

# The Oroville Weekly Gazette

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## FIRE PROTECTION.

At the last meeting of the Commercial Club, President Lewis, at the suggestion of the members present, called a public meeting for next Tuesday evening, at the library building, for the special purpose of organizing fire companies to take charge of the apparatus. It was mainly apparent at the late meeting that there was a total absence of any organized fire department. When the alarm sounded there was no movement toward the hose houses, and the only way the carts reached the scene of the fire was through the exertions of a few older men, some of them absolute strangers in the town. Moreover, there appeared to be no knowledge of the location of the hydrants, no hydrant wrenches nor spanners, and a part of the hose had been reeled in a cart wrong end to. After the fire there was no organized company to limber up and care for the hose. It was simply chaos, and with some conditions existing at a fire of any magnitude, or in a locality where adjoining property would be in jeopardy, much valuable time would be lost in rinding leads and turning on water. This is little short of criminal carelessness or disaster-involving indifference.

The town is well supplied with fire fighting apparatus, much better than most towns of this size. There is an abundance of hose for all ordinary purposes, on two reels, one located north of the track and the other on the south side. Also a chemical engine and small ladder truck. In addition and most important, there is an excellent water pressure, a pressure that insures a heavy stream of a volume sufficient to smother almost any fire that might break out if taken in time. What is needed, and imperatively needed, is organized fire companies, with an authoritative head. These companies should be assigned to each piece of apparatus, and at the first alarm the members should immediately repair to the station where the apparatus is housed. It should be the duty of every fireman to know the location of every fire plug and the tools for speedy connection should be with the carts. This is simply advice that can be adopted or rejected when organization is completed.

Let every business man, and especially every young man with the vim to lend assistance in the time of threatened danger, attend the meeting next Tuesday evening and enroll as a member of the department. The town is too small for a paid department, and all service must be voluntary.

It is a cause that should enlist the aid of every resident of the town, as it has, and does, in other towns where a paid service is impossible. There is much property at stake in Oroville in case of a conflagration and it behooves every property owner to use his influence to secure means for its protection. Safety depends largely upon a well organized fire department. That is what the town is sorely in need of. Fortunately in the past there has been little service for the fire apparatus but the town can not always remain immune, and as it grows, danger from fire increases. Now is the time to get ready to be prepared for any emergency. Remember the time and place and attend this important meeting.

## HALLOWEEN DANCE.

The ladies of the Altar society of the Catholic church announces a Halloween dance in the Orpheum for Friday night, October 23. A side feature of this event that will especially appeal to those participating in the festivities, will be a chicken supper. Between the athletic exercise of dancing and the promise of a gastronomic treat, in which chicken is to figure as the chief delicacy, the attraction should be so great as to draw the largest crowd that has been seen at any public ball throughout the year. That the dance will be a delightful affair, with pleasures in abundance for everybody, is foreordained, where the ladies of the Altar society are the entertainers. This organization gives one dance every season, and as a rule that function is the dance of the season. The success that accompanies the efforts of the ladies is due to the fact that they spare no pains to make it pleasant for all who patronize an entertainment of any kind given under the auspices of the society. The dance Friday night, Oct. 23, will be similar to those that have been given by the Altar society in the past, and those who wish to enjoy a pleasant evening should arrange to be one of the multitude that will be present on this occasion.

## DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT.

The concert given by the California colored jubilee quartet, at the Orpheum, last Friday evening, was by all odds the best that has ever been given in Oroville. There was a fair attendance, not so large, however, as it should have been considering that the entertainment was for the benefit of the high school athletic association, an organization that every resident of the town should aid whenever the opportunity presents, but in this case those who failed to attend were alone the losers, as they missed a musical treat of unusual merit. The troupe of colored vocalists are certainly artists, and the program as rendered delighted every number who appreciate good music. Every number was warmly applauded and the performers were generous in responses. The list of selections embraced plantation melodies, jubilee songs, popular airs and selections from well known operas. Singly and collectively the performers are stars. The company should ever again visit Oroville it is certain to draw a much larger crowd than the one that greeted its appearance last Friday evening.



OROVILLE CIVIC LEAGUE LIBRARY BUILDING

For various reasons, for which this office is not entirely responsible, we have put off from week to week formal announcement of the final completion of the Civic League library building. This structure is finished, both inside and out, has been finished for some time, occupied by the library, which was the chief object of its construction, and has been used on several occasions for public meetings. It should have received attention some weeks ago, but while the atmosphere was permeated with smoke, a picture of the building could not be taken, and after a picture was at last taken there were further unintentional delays. All this is in the way of prelude, explanation and apology, especially the latter, for so important an item should not have been so long neglected.

