

ROGUE RIVER COURIER

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The mining industry of Southern Oregon has reached a stage of dignity which commands the silence of the majority of the army of "knockers" and pessimists. Some few voices are yet raised in croaking chorus but they are the voices of those who have not yet learned the lesson of the "knocking" habit too firmly fixed for recovery. They will croak till they die. But the doubters and the timid ones are at last assured that this is and is to be a great mining country and a hopeful and cheerful spirit is becoming more general.

The decisive battles of the Russian-Japan war are now on and the prospects are that the Russians will be crushingly defeated. The Japanese have captured some of the Port Arthur forts and are fighting desperately for the possession of the stronghold. The main army of Kuropatkin has been attacked by three Japanese generals who are driving the Russians back at every point. Retreat is out of the question for the Russian army. They must either gain the victory or be captured or annihilated.

Since the recent slaughter of 1000 sheep in Crook county, the excitement over the range war has been kept in eastern Oregon. The cattlemen are aggressive and seem determined to create a reign of terror among the woolly interests. While such methods as the slaughter of sheep certainly cannot be condoned, the cattlemen should not be judged too harshly by those who do not understand the situation and who have never seen the devastation which sheep cause in a country where they are ranged. Sheep and cattle cannot mix and the only way to preserve peace is to have the sheep confined strictly to certain areas.

The completion of the big smelter at Takilma, marks another epoch in the growth of the mining industry in Southern Oregon. The big copper fields of Southern Josephine county are soon to be wealth producers of an importance that is now little realized. In all lines of the mineral industry, this is a year of exceptional promise for Southern Oregon. During the summer just past, more really great finds have been made than in a number of years past. The Briggs find, the Alameda's big chute, the tellurium of Canyon creek, and many others are discoveries too full of immediate promise for the district which produces them to be long ignored by mining investors and capitalists.

One hundred thousand is not an excessive estimate of the number of men now idle in various parts of the country as a consequence of strikes. The strike in the packing industry involves somewhere near half this number, the number of striking cotton mill operatives increases the total to 75,000, and a dozen or more labor disputes have thrown at least 25,000 employees out of work in other industries. The beef strike, centering at Chicago, very quickly reached the disorderly stage, there being almost daily outbreaks of violence, intimidation and rioting which the police do not seem able to suppress. Nor is the outlook improved by such actions on the part of the authorities as the unjustifiable arrest of strike leaders while rioters usually escape before the police arrive.—Public Opinion.

Southern Oregon is full of forest fires, dozens of which are visible from every valley of the country. Some valuable timber will be destroyed, but the loss in this portion of the state is not serious. Many of the fires are set by accident or carelessness and some are set by lightning, but there is no doubt that many of them are deliberately set out by resident woodmen for the purpose of clearing out the underbrush. This is contrary to law and a heavy fine would doubtless follow detection, but detection is a matter of great difficulty. Fires have been seen to spring up along the whole length of a canyon in a day, showing the progress of a man with matches. The legislators should profit by the state's experience in the matter of forest fires and change the system of forest "protection" while there are yet some forests left to protect. Frequent burning of undergrowth and fallen timber is the only rational method of protecting the forests.

BIG GRAYBACK SQUASHES

How the Little Fellows Grow Races Among the Vines. J. Barnett, the Sucker creek miner, who has a neat little ranch on Big Grayback creek, one of the important tributaries of the larger streams, has a squash patch which is a wonder to all who see it. This spring he planted squashes in a small enclosure, which had been used for several years as a milking corral. The result is startling. The vines are as tall as the six rail fence that surrounds the patch and are almost a solid mass of leaves and blossoms at the top. Down below the little young squashes play hide and seek among the stems and grow traces with one another. The patch is an excellent demonstration of what the soil of our creek canons may be made to produce when properly handled. Bids Wanted. Bids wanted at once at Mountain Lion mine, for delivering 200 cords wood. For further information apply room 11, Masonic building.

NOT SATISFIED? IF YOUR SHOES HAVE NOT GIVEN SATISFACTION, TRY THE RED STAR STORE. W. E. DEAN & CO.

TWELVE FEET OF RICH ORE FOUND INDIAN RELICS

Platts & Sons Cut Big Ledge on Boland Creek. The Platts quartz property on Boland creek is making a remarkable showing under the development that is now being carried on. In the past few weeks the owners have cross cut a ledge of quartz and porphyry 12 feet in width, carrying free gold values ranging from \$10 to \$300 to the ton. An average of several general samples of the ledge, exclusive of the richest streaks, gives a total value of \$15.50 to the ton in free gold. The owners of the mine expect to put on a full equipment of machinery in the near future. The extent and richness of the ore make this one of the best appearing properties in Southern Josephine.

