

The Oroville Weekly Gazette

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BRINGING WAR HOME TO US.

"Brave boys are they. Brave boys are they."

Once at their country's call."

Wednesday morning a telephone message was received from Okanogan calling for volunteers to fill up the Mount Vernon company attached to the First Regiment National Guards of Washington, that has been called by the national government for service on the Mexican border. The posting of this notice calling for volunteers aroused the martial spirit among the young men around town, and speedily a number of them assembled and discussed the situation. To their credit, be it said that about every one of the boys was anxious to respond, and for a time it looked as though a full company could be raised in Oroville. However, for various reasons in no manner creditable to the would-be soldiers the number that finally decided to enter the service was reduced to a squad of half a dozen. The names of the volunteers were telephoned to Okanogan, and from that place telegraphed to the adjutant general. The general supposition was that it would be several days before the recruits would be called to the colors, but Wednesday evening orders were received to leave Oroville Thursday morning for Wenatchee. When the train pulled out Thursday morning only three of those who had signified their willingness to go were on hand. They were Joe Hash, Jerry Huber and Lawrence Dallam. A number of friends were at the depot to see the boys off, bid them good bye and God speed.

The taking of even a small number of young men from the community brings war directly home to us, and their departure leaves sad hearts among relatives who will watch for news from the front with fear and trembling. These boys may not see active service, and God grant they may not, but the fact that they responded to the call shows their willingness to risk their lives for the honor of the flag called upon in the line of duty to take that risk.

Seeing such young men going off in response to a call for volunteers one can realize to some extent what war has cost the European countries during the past two fearful years. The young, and strong, and active are always the first to respond to the call for troops. In Europe it was the young men who felt the first shock of battle, and death has taken a terrible toll of the very best manhood of Germany, Russia, France, England and the other countries that have contributed their quota to the slaughter. War is indeed hell, and if the suffering of that mythical region is any worse than the suffering of those who have sons and loved ones at the front in time of war then hell is worse than it has ever been depicted by the most eloquent believer in eternal punishment.

WILL TRY DAIRYING.

Wednesday Messrs. Ellis and Forde sold to A. J. Taylor, late of Rodna, Washington, 24 acres of land under the ditch located on the east side of the Okanogan river, a short distance south of Oroville. The land purchased is a choice tract, partly in alfalfa. Mr. Taylor is a settler who comes here in earnest in his intention to build a home, and will devote his attention to dairying, using Holstein cows. He drove overland from Spokane county accompanied by his wife, bringing his household goods and some stock. He understands the dairying business, has a tract where he can carry on dairying to the best advantage and is in easy reach of either the creamery, or Cordell station on the branch, from whence his cream can be shipped. We believe Mr. Taylor will succeed in his venture, because he is evidently a man willing to put forth his best efforts in anything he undertakes, and when effort is applied in any line of endeavor success is sure to follow. Mr. Taylor's example should be an incentive for others to engage in the same industry.

IF IT'S HERE, USE IT.

H. B. Brown, the man who is responsible for the existence of the local Espoon salt works, as it was through his instrumentality that it became known in quarters where the capital could be secured to utilize the deposit, was in town for a few hours last week. Mr. Brown is at present working some kind of a chemical deposit down in Grant county, and is well satisfied with the returns. He urges us to urge others to take hold of the alum deposits existing near Oroville, as it can be made to pay and pay well. Mr. Brown claims that there is an inexhaustible quantity of alum in this neighborhood that can be extracted at a minimum cost and made a paying industry. Personally we know nothing about this deposit, but if it exists it would not seem necessary to urge those on the inside to make the best of a good thing.

SOME WATER.

During the past week the valley has had a narrow escape from a real flood. One that for a time promised to equal if not surpass the big water of 1894, so frequently quoted by the ancient inhabitant, and which stands as an epoch in the history of this upper country, for he it understood that when the Columbia made the 1894 record swell, all tributary streams were swollen as they were never known to be swollen by the oldest white settler. About the only thing that prevented a repetition of the '94 experience this year was the timely interposition of Providence, the clerk of the weather turning on the cold tap following an intensely torrid period, during which the Similkameen boomed upwards by leaps and bounds.

