

The Oroville Weekly Gazette

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A FLOURISHING INSTITUTION.

An indication of the growth of Oroville is shown in the increased school attendance. It surpasses all expectations. New faces are to be seen in every grade, indicative of the addition of numerous new families to the population. A full attendance in any school is not expected the first week that school opens, as there are many causes that interfere with the prompt entrance of scholars, and yet the first week of the opening of the Oroville school marked a jam in almost every room equipped for occupancy. The kids were packed like sardines in a box in some of the departments, and the trustees had to make swift provisions to properly accommodate the increased enrollment. Another room has been fitted up in the high school building and the trustees are looking around for an experienced and competent teacher to take charge of the new room. This room will be occupied by part of the 6th grade and the entire 7th grade, and the combination will keep one teacher pretty busy. In one room of the old school building in the south part of town is the 1st and 2nd grades and the 3rd, 4th and 5th and part of the 6th occupies another room. It was there that the congestion was so great that a portion of the 6th grade pupils had to be transferred to the high school building. Even with this reduction of numbers the teachers in the old building have far larger classes than they can conveniently handle with justice to themselves or pupils.

At the close of school last Friday there were some 230 scholars reported in attendance. The high school proper has the largest enrollment ever known in this place, and there are a number yet to enter. In fact there are children yet to enter every department, and the chances are that still another room will have to be provided to meet the exigencies of the situation.

Considering the rapid growth of the town the supply of adequate educational facilities is a serious problem to solve. Accommodations for scholars desiring to enter school must be provided by some means. The members of the board wish to be as economical as possible, without crippling the school system, but the unexpected influx of new people is greater than any one expected. If this growth continues, and it certainly will, ward schools will have to be provided. A school building is needed on the East Oroville Orchard tract, or at least in the east part of town, for the better convenience of that growing section. However, location of new school houses is something that can be decided on in the future, although the aim should be to select such sites as would prove to be the most convenient to the greatest number, no matter where they may be. It is cheering to note this evidence of the steady growth of Oroville, even though it does mean the meeting of increased expenditures in providing facilities in taking care of the growing number of youngsters.

It may be added that every indication points to one of the most successful years in the history of the local schools. The term was started off right and a course of discipline, we understand, has been inaugurated that should be rigorously enforced by the teachers and patiently and cheerfully submitted to by the pupils. There is nothing so demoralizing to a school, so detrimental to its well being, as permitting scholars to exercise their own sweet will at all times and under all circumstances. The scholar should be made to understand that there are certain rules that must be complied with. The scholar may consider the rules harsh, but the average teacher is reasonable, kindly and humane, and asks nothing from pupils that is impossible. To secure the best results, order must be maintained and scholars made to apply themselves to application. The present board will back up the faculty in the enforcement of every rule laid down for the betterment of the school and if there be any who cannot comply with the restrictions and requirements imposed, their place is outside the school building where their influence for evil cannot affect the pupils as a body.

Work on the state road from Oroville, south, is being pushed steadily, and those in charge are making a good job of it. The camp has been moved to Lauber gulch. It is calculated there is enough means at command to finish the road beyond the gulch. The new highway promises to be a grand improvement over anything in the way of roads in the county.

MINING TRANSFER.

W. J. DeMerchant sold the old Silvernite claim, located near the former Weherville postoffice, to C. S. Jennings of Loomis, and a Mr. Mann of Spokane. The transfer took place Saturday. Five men are now at work opening up the ledge. The Silvernite was located by that veteran mining man and prospector, Maj. F. P. Wehe, among a multitude of other locations staked out by that gentleman, so long ago that the date of the original entry is beyond memory. The Major held the claims for years and last fall wished them off on Mr. DeMerchant. Mr. DeMerchant made a nice little clean up and could have done far better. Before the individuals who had promised to take the claim came through, C. W. Smith of this place, offered a far better price, but Mr. DeMerchant honorably stuck to his bargain. The reason that Mr. Smith was so eager to secure the Silvernite was that he had been spying around that part of the mountain range recently, saw the ore taken from the Silvernite, brought a sample down to town assayed it and found that the ore carried over \$140 in gold and silver. No wonder he became covetous. The ledge that is being opened up is not a large one, but the values run high and are uniform. The present owners and operators will probably be shipping ore in a short time, and even with the considerable wagon haul that is necessary in order to reach the railroad there is every indication that the mine will pay handsomely.

