

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Frank McKee, of Weiser, was visiting Ontario relatives on Sunday last.

Joseph Sleigh was convicted Tuesday at Vale before County Judge McKnight of robbing a till at the Robinson restaurant at Juntura of \$12 and was sentenced to six months in the county jail.

C. T. Prall is home this week from a three weeks trip over the lands of Eastern Oregon Land Company.

William McBratney was a visitor to Boise Tuesday.

We have three bundles of keys here without owners, also a pair of white slippers.

There was a shipment of hogs to Portland Tuesday by the Grover brothers.

The entire fall line of Millinery carried by the Millinery and Art store is being offered at prices that do not consider the cost.

Miss Winifred Maloney entertained in honor of Miss Beattie Ballard Tuesday evening. The guests enjoyed "500" throughout the evening, after which a chafing-dish supper was served. Covers were laid for eight, including LaRose Bailey, Wynloth Curry, Jessie Ballard, Messrs. Prater Williams, Clemo and Swaggler.

Mrs. Chas. Seguire has gone on a visit, to her old home, and the change will soon restore to normal health.

Oscar Hill is in from the Beulah country. He says the politicians are getting thick in that section. They have had some good rains and the range is in good shape. The roads are also much improved.

The ladies aid of the Congregational church will hold a Bazaar and rummage sale the last week in November. Watch for the exact date and place. Miss Purcell and Mrs. Morfitt were visiting with Payette friends on Saturday.

N. O. Oard and wife, former residents of this county, living in the Lawen neighborhood, were over from Ontario during the week on business and to visit old time friends. This is their first visit in several years, they having left here some time ago and taking up their residence in the east later moving back to Ontario.—Burns Herald.

Herbert Williams and John Landingham are the delegates to the Knights of Pythias grand lodge at Portland this week.

A. McWilliams is back from his trip to Denver where he took some horses and reports a successful trip. He is now in the market for more horses at his Ontario stable.

The ladies of the W. C. T. U. will hold an important meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 2 p. m. in the Congregational church.

Bryon T. Havens, son of Mrs. J. U. Hoffman, was buried here Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Hillman, of Vale conducting the service. The young man attended school here last school year and some of his old school mates acted as pall bearers. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1888 and died at Vale on Saturday the 10th. Jas. Tarley had charge of the funeral.

Will Fisher is running the Moore Livery stable and it is the intention of himself and Charles Carter, who recently purchased the barn, to conduct a sales stable and have a lot of horses on hand for sale at all times. These men thorough understand the livery business and horses sales and will meet with plenty of support.

Those holding season tickets for the Ontario entertainment can reserve their seats at the Ontario Pharmacy, Tuesday, October 10th, beginning at 10:00 a. m.

Those who have not been supplied with season tickets may secure them at that time and place. The first number will be "The Killanemy Girl and Rita Rich" on the 29th.

Geo. L. Cleaver, the Prohibition candidate for congress from the second district, and his campaign manager, Ernest E. Taylor, were the principal speakers at a Cleaver for congress dry rally, held at the opera house last Tuesday night. The attendance was good and the interest in his candidacy was most encouraging to Mr. Cleaver by the fact that a good majority of the voters present signed up to work and vote for his election.

George Wright down from the Big Bend on Wednesday to visit with some of his old neighbors. He says the Big Bend is in fine shape, most of the hay has been sold and the corn crop was a bumper one.

GEORGE H. HIMES VISITS VALE FIRST TIME SINCE 1853

Geo. H. Himes, of Portland, was a visitor here Wednesday and again today. He is the state historical society, out gathering data for the association. Mr. Himes was here in 1853 and went to Vale to see if there has been any changes in that section since he first visited the place. He will address the ladies of Ontario this afternoon. Mr. Himes has been studying the early history of Oregon for many years for the Oregon Historical Society and is constantly picking up new material to establish facts. If there is anything about early Oregon that you want to know, just ask Mr. Himes and he can tell you all about it.

WHAT A RESIDENT OF BERLIN FINDS TO WRITE ABOUT

Mrs. Albion recently received a card from her daughter who is in Germany, letters are forbidden. There are over 300,000 prisoners in Berlin and all the Germans are fighting but the aged and crippled. The women are doing much of the work usually done by the men. The soldiers report that prisoners taken by the Russians and Belgians are cruelly treated but those taken by the French and English receive human treatment. The workmen are all on half salary and the rest of the usual wages goes to help keep up the war expense. The people are not in favor of the war, but the war lords forced it and the people are compelled to carry it on. It will make many changes in the map of Europe and there are likely to be uprisings later to make still other changes.