Starting in last week as though its object was to cook humanity the sun gave the valley a fair imitation of the hereafter, and the mercury in thermometers shot upwards to the neighborhood of 100, where it roosted day after day. The heavy snow in the mountains faded away under the heat like a slice of watermelon before the attack of a well developed darkey. Since the month of May there had been a stage of water in the Similkameen above normal, and the additional fluid precipitated from the dissolving snow supply in the mountains sent the stream up flying. Steadily the water climbed over a foot per day until at the power plant the river registered 18 feet above normal, and that is some water when you come to think about it. The river spread out over the low lands along the valley, in places forming great lakes, and backed up the Okanogan into Osoyoos lake. The power plant was invaded, and a weak and halting service periodically was all that could be supplied for a time. It looked as though the plant would be put out of commission for some days. Indeed, another foot to the flood would have turned the trick. Fortunately a marked change in the weather took place Sunday and by Monday the mercury had dropped to 60 degrees. Rain fell in the valley and snow in the mountains, thus cutting off the source of supply that was doing things to the river. Since that time the weather has continued cool, and there is no further danger of high water this season.

So far as the flood is concerned it was a mild affair of a moist nature. The river has frequently been much higher. True a great many acres of the lower lands were covered, but no material damage will result from the ducking. To see the Similkameen bowling along bank full conveyed the impression of a flood, but as a flood it was tame very tame, indeed.

THE FOURTH AT LOOMIS.

The 4th of July celebration at Loomis this year is going to be one of those old fashioned affairs common in this upper country in early days, in which horses racing cut the principal figure. Still in this instance the list of sports is not going to be confined to exhibitions of speed by horses. There are going to be a number of athletic contests, and features that will amuse and entertain. The old camp will be alive with a big crowd and those having the celebration in hand will see that the crowd has a good time. The address by Father Sherman in itself will be worth going a long distance to hear. Oroville should send a big delegation to Loomis on the 4th, which, by the way, is due to arrive a week from next Tuesday.

BUILD A NEW ONE.

The business men of the town should join hands and build a new bath house for women at the swimming hole. The one now in use is both dangerous and a disgrace. The building used for men is in good condition. The one that the women have to put up with is almost falling to pieces, while the planking on the walks is broken. A few dollars could not be spent to a better advantage than in putting up a new bath house and painting it when it is up. Probably the only way the work can be done is by popular subscription, and as a starter this office will contribute \$5 towards the necessary improvement. The swimming hole is too big an asset to the town to be permitted to go unused.

A man traveling in an auto between Penticton and Oroville may know with his eyes shut when he strikes the United States from the change in the conditions of the roads. A road builder on this side of the line ought to have as much savvy about building roads as the man who lives on the other side of the line, yet if he has, he does not exercise it. It would pay the county commissioners to send a quad of road builders over into Canada and let them take a few lessons from the road builders of the dominion. Certainly we are taxed enough, and pay money enough out for roads to have something to show for the touch and expense.



Little Miss Ada Truax, the young lady of tender years who performed the ceremony of dedicating the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation system on the day of the celebration, June 7.

SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING.

The Bostonians played to a good house Monday night, larger even than could have been expected considering the unfavorable weather and the fact that the troupe arrived on a belated train so the curtain did not rise until after 9 o'clock. The company is said to be the same organization that performed in Sigrist hall several years ago, of course more mature, revamped, but not improved to a noticeable degree. The pull here rested on the reputation of the company, but most of the audience was considerably disappointed. It was a clean show, the girls were nice looking and sprightly, the stage work was acceptable, but unfortunately the performers must have left their voices at some way station enroute. The musical comedy "Tipperary Mary" has opportunities for some rollicking music, but on this occasion it was considerably shy of melody. However, the performers gave the audience the best they had at command, and as there was much applause in spots the bulk of the crowd evidently considered that they received their money's worth.

FUNNY FLEBDUB.

Whenever there is a flood or fire of magnitude, or a disaster of any kind the liar flourishes. Perhaps that is a severe way of putting it. Anyway, people let their imaginations have full sway, and some of them indulge in fairy stories that in comparison the hall of horrors is a pleasant promenade. There were samples of this propensity to indulge in the gruesome during the miniature flood caused by the high water in the Similkameen river. It kept the editor skipping about at a lively rate chasing down rumors of wholesale drownings, some of them of a nature to make one's hair fairly bristle. The first artist who set adrift a harrowing tale had a woman and a babe drowned at some indefinite place on the Similkameen, near town, of course, but the next individual who took up the tale of woe, went the original rumor starter several better, stamping himself a past master in the art of fiction. He spread the report that five drowned women, three children and one baby had been taken from the Similkameen. Why he did not make it an even hundred passes all understanding. To give the story some plausibility he claimed that he had assisted in removing four of the bodies, but why he gave out at the fourth he did not explain. At first the scene of this holocaust was fixed at the Similkameen bridge in order to give it local color, but was subsequently removed to Tonasket. Of course there was nothing in it, but the stories go to show how sensationalism flourishes whenever there is a shadow of excuse to indulge in sensations.