IS HERE TO STAY.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Van Dissel and the baby arrived in Oroville Friday last from Spokane. They came to stay. At present the family are guests of Dr. and Mrs. D. H. Lewis, but they will occupy the new bungalow that Mrs. Williams is building. Mr. Van Dissel will have an office in the corner room of the old Peerless hotel building. The family will be a valuable addition to the community, and Van will make his presence felt, if he has not lost some of his old time vim. There is no danger on that score however, for he left an impression all along the overland route through the Big Bend and the Okanogan valleys that a live one was headed for Oroville to locate. Mr. Van Dissel traveled through Davenport, Wilbur, Coulee City, Waterville, Bridgeport and up the Okanogan valley, getting here, and on every dead wall, or wherever there was space to hang up the slogan, he nailed up placards calling attention to the fact that Okanogan lands under the big new irrigation system were valuable possessions to get hold of, with the further information that Mr. Van Dissel was on the ground to show any one around who wished to investigate and invest. That is the stuff, an advertiser to let people know this country exists, that Oroville has been short on, and if Van does not make a winner in his effort to sell irrigated land it will not be because he failed to try.

CHANGES HIS PASTURAGE.

Rev. A. H. Morton preached his farewell sermon at the M. E. church on Sunday morning to a large congregation that was visibly affected by the kind words of the retiring minister. Rev. and Mrs. Morton have been residents of Oroville for two years, and have won a warm place in the hearts of the people of this community outside as well as within the pale of the church. Under the system in vogue, Methodist ministers are not retained for long periods in any one community and under the rules of changing pastors Rev. Morton has been assigned to a new field. From here he goes to Peshastin, in the Wenatchee valley. It can be safely said that Rev. Morton is the most popular Methodist minister who has ever been assigned to this charge. While true and faithful to the tenets of his church he is not a bigot, and never played the hypocrite by posing as a better man than his neighbors. He is a broad minded, courteous, charitable and thorough christian gentleman, a credit to the cloth and a pleasing and charming person to meet personally. The church has flourished under his pastorate, he has done much good among this people, and he takes with him to his new home the best wishes of saint and sinner in this place where, sad to say, the sinner predominates, although averaging up all inates, although averaging up all around they have a better show to get through the pearly gates than some of those claiming a prior right to a halo.

BEAUTIFUL GRAPE DISPLAY.

The plate display of grapes in the show window of the Oroville Commercial Company's store attracts every passer by and creates most favorable and flattering comment. There are several varieties, including such well known names as Rose of Peru, Malaga, Muscat of Alexandria, Zinfandel, Black Prince, Tokay Mission, Muscat Rose, Dattier Bayroth and Sultana, the bunches well filled out, of large size and the fruit plump and inviting. The selection embraces both the wine and the table grape and were grown by George Whistler on his place on the east side of Okanogan river, only a short distance from Oroville. This has been an unfavorable year for the growth and development of the grape, owing to the continuous wet weather at the time the fruit was in flower, hence the showing under these adverse conditions is most creditable. Such displays are only cumulative evidence of the wonderful fertility and capability of the soil of this valley. Whether it be the fruit of the tree or the vine, whether garden truck or grasses, whether anything or everything of the vegetable kingdom, when planted and properly cared for by those who take an interest in the final results the reward that is certain to the cultivator of the soil is bountiful beyond what those who live in less favored localities can begin to realize.

In referring to this handsome and creditable grape exhibit it is no more than just to say a word of commendation and encouragement for the man responsible for the display. Mr. Whistler is one of the oldest residents of the north part of the county, and is probably one of the best, if not the best, posted men in the country who has devoted his attention to cultivating the soil. He knows both the practical and theoretical side of agriculture, horticulture and pomology. He makes these subjects a constant study not only through research of all manner of printed matter, but by personal experiment and investigation. He is methodical in keeping a record of the seasons, and the influence of climatic changes upon the formation, growth and development of fruits, vegetables and grasses. By reference to his records he can tell why a crop was large or below the normal in past seasons, and such information is invaluable to the man who follows orcharding and ranching. In the care of trees and vines there is much to learn. The man who turns his attention to fruit growing and goes at it haphazard has failure chalked up against him in advance. He must make the vocation a careful study. That is the way Mr. Whistler has gone at it. He has studied. He does not pretend to know all of the secrets there are to know in the mysterious ways of providence in placing fecundity in the soil, and the wonders of nature in putting color, bouquet and flavor in the fruits of the earth, yet he has a rich store of information, gathered in the school of practical experience, and in consequence everything that comes from the Whistler place is first class in every particular. If all men who cultivate the acres of this valley, or who may cultivate them in the future, could be as well equipped for the work as Mr. Whistler, the Okanogan country would produce more and better fruit than a like acreage anywhere else on earth.