The picture that heads this article is a view of the new Civic League library building, taking in the east front. It conveys rather an inadequate idea of the real beauty and attractiveness of this important architectural addition to the town, but this view is used because including the building is given a slight glimpse of the charming and pretty grove in which it is located. The conspicuous square structure on the left, and very much in the foreground, is the band stand. This does not contribute to the out-ensemble of the picture as a whole, but it could not be escaped where a front view of the building is taken.

This building, which is the pride of the town among all who take any pride at all in the town, and a credit to the organization of ladies that made it possible, is the final consummation of the cherished dreams of the members of the Civic League. Some two years ago the League decided to put up a building that would reflect credit upon the town, the primary object being to supply a permanent home for the public library. Aside from housing that praiseworthy institution it was the purpose of the League to use the building as a place of rest for people from the country, and for public assemblies and entertainments. The first move in the program was to select a site. The only favorably situated ground available was the vacant strip of land along the railroad right-of-way, immediately in the center of the business district. If this site could be obtained, that is, a large enough piece for the purpose wanted, the location would be convenient to every portion of the town. Correspondence was opened up with the railroad authorities on the subject. The officials willingly granted the request, making such concessions as the League desired. The first act on the part of the League was to fence off a strip of land embracing about half a block. Grass seed was sown, trees planted and water pipes carried under ground to all parts of the premises. What followed is plainly apparent and a delight to the eye, for thanks to a generous climate and a fertile soil, assisted by ample water supply, an oasis has sprung into existence in the very midst of the business section, attracting the immediate notice and favorable comment of every stranger that arrives. The trees have grown with astonishing rapidity, and the lawn was given careful care and the lawn was now a velvety green. If nothing more had been accomplished than giving to the town this charming grove, it could have been said that the work of the Civic League had been well done. But the grove and its greenery was not the end of accomplishment. The building had to be provided as a jewel to the setting, and when a bevy of ladies set their hearts upon accomplishing a certain object, take it from us that object is going to be accomplished.

The Civic League library is finished, and one enters its doors without expressing the most flattering praise over its general appearance. The building is of the bungalow design, neatly painted in dark green with white trimmings, and is strikingly attractive from every point of view. A porch extends around the east and a portion of the north side. The main body of the building can be thrown into a single room by a system of folding doors. The front room is the library proper, the books being arranged on neat shelves on the right hand side as one enters the room. There small tables are placed where visitors can sit and read or write. The larger room can be used as a meeting place for the League, or for such public meetings as may be called for. When a supper, or large entertainment is given, the two rooms can be thrown into one. Folding tables have been secured by the League, and when set out for a supper or dinner, fully 100 persons can be accommodated. Off the library to the left on entering is a lavatory and toilet. In the main reception room is a large, handsome fire place. Also a small, but complete kitchen. This has a sink and closed cupboards for dishes. It is very conveniently arranged for use. Under the building is a cement basement, where a heating plant will eventually be installed. The rooms are well lighted by a number of windows and the interior is made more cozy and home like by neatly draped curtains. Throughout, from basement to roof, the building is a perfect gem, and the most critical can find no flaw, nor think of an improvement to suggest.

The Civic League did not provide this delightful place of social or public resort, this elegant home for the public library, without much effort and hard work. By means of entertainments of various kinds considerable money has been secured, but so far as the building has been paid for through individual subscriptions and donations. These donations have come both in the way of cash and labor. While every member of the League has cheerfully and nobly done her part in carrying out the work that has ended in the completion of this elegant building, the chief responsibility and labor has fallen upon the president, Mrs. J. P. Samson. Without disparaging the good work of others it is no more than fair to give this lady the full measure of credit that she is justly entitled to for the part she has taken in making the library building a tangible reality. She has worked to the limit, even beyond the limit, of her endurance to accomplish this object, so long her ambition. It was through her efforts that the ground was secured from the railroad. She personally solicited contributions day after day, and only through her persistency and insistence was a fund sufficient to justify the commencement of construction secured. It was not money contributions alone that she secured. Through her instrumentality every carpenter in the town gave liberally of their time and labor toward the building, and without that aid accomplishment would have been impossible. While prying money out of the public Mrs. Samson cheered on and encouraged her assistants, at times when the outlook was not any too promising. Almost every business man, let it be said, responded generously, and the League deeply appreciates their assistance.