A WEAKNESS TO BE CORRECTED.

The average individual has no regard for public property and that is the reason that public property is so wastefully used and abused in this country. Just as a slight illustration, take our graded streets. Driving autos over them at a high rate of speed grinds them to pieces, and the thoughtless and indifferent auto drivers take a special delight in speeding on Central avenue. It has been suggested that the town authorities levy a special tax on auto owners, the receipts to be used in keeping the graded streets repaired. This may change their way in regard to driving. The car owner is conscientious, and no appeal to his common sense has any effect. His conscience may be dull but when you touch his pocket nerve he squirms as though touched upon the raw. Fines of heavy calibre might work a reformation, but fines cannot reach the more guilty while a general tax might cease when drivers came to their senses and used some judgment in regulating speed on the streets.

Oscar Lachmund of the B. C. Copper company, spent Sunday in Oroville, and while here visited the claims that E. McCammon is opening up on Kruger mountain. He expressed surprise at the extent of ore in sight and from casual examination thought the property of considerable merit. If the returns on the proposed shipment of ore are what is expected then Mr. McCammon has a mine that will command great value.

Members of the A. Guthrie & Co., contracting outfit as well as representatives of the irrigation district kept close and constant watch and ward over the big siphon crossing the Similkameen river during the prevalence of high water. The water reached dangerously near the pipe line, and had the heavy drift wood come down the stream as it has littered the river upon former occasions of extreme high water the entire force could not have prevented the siphon from going out. High water like unto that of '94 would snatch that siphon galley west.

Some inconvenience was experienced while the rivers were at the high water mark by the cutting off of the electric power and lights at times. However, considering what the force in charge of the plant had to contend against the boys deserve much credit for sticking on the job and preventing a shut down for a long period. No such trouble will ever again be experienced for the new owners will make such necessary improvements that no matter how high the water gets in the future the water will not interfere with the steady running of the machinery.

AN ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRY.

There is one line of endeavor adapted to this valley under the new and extensive system of irrigation, so far very much neglected, that can be made a source of profit to every individual who is willing to embrace it and apply his best energies to the work. That is, dairying. Dairying is an industry that you do not have to wait on until next year, or the year after, or several years in the future for returns. There is no danger of overstocking the market, overproduction so far has never been known, for a ready and eager market is always open for those who have the cream to sell. A few good cows can be made the source of a never failing income. It is a commodity that is not disposed of on promises to pay. It commands hard cash. Nor is it a commodity that one is compelled to sell through agencies, or other combinations of producers made necessary for self protection. It does not have to be shipped long distances and the shipper is not dependent upon the honesty of commission merchants, or the condition of the market at the selling end as to supply and demand. You do not have to wait an indefinite period for returns, receiving your money in dribbles and often not at all. There is no shrinkage in measurement or weight, nor loss through deterioration. Every day your source of supply is immediately at hand and when that source of supply is properly cared for there is no diminution in the supply. You deliver the product at the nearest point on the railroad, which will be close at hand anywhere in the valley, or directly to the Oroville creamery and every 30 days you receive a pay check as regularly as the passage of time. No one claims that there are millions in the dairying industry, but thousands of prosperous dairymen in this country goes to prove that there is money in it. We say prosperous dairymen advisedly because in those localities where dairying is made a special business, there is to be found the most comfortable homes and surroundings and the most contented people. Under the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation system the conditions are ideal for dairying, because forage crops can be raised in abundance, solving the problem of the right kind of feed, pure water and a railroad almost at the very door of any ranch, large or small, in the valley.

DREDGE WRECKED.

Some two years ago a Seattle company was formed to dredge the Similkameen river, at Rich Bar, for placer gold. The incentive for the investment and venture was the old story of the gold rush to that locality in the early '50s, when 5,000 eager, wild, woolly, milling prospectors lined the shores of the river, and according to traditions extracted half a million dollars from the sand and gravel in a very short period, supplemented by the ease in which colors can be washed from the sands unto the present day. While there was no mystery about the enterprise, as the work performed was extensive and in the open day, yet those in charge were close mouthed and little information could be obtained as to the prospects and intentions, how far operations were going to be carried on, or the results obtained. From all outward and visible means of evidence the company invested considerable money in preliminary preparations, but for the fact that work has been suspended for a year the natural inference to be drawn is that the returns did not justify continuing work.