UNDESIRABLES.

Marshal Case escorted a floater to the edge of town Tuesday and bade him farewell with the admonition to keep going. It is an unpleasant task that the officer has to repeat frequently, for the extensive work on the irrigation system draws the flotsam and jetsam from various parts of the compass. The marshal reports a very large number of derelicts around the town, many of whom are not over anxious to work. He discovered one large gang camped on the Okanogan river, living on the fat of the land, which created a suspicion that hen roosts and gardens were being systematically raided. Cold weather will put an end to this outdoor life, thus reducing the number of undesirables, but in the meantime some provision should be made by the business men to put on a night watchman. The business men are suggested because the town is strained to the limit meeting contingent expenses, and is hardly in position to employ another officer. The present marshal is working a double shift, but there are times that he requires a few winks of sleep, and some one should be on duty at all hours, day and night.

CUTTING SCRAPE.

Friday last a nasty cutting affray occurred among two of the men employed on the irrigation canal, near the intake on the Similkameen river. R. D. Luey, an engineer in charge of the engine operating on the temporary track used for the steam shovel, and J. C. McCoy a brakeman, were the principals in the ruction that ended in such a sanguinary manner. What the trouble grew out of deponeth sayeth not, but there can be no question as to the fact of their having a rather rude misunderstanding. During the row that ensued Lucy struck McCoy on the head with some very sharp instrument, either a knife or a razor, inflicting a very ugly gash that bled profusely. The cut extended from the top of the head down the neck at the back of the left ear to the shoulder. The scalp was cut to the bone, but the wound on the neck was not deep, fortunately for McCoy. Dr. Efner patched up the injured McCoy and he was able to be out and around the next day. No information was filed with the authorities and hence no arrest was made. It was stated by those who seemed to know that the men made up their differences and look upon the carving as a closed incident, happily around that it proved to be no worse.

EXCITING EXPERIENCE.

One evening last week as John Killian was all alone in his suburban home cogitating over the beauties of farm life during a grasshopper plague season, he was thrown into a delirium of demoralization when a woman, clothed in little more than a look of horror, burst through the door and throwing herself on her hands and knees crawled under the table and from thence under the bed. When he came to sufficiently to gather his scattered wits, Mr. Killian realized that the woman was Mrs. Miller, a neighbor, and violently insane. The blushing Mr. Killian got some of his wife's clothing and induced the distracted woman to put it on, but she would insist on hiding away to escape a pursuing enemy. Mr. Killian managed to hold the fort until the return of his wife, but says it was the longest, most uncomfortable and unhappy hour he ever experienced. Mr. and Mrs. Killian did all they could for the unfortunate woman, but were unable to get her home until the next day.



Another big time production comes to the Orpheum this week for Saturday and Sunday nights. This time it is one of the Metro's best, being no less than the famous "Cora." This is the Rolfe production in full five parts, and is admitted to be one of the best attractions now booking. The story of "Cora" a world famous prima dona, is thrilling and heart touching from start to finish, and Emily Stevens has never appeared to better advantage on the stage in any character than this. The story of the play tells of Madame Rene, a fallen operatic idol, of Paris, who comes to America with her daughter Cora to seek a home in the new world. Madame Rene becomes ill and dies in a poor tenement house, leaving her young daughter Cora at the mercies of the wide world. In the tenement house where Cora's mother dies, there lives Marie and her crippled sister Louise, and although very poor they take Cora to live with them after the death of her mother. Marie is an artist's model and poses for George Gardner, a famous artist. The artist is engaged to be married to Helen the petted and spoiled child of fortune and the plaything of an ambition society mother. The artist does not love Helen nor does Helen love him, but he suffers the engagement to be announced through indifference. Cora tries in vain to secure employment and finally poses for the artist, who falls in love with her, but Cora flees to the operatic stage where she makes a great success. Returns to the poor tenement and rescues Louise and her sister from poverty and by force of character compels the proper and happy ending to the life romance of three girls thrown upon the world. No dance Saturday night. Sunday night the big 31 piece dinner set will be given away.