Galice Consolidated Mining Co. Make Peculiar Strike. A dispatch from Merlin to the Portland Telegram says: The Galice Consolidated Mining Company has made a strike of a peculiar kind. It recently purchased a tract of gravel on the bank of Rogue river, and has just completed a ditch to it. In prospecting the bar an old Indian burying ground was uncovered, and at least 100 skulls and a corresponding number of bones have been washed out. The gravel was the scene of one of the closing battles of the Rogue River War, and the bodies of the Indians killed at that time are among the find. The major portion of them, however, are much older than those buried in the '50's and were probably in the ground when Lewis and Clark visited the coast. Arrowheads and old Indian jewelry are found in the gravel. The ground is rich in gold and the company will work it next year, an elevator being now put in place for that purpose.

Peaches for Sale. Fifty cents per bushel at my residence, two miles west of town. Peaches ripe September 1. A. E. Holloway.

Clearance Sale of Summer Wash Goods. To make room for our New Fall Stock we will close out all Summer Wash Goods, Shirt Waists, Crash Skirts, etc., at a great reduction. It will pay you to look them over. E. C. DIXON, Dry Goods and Shoes.

WILL FIGHT LOCAL OPTION

Liquor Men of Portland Start Suit Against the Law. On the ground that the Oregon local option law is invalid, for the reason that it is in conflict with the state constitution, the opponents of the enactment have instituted proceedings against it in the courts and there essay to clip the wings of those who would squelch the liquor traffic, before the November election. The nature of the suit is an injunction. The court will be petitioned to issue an order restraining the county clerk from holding an election on the liquor question, as provided for in the act, and the court will, without doubt, make an order requiring the friends of the law to appear and show cause why a permanent order of injunction should not issue. This they will do, and then the battle will be on. The specific grounds upon which the law will be attacked have not yet been determined, although it is known that it will be on the alleged contention of its unconstitutionality. It may contend that the law was improperly passed, and hence is not in point of fact a law at all. The whole fight will be on technical grounds. Ex-United States Senator Joseph Simon and Judge Martin Luther Pipes have been employed to represent the liquor interests in the fight, but neither of these lawyers is yet ready to talk about their plans. They say that the specific grounds on which the battle will be waged have not been agreed upon and another conference or two will be necessary before this will be known. Friends of the measure will fight the case. Earl C. Brumagh, who was the prime author of the law, is absent from the city, and hence his views on the matter can not be ascertained. But assurance is given that

SMELTER IS BLOWN IN

Takilma Plant Now Ready to Operate. Charles L. Tutt of Colorado Springs, the president of the United States, Reduction & Refining Company, one of the largest smelting companies in Colorado, was at the Portland Sunday night, accompanied by Mrs. Tutt. Mr. Tutt has just reached Portland from Takilma, Josephine county, where he has been for the past four years interested in the development of the gold and copper mining industry of the section. As the result of his labors, a new smelter with a capacity of 150 tons of ore a day was blown in on August 25, and will be in operation by the 1st of September, the plant having been erected at a cost of more than \$200,000 and at a vast expense of time and labor. To an Oregonian reporter Mr. Tutt told his experiences in the mountains of Josephine county, of the hardships necessary in the construction of his smelter and of the final success crowning his efforts. "I have spent the past four years in Josephine county," said Mr. Tutt, "and have done a lot of hard work there, but I am sure that it has been to good purpose and that it will result in the betterment of the district—not only from a mining standpoint, for the establishment of the smelter will tend to open up the country in other ways. "The Takilma smelter, of which I am the owner, is located at a little spot off the main road, about 40 miles to the southwest of Grants Pass. "When I went into the district," continued the mining investor, "I early discovered that there were great quantities of ore to be taken from the ground and bearing quantities not only of copper, but of gold as well. Owing to the great distance from the railroad, however, and the roughness of the trail, it was impossible to get the ore to a shipping point at a profit. It was then, after a great deal of consideration, that I concluded to build a smelter, not only for my benefit, but for the good of the district, which is capable of great development. "Work on the plant was begun on March 15 last, and no one who has never been through the country can appreciate the task confronting the workmen. In the first place, quarters had to be constructed for the men, and as there was no way of getting lumber from the railroad, a sawmill had to be built. After that the excavation work proceeded in the mud and storms of the early Spring until the foundations were laid and the main construction work was begun. "At this point another difficulty faced the workmen. It was necessary to make the brick from which to build the big chimney of the smelter, as well as the walls and the furnace casings, all parts, in fact, where brickwork was required. Not only did the brick have to be made, but we had to burn the lime for the mortar. "All these difficulties were overcome, however," continued Mr. Tutt, "and the smelter was 'blown in' for its trial run of September 25, when it was demonstrated to be a complete success. Matte was produced which will, when all expenses are deducted, pay a good percentage on the investment. Owing to the fact that an addition will have to be made to the water supply, the continuous operation of the plant will not be commenced until September 1. After that time the smelter will run continuously the year round. "I am sure that the venture will be a success, for it will make a market for the ores to be mined in the district. The product of the smelter can be shipped out at a profit, while without its help the miners could not have a market for the metals taken from their claims. With the successful operation of the smelter, we hope, in time to secure easier transportation, and when that comes the mineral district of Southern Oregon will lead the state."