In closing we desire to add that the building is not as yet entirely paid for, and the League faces a large deficit. That debt will be canceled in time, for the League will inaugurate a series of entertainments for the winter months to raise funds for the special purpose of liquidating its obligations. This, however, will require time, to say nothing of the hard work that will naturally fall upon the members. In the meantime if there are any citizens who have not contributed to this worthy object, and there may be some who have been accidentally overlooked let them now step forward with their offerings and thus lighten the burden that the League is carrying. This admirable public institution is well worthy of any aid or assistance that may be extended, and assistance now would be as gratefully appreciated as at any time since the building was first suggested.

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(Rev. G. H. Severance, M. A. Vicar.)

Morning prayer and sermon at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 12. A religious education is essential for the best and complete development of the child. We aim to give the child a thorough training in religious education.

Services are held every first, third and fourth Sundays in the month. All are cordially invited.

## GOOD ADVICE.

Sunday this office had a call from a printer who went fluey running a paper in the peach belt of Fresno county, California, and he was out on the road looking for employment. Employment was something he found very difficult to obtain in these prosperous democratic days, and he reported that everywhere the printing business, like almost every other line of business, is shot all to pieces. However, that is neither here nor there, as the condition is too familiar for further cumulation of evidence. What he did say of particular interest—and that is something that every land owner in the valley should take heed of, ponder on and trim his sails accordingly—was that the people of this country should not make the fatal mistake of raising fruit exclusively. He quoted from experience, and being both an observer and a man of intelligence, his advice should carry weight. He lived in section of Colorado where the Lord was kind in supplying ideal climate and soil. People went daffy on fruit. All the land was planted to apples and as the prices shrank, most of the growers went broke. He sought other fields. In the southern part of Fresno county every acre, nearly, is set out to peaches. He thought he had struck a paradise, and invested all his means to the extent of several thousand dollars in a newspaper plant. This year there was no market for peaches and the crop rotted on the ground. Prices would not pay for the picking. He went broke, as the sides and bottom fell out of everything.

This stranger traveled the full length of the Okanogan valley, hunting work at his trade and finding it not. He fell in love with the valley, and declared it to be one of the most promising sections of the west that has come under his observation, and he has visited every locality west of the Rocky mountains, from the Mexican line to the British Columbia boundary. He said that if he only had a few hundred dollars he would locate somewhere in the valley, willing to take his chances on the future, satisfied that a great and wonderful change would take place in a few years. His opinion is worth while, because it is based upon personal experience. Let the public bear in mind what this stranger advises. Shun single crops, and stick to diversity. Let not the mistake that has brought disappointment and ruin to other sections be repeated here in Okanogan county. If there is to be a prosperous future for the valley that prosperity must rest upon intelligent farming and all the evidence at hand points to a variety of products as the wisest and most intelligent means of insuring prosperity.

## SCRAPPING ON THE GRIDIRON.

This paper goes to press Thursday afternoon, and so no report can be made of the Okanogan-Oroville high school football game that is being fought to a finish at Okanogan this afternoon. The local lads left this morning for Okanogan, hopeful of giving a good account of themselves. If they fail to win it will not be because they failed to try. The local team this year is in the main new material, and the boys are light on their feet, so the public should not expect too much from them. They have the pluck and are willing to do their best and may surprise the teams they go up against. Here's wishing them luck, and may they come back crowned with the laurel of victory. The following is the line-up of the team for the Okanogan game: Left end, Glen Carrel; left tackle, Fuller; left guard, Vincent; center, Bodie; right guard, Bovie; right tackle, Bair; right end, Mallory; quarterback and captain, McMahon; left half, Dallam; right half, Pratt; fullback, Cole; substitutes, Ethel, A. Carrel, Johnson and Ford.

Word was received here Wednesday evening that Sam S. Rider had died that day at the home of his father-in-law, Humberly, after a long illness with typhoid fever. No particulars have been received as to the death or the funeral arrangements. Sam Rider is well known in Oroville and the north part of the county, where he lived for a number of years before going to ranching near Huntley, and the news of his death will be read with sincere sorrow by a very large number of friends in this and neighboring communities. The deceased was an honorable, upright citizen and a most genial and likeable friend and neighbor.

## AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS.

The object of the visit of F. W. Graham immigration agent of the Great Northern railroad, to Oroville Monday, was to arrange an itinerary for Prof. Thomas Shaw, of Minnesota, agricultural expert for the Great Northern railroad, who will spend a week in Okanogan county, beginning Monday, November 1st, delivering lectures on live stock and agricultural topics. Probably there is not higher authority in the United States on the subjects treated than Prof. Shaw. His knowledge has not only been acquired by long study, but also by practical experience on the farm and in the laboratory. He is a fluent and pleasing talker and the farmers of this upper country are fortunate to have a man of his knowledge and attainments address them upon a subject that is of vital interest to them and giving valuable information and advice.

To show the standing and ability of the following facts regarding Prof. Shaw's history will be of interest. He was actively engaged in agriculture for over 25 years. He was for five years professor of agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural Experiment Station, and for twelve years professor of animal industry at the university of Minnesota, and the position of agricultural expert and conducting crop demonstrations in areas along those lines, extending from the Red River valley to the Cascade mountains. He has lectured on farm topics in almost every community in Ontario and Minnesota and in at least two-thirds of the states of the Union. He has been a constant contributor to several agricultural papers for a number of years, and as a writer on farm subjects is more widely known than as a lecturer.

Before leaving Oroville, Mr. Graham arranged meetings for Prof. Shaw on the following dates and it may be added here that the meetings will be held in the places mentioned and falls to hear the professor, is missing an opportunity to secure information that may never come to him again.

Prof. Shaw and party will arrive in Oroville on Saturday evening, October 30th. The party will include Prof. Shaw, County Agriculturalist J. A. Hughes, and F. W. Graham, western land and immigration agent of the Great Northern railroad. The professor will probably be invited to occupy the pulpit in one of the Oroville churches Sunday, October 31st, as he is a very able preacher as well as a lecturer.

Monday, November 1st, the party goes to Tonasket, and will hold meetings in the Civic League building at 1:30 and 7:30 p. m.

Tuesday, November 2nd, meetings will be held in the Orpheum at 1:30 p. m. and in the Civic League building at 8:30 p. m. in Oroville.

Wednesday, November 3rd, a meeting will be held in Chesaw at 10 a. m. and at Molson at 2 p. m.

Thursday, November 4th, at Loomis at 1:30 p. m.

Friday, November 5th, at Riverside at 2 p. m.

In Oroville and Tonasket the meeting will be held under the auspices of the Commercial Clubs, and the general invitation will be given by County Agriculturalist J. A. Hughes.

## FAIR FROM "COMPLETED."

State Highway Engineer W. H. Boetzkes makes the statement to the Okanogan Independent that all the state road work in Okanogan county for this year has been completed. It is only charitable to suppose that Mr. Boetzkes is ignorant of the facts as to the nature of some of the state road work in the county, or he never would have used the word "completed," although it is his duty to know what has been done if his position is of a supervisory character. He certainly cannot consider the miserable, unsurfaced and impassable stretch of state road south from Oroville a "finished" piece of work. If the balance of the state roads in the county under his supervision have been constructed along the same plans, and in the same indifferent manner, then the public moneys spent in Okanogan county building state roads have been practically thrown away, and the people of the county are worse off than they were before the work was commenced.

The three miles of state road No. 10 south from Oroville, alleged to have been constructed, is a monument to inefficiency, and Mr. Boetzkes must know it if he has inspected the work. The road is just as the dirt was thrown up, without surfacing, and wholly impassible for travel. No one pretends to use it, because it cannot be used. If it is claimed that all the appropriation for this end of the road has been spent then the state has been robbed. The job is little less than a crime. If road money is so wasted elsewhere in the state, appropriations are practically thrown away.

The people of Oroville and the valley are disgusted and indignant over the manner in which the road work has been done. Complaints without number have reached this office, and redress is demanded, if there is any source from which redress can be obtained. It was only after a vast amount of effort that this part of the county succeeded in securing recognition in the distribution of state road money, and to see it indifferently applied is enough to arouse bitter protest.

We are informed that Frank Bartel & Co., the old time south side merchants, are about to close out their large stock of merchandise from the mercantile business. This announcement will be no surprise to the public, as it has been generally expected that the firm would be liquidated. The Bartells, father and sons, have been engaged in this connection for a number of years, indeed being one of the pioneer business houses of the place, and by square dealing have enjoyed a fair share of public patronage. They have always carried a choice line of goods, neatly displayed, and have endeavored to treat the public right. The determination to retire from business has not grown out of any falling off in their regular trade, it is merely a desire to give up this particular line of business and apply themselves to other vocations. We are pleased to state in this connection that closing out the present business does not mean that the Bartells will leave Oroville. They have large interests here, are confident of the future of the place, and will continue to be numbered among our citizens.