Mrs. L. E. Godfrey, of Omak, was in Oroville Tuesday.

Attorney W. E. Grant of Loomis, was in town on business Tuesday.

A JOLLY RECEPTION.

A delegation of Wenatchee Commercial Club, numbering some thirty-three persons, invaded Oroville, Wednesday evening, leaving for home the next morning, delighted with the reception they met with in this place. Owing to their being the round about trip from Tonasket to Holston, and from thence to Oroville, the bulk of the party did not reach town until after 7 p. m. In the evening an informal reception was tendered the visitors by the Oroville Commercial Club in Old Fellow's Hall. It was very late before the crowd assembled. The band, out in full force, played several selections, and President Lewis, of the local club, called upon speakers from among the down river districts. John B. Adams, acting president of the Wenatchee Commercial Club and president of the Grower's League, R. S. Lindstrom, Fred Crolland and H. O. Butler responded in a very happy vein. At 10:30 the crowd marched to the Civic League library building headed by the band where an elegant and bountiful collation was served by the ladies of the league. After the wants of the inner man had been supplied a number of diners were called upon and responded with short speeches. The visitors were profuse in expressing their appreciation of the kind and cordial reception extended to them. An interesting feature was a number of songs by a quartette made up of members of the visiting club. Altogether it was an enjoyable, interesting and large-attended gathering of the local Commercial Club since its organization, and the interest and enthusiasm manifested, will result in arousing much more interest in the club and the work that the club has to do for the welfare of the town and country. Some 250 persons sat down at the tables. The following were among the Wenatchee excursionists present: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Carpenter, J. M. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shotwell, Dr. E. J. Widby, and Mrs. E. D. Adams, H. W. Soderling, Lem L. Morris, H. O. Butler, G. W. Kelly of the Seattle Commercial Club, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Adams, H. W. Soderling, Lem Ward, W. W. Woods, W. H. Barnhart, Emil Frank, Geo. Brown, Noah Brown, N. S. Brown, H. W. Soderling, E. J. Sock, Leon Mlot, H. F. Schade, H. M. Patrick, A. W. McDonald, W. G. Holt, C. H. Multhead, C. H. Hanson.

A CHANGE AT THE SALTS LAKE.

F. Calvert, of Seattle, who is largely interested in the operation of the salts lake near Oroville, spent several days in town during the past week. While here a deal was made, or understanding reached by which H. B. Brown retires from the active management, although still interested in the organization handling and marketing the salts. Mr. Brown did the pioneering and through his personal exertions opened up a latent resource of this county of great importance which may become a paying and wealth producing industry. The handling of the output had reached such a stage that more capital was required, and as Mr. Brown does not pose as a capitalist he stepped out to enable larger sums to get action. It was solely through his energetic efforts, however, that the marketing of the product of the salts lake became a commercially successful enterprise. Mr. Brown left Thursday for Seattle and goes from there to New York to promote other enterprises he is interested in.

Mr. Calvert desires to make no promises as to the future relative to handling the salts, otherwise than that the work of extracting and shipping will be continued under the direction of a syndicate known as the Stewart-Calvert Co. F. Cronin will be the resident manager. He is anxious no confidence in saying that if the market holds as at present some very important improvements will be made at the lake, and the industry become a large and permanent one. Whenever the company releases the news this paper will call the public posted on any changes or improvements that may be carried out in increasing the capacity of the output.

AMONG THE OLD TIMERS.