Extensive Prospecting Operations at California Bar.

Effective work is now being done at California Bar on Sucker creek by the Sucker Creek Mining Co., under the superintendency of H. Warner. California Bar has been well known since the early days of mining in Southern Oregon and is famous for its rich ground. Lack of fall in the creek bed, however, has made it impossible to work the ground effectively by ordinary placer methods. The bedrock lies deeper than the present creek channel and as the gold is mainly coarse and heavy most of the values lie close to the bedrock. Portions of the ground have in years past been probably worked by drifting. For the purpose of thoroughly prospecting and showing up the ground, the Sucker Creek Mining Co. has put on a pumping and hoisting plant which is now being operated with good success. An excavation about 100 feet long and from 20 to 30 feet wide has been made to the bedrock, the gravel being from 20 to 30 feet in depth. From this excavation two drifts are being run, one towards the hill to show the extent of the gravel deposit and the other leading directly under the bed of Sucker creek. The larger rocks are segregated in the drift from the dirt and fine gravel. The heavier boulders are hoisted and dumped out of the way of the operations, while the gold bearing dirt and gravel is dumped into a hopper leading to a sluiceway. Two pumps are used, one to keep out the water from the excavation and the other to pump water from the creek to operate the sluices. The ground is showing up well under its present tests and the prospecting operations are profitable in a degree which gives promise of extremely rich returns when the ground is fully equipped. A seven mile ditch has been surveyed which will give an almost unlimited supply of water with abundant pressure.

DRIFTING UNDER THE CREEK

all efforts to knock out the law on technical grounds or any other, for that matter, will be strenuously contested.—Telegram. Wants Better Roads. (Concluded from last week.) Had the culverts been there, the road would have been there today, and the swamp which prevents all travel by foot passengers for so many months during the winter and early spring, would be a thing of the past, and the health of the people living near it would no doubt be improved. This is the only county road up Althousen and was laid out, I believe in 1855, the wagon road extending south by a grade to Brownstown, from there by a county trail, 10 miles, south six miles, then easterly four miles to near the foot of the Siskiyou range. The road proper was made the usual breadth, so that loaded wagons could pass each other or run three abreast. I now find that they have built out on the road at the New Post office at Holland, so that a man has to be careful when driving or he is apt to strike a building or fence and if two wagons meet, one will have to pull up out of the way to let the other one pass. What does the road law say about obstructing the public roads? It is about time that those who are appointed or elected to look after this part of our country's business, should be compelled to do their duty, for our county roads and trails have been so abused and left to the tender mercies of the miners and others during the past few years that in many places in the winter time, especially, they are almost impassable. The road from Holland to Brownstown is nearly so today and is a disgrace to those who have had the charge of it. When miners dump their debris on a county thoroughfare, there is a law to make them keep it open and in a passable condition. If one person has the right to obstruct the road, every other person can claim the same privilege.

Woodville Items.

Mrs. Law has returned from Wolf Creek. Mrs. Taylor was in Grants Pass on business. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wright returned to Salem. S. Beers of Evans creek was in town from Wimer. A Hooper went to Portland on business Thursday. Mrs. R. Whipple went to Grants Pass Wednesday. Robert Burkhardt went to Grants Pass on business. John Pitman and Geo. Briggs were in Grants Pass on business. Mrs. Geo. Wright went to Central Point Friday to visit friends. R. L. Tweed and W. Sams were in Grants Pass Monday on business. Miss Alice Whipple and Essie Randall were in Grants Pass visiting. Mrs. R. Whipple and Mrs. Schindler were in Grants Pass on business Friday. Mrs. R. V. Boles, who has been living on Evans creek, has moved to Ashland. Mrs. W. F. Cole of Coletina was visiting with her people here for a few days. Miss Cooper from Grants Pass is taking care of Miss Neulhammer to her sick son. Mr. Hale is reported very sick. Dr. Parker of Grants Pass had to be called. The latest is he is improving.

