, will commence treating ore. There is no good reason why it should not, as the ore is present in the mine, and the mill in shape to start in motion. The starting up of the Nighthawk is cheering news considering the long strain of inactivity, and it may spur up other companies to follow the example. The Nighthawk is only a short distance west of Oroville, directly on the railroad, and any movement at that mine, or any mine in the vicinity, is bound to be directly beneficial to Oroville. Moreover the chances are that systematic development on that property will in all probability result in making a producing mine, and nothing that could happen would give this country a greater impetus than a simple pure money making mine.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE.

Probably no patron of the dance is going to miss the chance of a dizzy round of pleasure by overlooking the band dance that comes off on the evening of St. Patrick's day, March 17, but to be on the safe side this paper takes this last chance to prick the memory of the public in order that the event may not be forgotten. There is also two good sound reasons why every resident should invest in a ticket. One is for the return in pleasure that such an investment insures, and the other is because the organization that is to reap the benefits from the proceeds is entitled to the liberal and cheerful support of every resident of Oroville. The band is an institution that should be encouraged to keep together. It is already a credit to the town, and every day of its existence strengthens that credit. Hence and therefore the purchase of tickets will help to perpetuate a good thing. Be a helper.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS ON KRUGER.

Tom Stanton came down Tuesday from the Forty-ninth Parallel mine, where he has a force at work sinking an incline shaft on the vein. The shaft is now down 81 feet, in ore all the way, and the character of the ledge matter is losing no value with depth. The Forty-ninth Parallel is on Kruger mountain, a short distance north of Oroville, and is in such good company as the Golden Chariot, the O. K., the Kelsey group, the Dividend, Lake View and other exceptionally rich properties. The work so far done demonstrates that there is a vast deposit of mineral on Kruger mountain, and the more encouraging evidence of its continuation to depth has been presented to those interested by the result of research with a diamond drill. Mr. Stanton is enthusiastic over the prospects upon his holdings. The ledges are from three to seven feet in width, and the values occur in gold and copper, with a small infusion of silver. The ore is of a concentrating nature, and if a treatment plant were in operation several of the claims could be made to pay. The products of Kruger mountain promise to contribute very materially in building up Oroville.

NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR.

As a rule a school election draws as heavily upon the voting population as a hustings that has for its object the selection of the president of the United States. There is always some kind of rivalry stirred up, or friends of some candidate imagine that the whole educational interests of a district centers upon his choice, and they get out and leg for him. There is another feature that helps swell the vote, and that is the opportunity to use the ladies as electors, and they are induced to try the novelty of casting a vote. There was a school election in Oroville Sat-

urday, just the same as in all other school districts in the state. A school director was to be chosen. Two candidates were in the field. Chas. S. Sigrist and J. W. Carrel. As the job is one that most men would run away from, it is probable that neither gentleman cared a continental for the honor. But their names were before the public, and the battle of the ballots went gayly forward. The vote was a substantial one, as Mr. Sigrist received 105 to his opponents 47. Mr. Sigrist will make a valuable addition to the board, but as a progressive citizen, and in order to increase his knowledge of what a director should do to improve the school system, he should get busy and aid in swelling the school rolls.

OFF FOR WALLA WALLA.

Last Saturday morning Sheriff Thorp took the east bound train, having in charge two prisoners whom he was to deliver to the prison guards from Walla Walla at Spokane. One of the victims was Chas. A. Watson, who was relieved of his liberty for breaking the 7th commandment on a sliding scale of from one to five years. The other was a redskin answering to the euphonious name of Quisiskin, who caught from one to fourteen years for too great affection for the horseflesh of his neighbors. Quis, old boy, is a pretty tough nut if he is guilty of all the crimes laid at his door, and had he gotten life the sentence would have been too short to balance of the account he owes society. Watson was a tame prisoner, and enjoyed the freedom of the city under the espionage of Guard Woodbeck, but the Indian was too uncertain a quantity to take any chances, and he basked in idleness while here and missed the opportunity of enjoying the sights about our progressive city.

AN EVENING OF UNALLOYED JOY.