Dr. C. F. Webb was a visitor in Oroville, Tuesday, shaking hands with his friends, and they are numerous in this community. Dr. Webb is a pioneer in Okanogan county, although for the past few years he has resided in Republic. Back in the early 80's when the old Ruby mining camp was in full flower, Dr. Webb practiced his profession in that place and for a time, as a side line, published the first newspaper ever printed in Okanogan county. When the bottom fell out of Ruby, and when it did go, it went kerplunk, Dr. Webb moved to Loomis, where he stuck for years. With the discovery of mineral that made Republic temporarily a hummer, Dr. Webb cast his lot in that place, but returned and practiced in Oroville for about a year. He went back to Republic, where he now resides. The Doctor still retains a warm place in his heart for the Okanogan country and we should not be surprised if he eventually returned and located somewhere in the county. As he is a popular and successful practitioner Dr. Webb would be welcomed wherever he would elect to hang out his shingle.

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES.

Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching services at 11 a. m.
H. D. CHANDLER, Pastor.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(Rev. G. H. Severance, Vicar.)
Morning prayer and sermon at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Evening services at 8 p. m.
All are most cordially invited to attend these services. If you are looking for a liberal and yet scriptural church you will find it in the Episcopal church.

George J. Hurley motored over from Loomis Wednesday morning, bringing Miss Maud K. Hill, assistant principal of the Loomis schools, to catch the outgoing Spokane train. Miss Hill was called to her home at St. Johns by the sad news of the sudden death of her father.

IN A NEW FIELD.

Father Edward Griva, who has had charge of the Catholic church at this place for the past year or more, has been transferred to Nespelm on the south half of the Colville Indian reservation, where he will take up his residence in a few days. Father Griva has been one of the most active representatives of his church ever assigned to this country. His charge embraced a large territory, and he was constantly on the move in order to fill all of his appointments. Through his exertion the church membership has increased and through his influence several new churches have been erected in the district over which he presided. It was largely through his instrumentality that the Catholic sisters secured the Oroville hospital, and it has been his dream and ambition to build up a large hospital in Oroville, he having drawn elaborate plans for that structure. He has not lost interest in that project and will continue to exert himself to have his cherished plans carried out. He leaves Oroville with a great deal of reluctance, but his duty is that of a soldier to obey a higher authority, and though he may not be wholly satisfied with the transfer his zeal in the cause will not be any less and in his new home among the Indians principally, he will apply himself with the same earnest assiduity that marked his work while in this missionary district.

Few people have any idea of the enormous amount of application and work that falls to the lot of these Catholic missionaries. They are compelled to learn the language of the tribe of Indians to which they have been assigned, and learn it so thoroughly that they can converse freely, preach and even translate in that tongue. Father Griva already is familiar with four Indian languages, and now he is compelled to learn a new one. An error prevails among many that there is little distinction between the various Indian languages and to know one enables a person to make himself understood among all Indians. Father Griva says the distinctions are as marked and different among Indian languages as between the languages of European countries.

Father Griva has builded well here during his pastorate, as from now henceforth this will be an important Catholic headquarters. A number of sisters will have charge of the hospital work, and three priests will be stationed here permanently, the three cover the ground that Father Griva has heretofore cared for. This is another indication that Oroville is destined to make an important place, for it is not the practice of the Catholic church to concentrate activities in a dead town, or one without a future.

HAWKEYE VISITORS.

A large party of eastern people, made up principally of Iowans, spent Sunday in Oroville. They were on their way to the San Francisco exposition, and took in the Okanogan valley as a side line. They arrived from Spokane Saturday evening and left on the passenger down the branch Monday morning. While here the party were taken in automobiles over much of the irrigation project, visiting the old Okanogan Smith orchard and that of J. A. McGinty in order to give the strangers an opportunity to see what the valley land can do in the way of production when under water. At the McGinty place they felt very much at home for Mc hails from Iowa and could give them a very comprehensive idea of what an Iowa man, or a man from any other state, for that matter, with the proper admixture of vim in his composition, can accomplish in the way of growing things in this valley. The visitors were pleasantly surprised and strongly impressed with the fecundity of the soil as evidenced in the orchards, gardens and alfalfa fields, and charmed with the country from a scenic point of view. So much so, indeed, that three or four of the number declared it to be their intention to return to Oroville at a later date and make investments in lands. There is no place where safer investments could be made. Those constituting the party were Mr. and Mrs. Sempler, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. White of Ralpa, Iowa, Miss Grant and Miss Adams of Chicago and Harry Russell of Des Moines, Iowa.

There are now 270 men employed on construction work on the irrigation system, and a great many more will be put on at once.