JUST A COMMON, CHEAP LIE

Dick Davis moved here this week and expects to stay until after election. He is very busy going around making a house to house canvass of the Dead Ox Flat section slandering the people of Ontario and telling that he is a resident of Ontario and that the whole proposition of the changing of the county seat from Vale to Ontario is a joke and that the Ontario people do not intend to come through with their agreement. Those who have known Mr. Davis since he came to the county know that he has been a hanger on to the county seat all the time and is now a deputy assessor all though notoriously incompetent for the place. They also know that he is not an Ontario citizen and only came here at this time to act as a spy for the Vale bunch. He will not have any influence where known. He is now and always has been a Vale man, his story to the contrary notwithstanding.

PHEASANTS AND TROUT ARE BEING TURNED LOOSE HERE

Last week there were a number of China pheasants brought here from the state hatchery and turned loose under the supervision of members of the rod and gun club.

This week there were several thousand eastern brook and cut throat trout brought here and taken to the No. 3 reservoir on Willow creek and turned loose.

These fish were hatched at the state hatchery at Bonneville, most of the eggs coming from Colorado.

The seventy cans were taken to Brogan on the car and there were four wagons waiting for them and they were soon in the waters of the Willow.

T. J. Craig was in charge of the car, with Geo. Cornie as engineer. They have a gasoline engine which supplies air to the young fish and keeps the temperature of the water down.

Twelve cans were taken off at Huntington and the fish taken to Birch and Durbin creeks.

District Deputy game warden Leffel joined the car at La Grande.

There is but one club of hunters and fishermen in the county and it is through their organization that these fish and birds have been brought in. Other sections should be organized until every man who is interested in fish and game would be enrolled. The club dues are nominal and there is no initiation fee, the sole object being to protect game and fish.

CHAS. BECKER DOES SOME HARD THINKING

The following letter from Charles Becker appeared in the Ontario Democrat last week and it is so pointed that we are glad to reproduce it and give it more publicity. Mr. Becker is known as one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of the county, a man of sound business judgment. This is what he thinks of the County Seat change that the people are going to vote on next month: Reading some of the articles in the Vale Enterprise regarding the moving of the county seat from Vale to Ontario, one not acquainted with the conditions pertaining to this controversy would naturally suppose that Vale was the only place in Malheur county suitable or entitled to have the county seat. I have known Vale since it consisted of one house built of rough stones, up to the present, and I cannot see why it should have a better right to claim the county seat than Ontario has.

Vale has no visible prospect of ever becoming any more than she now is, that any disinterested person can see. Vale is nothing but a small railroad town such as one meets along any of our great railroad lines. Vale has no great farming country back of her to make or support anything like a permanent, prosperous town, unless it is Poverty Flat. A large part of its present population is composed of transient people drawn by temporary employment on the Malheur valley railroad and irrigation work. Besides, there are the towns of Jamison and Brogan which draw trade from the limited territory claimed to be tributary to Vale. It now looks as though after the completion of the Malheur valley railroad Vale will be but a small railroad station.

In contrast thereto, Ontario has a permanent population of prosperous people who nearly all are the owners of the homes they live in. Men of means have taken up their residence there. Besides, it is one of the principal shipping points on the Short Line railroad for wool and livestock. It has two strong banks. Ontario business men are alive and progressive and do things. Necessary improvements are being made continually.

Ontario is in the center of population and taxable property, even if on the Idaho line. The bulk of the population must always be along the Snake river valley—a fact which cannot be disputed. This fact alone should entitle Ontario to the county seat. Center of territory should cut no figure. Population and taxable property alone should be taken into consideration.

Vale is trying to frighten taxpayers into voting in favor of Vale by telling them moving the county seat to Ontario would bring to the county an indebtedness of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for a new court house.

Why such a large sum for a court house?