The poverty social given in Sigrist's hall, last Friday evening, under the auspices of the ladies of the M. E. church, was a marked success both in point of attendance and the amount of pleasure knocking about the premises. That portion of the population that was in evidence turned out for the purpose of gleaming as much joy as could be absorbed in a single evening, and so far as can be learned the patrons were well satisfied both as to the quantity and quality. There was a distressing exhibition of poverty in the make ups and the wearers of the raiment could easily have pried off a hand out by appearing on the street with a hard luck story. The bidding for the tea packages was spirited and amusing, and Br'er Woodbeck, of the Concoquilly Record, was stung for a heavy contribution when he butted in on the bidding line. A feature of the festivities was a mock court, before which many were hauled up and touched for a fine. Judge Sigrist inflicted the penalties, while half a dozen policemen supplied the prisoners. Some of the charges were ludicrous, and the rapid fire of joke and humor kept the audience in an advanced stage of hysteria. In the award of prizes the judges had a difficult task, for among the numerous extremely disreputable costumes it was hard to select the worst. It was at last decided that Mrs. Mitchell was entitled to thy prize offered to ladies, and Rev. Course fell heir to that provided for gentlemen. The receipts were not sufficient to start a bank, but the ladies are satisfied with the results of their labors.

HAS FAITH IN THE COUNTRY.

Last Saturday morning Dr. Jacob May, of Bridgeport, Conn., took the west bound train on his way to Concoquilly, where he expects to spend a fortnight. Dr. May is largely interested in the Mineral Hill mine, located near the county seat, and through his indomitable spirit has kept up work on the property for the past decade. Not always steadily, but at such times as money could be commanded. His labors have not been entirely in vain. While so far he has not realized any substantial returns upon the time and money he has invested, still the very extended underground work he has accomplished has opened up some large and handsome ore bodies. Besides this encouragement for renewed endeavor, there is an immense cropping ledge some distance beyond the face of the working tunnel, the objective point for that elongated hole in the ground. The mine has been idle for some time, and Dr. May's mission out here at this time is to arrange to start up work. May the present year see the realization of the doctor's fondest hopes, the making of a paying mine.

Jas. E. Forde was out buying horse Wednesday. Mr. srs. Gadbury and England went out with him to prevent some one from ringing in a giraffe on him as a blooded roadster.

IMPORTANT MINING DEAL

A New York Party to Do Extensive Development In This Vicinity.

A CITIZEN OF OROVILLE IN ON IT

What Promises to Be One of the Most Important Mining Pro- jects in the County.

Henry Bahrs, who has done as much as any other single individual to advance the interests of the mining industry of northern Okanogan county, and has been instrumental in interesting large capital in claims, arrived in Oroville Tuesday evening, leaving Wednesday morning for Loomis where he expects to remain only two or three days. He came in directly from the east and will return at once.

The last party to be induced by Mr. Bahrs to investigate the mineral resources of this vicinity is Charles H. Brooks, of New York city, a gentleman who has made a success of mining in Mexico and in the west, and who, having the confidence of investors, is backed by unlimited capital. Mr. Brooks was out to Loomis in December last, and while there saw considerable of the adjacent country and the ores that the country produces. While not a demonstrative man, and one who is chary of passing judgment upon the merits of a district without careful and minute investigation, Mr. Brooks expressed himself as well pleased with what came under his observation. Indeed he was so favorably impressed that he closed contracts with claim owners, even locating ground himself, that promises to be followed this spring by the most extended system of exploitation that has as yet been attempted in this country. A practical and experienced mining man he knows how to mine right, and it is safe to say at this time that if he does not succeed in making a mine in fact as well as in name there is little use delving for mineral in paying quantities around this country. Mr. Brooks will be out here in April with his consulting engineer and decide upon plans to be followed in developing the properties he controls.

In this transaction a resident of Oroville is to be a large and deserving gainer. Chas. Gerhardt is that party. He owns a group of claims on the summit of Palmer mountain, upon which he has spent thousands of dollars of hard earned cash, and devoted some seventeen years of his life in prospecting. If he had not had a showing that fully justified this expending of money and labor he would have given up the holdings long ago. But in his research he uncovered large ledges that run strong in gold and copper, and the presence of these values in such large deposits has cheered him on in his struggle. Those claims Mr. Brooks has bonded. He has also secured adjoining claims clear to the west slope of Palmer mountain, which are wanted for a right-of-way for a great working adit that he proposes driving into the mountain many hundred feet to reach the ore deposits on the Gerhardt group. The claims referred to as held in conjunction with those of Mr. Gerhardt are far from barren, although to Mr. Brooks their chief importance is as a connecting link for a tunnel site. There are numerous veins of good mineral bearing quartz on those claims that can be opened up in the process of driving a tunnel and without interfering with the progress of that work. The work as laid out by Mr. Brooks will in all probability be inaugurated early in the spring, and when once started there will be no heart-breaking suspension, to create doubt and disappointment, for Mr. Brooks commands the sinews to carry on an thing in a mining way he undertakes.