Woodville Items.

Charles McCann has moved near Slate creek. Sam McClung has moved from near the Conger saw mill. Work has commenced on the M. E. parsonage near Wilderville. Arthur Erickson has gone away, did not learn where he has gone. The camp meeting has closed and the parties have gone to Grants Pass. Walter Bryan has gone to Klamath county, Oregon, to see a little more of the world. A Mr. Lipp has moved near the Williams mill; think he aims to build a house for W. S. Robinson. We forgot to mention last week of the arrival of a 10-pound boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Webster Roberts, August 21st. P. M. Cornum was seen among his friends of Wilderville again. He is soon to commence his school at this place. He is a competent teacher. J. W. McCollum has been suffering with a sore hand caused, he thinks, by getting a little piece of steel in his hand, from working at blacksmithing. Several from this neighborhood have gone to the hop yard to make small fortunes. It seems that where they leave the home alone they lose more than they make. Mrs. Hickman, the evangelist worker in the camp meeting was called to Murphy one day last week to preach the funeral of the late Mr. Hays of Murphy, who died after about two days illness. Zanoni.

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At the BIG FURNITURE STORE of A. U. BANNARD North Side. Just received 2000 yards Japanese and China MATTING in Newest Patterns at price of 15c up per yard. Our entire stock is very complete in all departments, and selling below Portland and Grants Pass prices as advertised.

A. U. BANNARD Opposite Western Hotel. Goods Sold on Installment Plan.

New Management Art Gallery Sixth Street, oppo. Court House. CALL AND SEE SAMPLES AND GET PRICES ON UP-TO-DATE WORK. KAISER Photographer

Coming Events. Sept. 5, Monday—Public schools open. Sept. 8, Monday—County Court meets. Sept. 19, Monday—Annual reunion of Southern Oregon Soldiers and Sailors at Jacksonville, continuing four days. Sept. 28, Monday—Circuit Court meets.

Wanted. Teacher can get situation, six months' school. Apply School district No. 25, Winton, Oregon. A. U. Bannard—Undertaker.

CLASSIFIED ADS. WANTED. WANTED—Ladies and gentlemen to board at Snythe's. Everything new, clean and up-to-date, 114 E. Street. SITUATION wanted by experienced camp cook and baker, German, Julius Kirsten, care of Fetsch, southeast corner Sixth and J street.

PASTURE. GOOD PASTURE for horses or cattle, near town. M. W. Wheeler. FOR SALE. FULL BLOOD registered Holstein bull Address J. H. Croxon, Grants Pass.

FOR SALE—Nearly new 308 Savage Rifle, combination rear sight, ivory band, front sight. Price, \$20, cost \$25. Inquire R. H. Harrison, N. 2d street. FOR SALE—Pure strain Belgian Hares, Rabbits, headed by that grand buck, Royal Red Britton. Breeding Dues, \$2.50 apiece. Leave orders at Courier office, E. B. Brown.

PARM FARM FOR SALE—two miles from Merlin, 100 acres—about 50 acres of good bottom land, 50 acres in cultivation, small house and barn and about 50 acres under fence, balance of land suitable for orchard or pasture. For further particulars address W. M. Crow, Merlin, Oregon. 200 ACRE ranch, good prairie and apple orchard, small fruits in abundance, water for irrigation, besides springs on every 40 acres; center of a good range country; two dwelling houses, big barn, every thing complete; well sheltered from frost, good milking markets, one-half mile north of Tanneburg, price \$25,000. Inquire at this office.

PUTNAM FADE-LESS DYES color silk, wool or cotton at one bathing. AT CLEMENS' DRUGS opp. Opera house

FARMERS Benicia Disc Plows Will Save You Time and Money This Fall. Come and have a talk with us. Easy terms. Grants Pass Hardware Co. JOSEPH WOLKE, Manager. J. L. CALVERT, Secretary and Treasurer.

Model Drug Store Successors to Slover Drug Co. Drugs, Stationery, Toilet Articles, House and Floor Paints.

Palace Barber Shop J. H. MULLEN, Prop. Shaving, Hair Cutting Baths, Etc. Ery shaving neat and clean and all work First-Class. Next to Palace Hotel.

W. P. Fuller Paints at cost As long as they last. Former price \$1.75 gallon Now . . . . . 1.45 National Drug Store J. C. Smith, M. D., Prop. Agents for Patrick & Co. rubber stamps.