## VERY MUCH OF A FARCE.

The public schools were closed during the past week so that the teachers could attend the teacher's institute held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. As three days were lost in the middle of the week, there was no use in holding school the other three with a split in the middle, so the vacation went for a full week. This is in accordance with the provisions of the school laws, no doubt, but if there is a law on the statute books that should be repealed, or at least amended, as to the time of holding the institute, it is this very same provision providing for such a session at such an inopportune time. If the institute is of any benefit to teachers in proportion to what it costs the county, and granting that it is, the effect upon school discipline and upon school work certainly all the good effects that can possibly accrue therefrom. The institute is always held just after the opening of school for the fall term. Teachers are hardly able to get acquainted with their duties and their pupils, and scholars hardly secure a fair grasp of their studies when the hiatus comes, disarranging all plans and setting back the school for weeks, if the ill effects are not felt permanently. This may be denied by advocates of the institute, but in the very nature of things pertaining to the schools it cannot well be otherwise. There is no wish to curtail any of the pleasures or recreations of teachers, who earn any breathing spell they may get, yet at the time the institute is held teachers are not weary with their work. If they are, so soon after beginning, then they are not fitted to fill their positions throughout the school year. With the vacation of a week it will require a fortnight to get back to smooth sailing and it is very doubtful if the sailing is ever again as smooth after breaking away from the discipline of the school room for a week's idleness. If institutes are absolutely necessary for the efficiency of the public schools the date for holding the same should be fixed at some period when the time lost would not so seriously interfere with the course of study and recitations.

## WHAT THE TOWN IS UP AGAINST.

In another column is published the estimated expenses of the town of Oroville for the year 1916, and also the estimated amount of income. It is a bit of literature that should make the tax payer sit up and take notice. According to the estimate, the expenses of the town for the year are fixed at \$9,877. As an offset, the receipts are fixed at \$7,935.55. Let's knock off the five cents and talk in round figures. According to this estimate there are \$6,175 to raise by direct taxation. The elimination of some \$4,000 of saloon licenses requires this heavy milting through the means of direct taxation. The assessed valuation of property in town is said to be something like \$29,000. Slapping on a levy to the limit of the law would leave a deficiency in the receipts even in case every dollar of taxes were paid, of some \$1,500. Evidently the town authorities are confronted with a problem that is a hard nut to crack. In going over the items of expenditures there may be some that can be pruned, but among incidentals there is a chance always, that the real expense will exceed the estimate. In the matter of street sprinkling, that item might be eliminated by paying for the job by public subscription. Other cuts might be suggested. The council will take up this matter of estimates at the regular meeting, Monday evening, October 25, and it would be a good scheme if those who have advice to offer on this subject could be present.

## BOOSTING FOR THE OKANOGAN.

Like a pleasant breeze F. W. Graham, of Seattle, immigration agent for the Great Northern road, blew in to town Monday, on one of his occasional visits, as bright, cheerful, optimistic and debonaire as ever. It set the pulse beating more rapidly, it burnished hope, it was like a dash of pep to have him with us even for a day, with his cheery nature and that indomitable spirit to do things in the face of every obstacle. If there ever was a right place for the right man that place is in the immigration department of a great transcontinental railroad system, and F. W. Graham is the man for the place. His work is strenuous, but he has the stamina and the shove to do that work and get results. He is earnest and enthusiastic, but the enthusiasm and earnestness grows out of a knowledge that he has something to offer those seeking homes well worth their while. He has every confidence in the early settlement of the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation district. Time must be consumed educating the public as to what is here, but that education is progressing satisfactorily and important results are sure to follow. He is bending every resource to bring the Okanogan valley under the project before the people of the whole country, his representations are clear, straight and honest and that work is sure to draw attention to this section.

Last spring, J. A. Spencer, of the Corner ranch where things grow spontaneously out of the ground, was given a potato by an acquaintance living in the hill country to the east of town, who claimed that the valley had nothing over the hill lands in the growing of spuds. It was a large potato, a fine specimen, planted in a garden near Huntley, and several plants that potato, distributed in several hills. This week the mature potatoes were dug, and the single specimen yielded 70 pounds of elegant tubers. Mr. Spencer thinks any country would have to go some to surpass that yield.