A LARGE ITEM OF EXPENSE.

One of the greatest sources of expense to the county is the repairing of roads every spring. The cause for this annual outlay is two fold, poor judgment originally exercised in making the roads, and the character of the country through which the roads are laid out. It is difficult to make a road in a mountain country that will not wash. Some years the damage from this cause is greater than in others, depending upon the quantity of snow

and rain fall. This year promises to pile up a vaster amount of expense than any for a long time. Already the damage done from water has been enormous, and as yet the snow has hardly commenced disappearing from the mountains. In several directions from Oroville the roads are almost obliterated, and in places exceedingly dangerous. The road leading over the mountain to Weherville is in an awful plight, and that to the south is simply wiped off the map. It would pay better to build entirely new roads than to attempt to repair the wreck of the old. It is the duty of the commissioners to attend to this matter at once, so that people can travel from place to place with some degree of safety. No doubt the Oroville country will be neglected as it has been in the past, and the roads hereabouts be the last to receive needed attention. If the commissioners cannot cover their own territory, they should appoint supervisors to look after road matters. In many places the roads are a menace to life and limb. And it would not be surprising if some big bill of damages grew out of the death traps scattered along the highway.

UP OUT OF THE ASHES.

W. W. Parry is resurrecting Tonasket, the chief buildings in which went up in smoke some weeks ago. Austin Signs, of this place, has the contract for decorating the waste land with new structures, and is rapidly finishing up the job. The new post-office building was completed this week, and the old saloon is being transformed into a store by putting in shelving all around and counters. The ferry boat, which in the past has been a great convenience to the traveling public in crossing the Okanogan river, and which has been out of commission for months, is to be replaced by a new and more commodious craft. Tonasket has always been an excellent trading point, and it will grow better as the country fills up. Those who know him trust that Mr. Parry has played out his unlucky string, and with the rehabilitation of Tonasket things will commence coming his way.

IT IS HARD WORK.

No one can appreciate the labor required to raise funds for building a church in any community except those who have passed through the ordeal. Rev. Robert Thompson has applied hours, and days, and weeks in an effort to build a M. E. church in Oroville. At last the completion of the edifice is in sight, but every board, and shingle and nail represents hard labor on the part of the person who started out to accomplish the object. It is expected that the church will be ready for dedication on Easter, and the particulars of the proposed ceremonies will be given at a later date.

A TEMPEST IN A TEACUP.

A report was in circulation Friday to the effect that a party by the name of Mattson had spirited away the wife of a farmer living on the north half, named Rogers, and placed her in hiding in Oroville. In the code of ethics this thing of appropriating another man's wife is looked upon as a transgression so serious that killing is considered somewhat too good for the offender, and when it was known that Rogers was in town looking for the couple, there was some apprehension of a summary settlement, especially as Mr. Rogers is a man put up on a robust scale, while there is very little of Mr. Mattson either in stature or avoirdupois. A sensation failed to materialize, and upon interviewing Mr. Mattson it was learned that he had been outrageously maligned, and a cruel aspersion cast upon the lady in the case. According to the statement of Mr. Mattson Mrs. Rogers was ill, and he received written instructions from Mr. Rogers to escort her to Oroville for medical treatment. Mr. Mattson's explanation was somewhat foggy, but as the two men were hobnobbing together during the day it stands to reason that there must have been extenuating circumstances connected with the family mix up.

SIWASH GETS HIS FACE DECORATED.

J. H. Holmes very rudely jarred the physiognomy of Fred Rannels during an impassioned argument that took place one evening last week, and Mr. Rannels felt so aggrieved over the affront that he had Mr. Holmes hauled up before Justice Fine Monday, and snow cause why he should not be crucified for too much activity with his dukes. Mr. Rannels' appearance indicated that he had been up against something, and Mr. Holmes did not deny that he might, in a moment of subconsciousness, have applied the decorations. Judge Fine applied a tax of \$10 and cost as a salve for miscellaneous bruises of the person and the law.