What the company did was to build a large stern wheel dredge, equipped with powerful pumps and a system of sluices to catch the anticipated gold from the sand and gravel to be sucked from the bottom of the river. The plan met the requirements of gold hunting in the Similkameen, provided sufficient gold existed on the river bottom to pay for operating. But as stated above, the dredge has been swinging idle in the river for a year. It was moored in the lee of a big rock out in the river until last Saturday. On that day the high water tore the craft loose and it started gally to the sea via the Similkameen, Okanogan and Columbia. At the upper and smaller falls above the power plant the boat was submerged by a jagged rock and sunk. The dredge is a total loss, but the machinery can be saved, probably, at low water. Had the big, heavy craft gone over the falls it would have torn out both the siphon and the Similkameen bridge.

R. F. Hoffmark of Portland, who had charge of the construction of the irrigation system for A. Guthrie & Co., up to within a few weeks of completion, was in town this week looking over the work. Mr. Hoffmark was promoted to a more responsible and remunerative position with the big contracting firm and scatters himself out from Portland to supervise the many contracts the firm has under way.

RUNNING UP STREAM.

It was rather odd during the past week to see the water in the Okanogan river flowing up stream. That perverse action of the contents of the Okanogan was caused by the excessive volume of water in the Similkameen river. The Similkameen rises higher than the Okanogan, consequently the water of the swift mountain stream backs into and encroaches upon the preserves of the milder Okanogan. The Similkameen from chewing out its banks in its wild rush to level ground, takes on the hue of rich, mellow mud and the yellow stream flowing into Osoyoos lake by the Okanogan route tints the beautiful azure of the lake a dirty smudge. This encroachment of the lesser stream upon the greater does not happen often, hence it is a curious sight when it does occur, and always draws an audience, for many have been on the river and lake since high water to see the mingling of the brown and blue drinks.

SOMEWHAT OF AN ANCIENT.

Lee Ives the original settler on the spot of land at the mouth of the Methow river now covered by the town of Pateros, was in town during the past week, coming up the Okanogan river in his 30 foot motor boat. It is safe classing Mr. Ives as a pioneer as he passed up the Okanogan valley 37 years ago on his way to the Carrabo mines. This somewhat antedates the arrival of some of us older fish, pluming ourselves upon being old settlers because we drifted into the territory 34 years ago. This climate almost makes one believe in the tradition of the spring of perpetual youth after seeing Mr. Ives who has absorbed Okanogan climate for so many years and still has the appearance of a young man.

CATTLE RUSTLING.

Sheriff Stark was in town Wednesday while trying to spy out the trail of cattle rustlers who had stolen eight head of fat three-year old steers from Ed. Howell, living on Tunk creek. Up to the present date no word had been received that the guilty marauders had been apprehended. This stealing of so many head of cattle at a single swoop savors of the days when almost countless herds roamed the Okanogan hills, but it was generally supposed that on account of the increased population wholesale cattle rustling was an impossible stunt in this day and age. Every resource of the sheriff's office should be employed to overhaul the marauders for that kind of work should not be encouraged by even a single success.

AFTER COPPER.

Jerome Drummheller, of Spokane, stopped over in Oroville Wednesday night on his way to Princeton, near which place he will examine a copper property. Mr. Drummheller has been interested in the Copper World mine, near Loomis, for a number of years, a property that has the ear marks of merit. In the course of time Mr. Drummheller may be able to open up the ledge on that holding, and those familiar with it believe that the Copper World under development will make a real mine. It was a great pleasure to meet Mr. Drummheller, for, though a man now of middle age, when we first knew him he was chasing the streets of Spokane Falls in knee trousers, and that was some time ago.

COUNCIL MEETING.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the town council of Oroville, Washington, June 19, 1916. Present Councilmen Beale, Friis, Smith and Starrett. Motion made and carried that Councilman Smith act as mayor. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved as read. The clerk reported that he had notified the parties having the south end of Fourth street to remove the fence and that they had agreed to remove the same as soon as possible. On motion council adjourned.

E. R. HOOSE, Clerk.

The residue of the engineering crew that has guarded the interests of the irrigation district during the construction of the irrigation system packed up this week and in a few days will scatter to their several homes, leaving a void and vacancy in the population. The worst luck the Gazette wishes them is to fall into another good job immediately.

The boys who left here Thursday morning to join the National Guards will be joined by others at Okanogan and Wenatchee, going from there to American Lake, near Tacoma, where the First regiment has instructions to mobilize. The lads realized the seriousness of the step, and do not expect to find a soldier's life all joy and gladness.