If Vale should get away with this court house controversy (I have it from a straight source) the present old stone pile will be condemned, and justly so. Vale will then get the county court to appropriate not less than \$200,000 for the building of a new court house so as to anchor the county seat to Vale for all time—and you taxpayers who are now opposing the moving of the county seat to Ontario will have to pay it. So you taxpayers of this county can easily see which is to your best interest—to vote for moving the county seat to Ontario and get an up-to-date court house furnished you for nothing, or vote yourself an immense indebtedness to build a court house at Vale.

Vale tells us that Ontario will not build us a court house after they get the county seat. Now I have not the least doubt in my mind but Ontario will do all they promise. In fact, it is greatly to their interest to do so. They have already voted the bonds to make good their promise. When you are called to court you will always find accommodations at reasonable rates, whereas when you are called to Vale you do not know whether you will sleep in a bed on in a manger.

Now, if you don't want to be taxed several Hundred Thousand Dollars for a new court house, which perhaps will not be worth one-half that amount when built, vote the county seat to Ontario and have one furnished you free of charge by the people of that prosperous and growing town.

CHAS. BECKER.

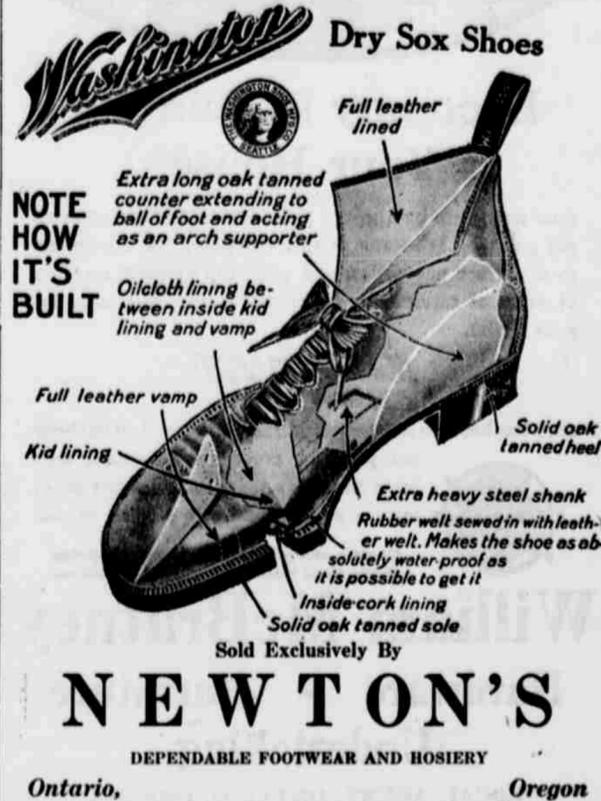
THE VIEWPOINT OF AN IRONSIDE WRITER

Ironsides, Ore., Oct. 13, 1914.

To the Editor: My attention has been called to a clipping from the Vale Enterprise of the 9th. inst., which I enclose as follows: "If there is ever another court house built anywhere in Malheur county it will cost nearer \$200,000 than \$25,000. Vale will put land enough under cultivation to warrant it in 15 years." Now Mr. Editor this item is enough to convince the average taxpayer what is in the minds of the Vale people. Up to this time I have tried to remain neutral in this county seat fight and have been inclined to favor Vale, but it is evident to me just what the Valeites will do if they win this election. They will immediately agitate the bonding of the county for at least \$200,000.00 with which to build a court house; and in my opinion they will win. With a solid vote from the Vale country with enough outside votes to win easily. You can see it will only require a majority vote to carry this bond election. It is generally agreed that the present court house is inadequate for the county's needs. It is the statement of the officers that the assessment roll, sheriff's books and treasury books have no vault for their safety and most of all these records comprising loads of books are exposed to theft and fire every night in the year as they are left lying on the counters in the sheriff's office. The whole building is unsanitary and in fact nothing but a shell and would make a second class cow barn for a business dairyman. While I abhor debt and do not like to see the county plunged into a couple hundred thousand indebtedness, I fully realize that this is sure to come about in a short time if Vale wins this election. As I look at the matter now I will favor it myself as I know the present pile of stone is a disgrace to a great county like Malheur. Then again Mr. Editor, what kind of court house would we likely to get after the Vale bunch had expended \$200,000.00 of the county money? Rigby is a self confessed contractor, in your opinion what do you think he would give us for the \$200,000.00 county money? Do you know what it means to spend county money by such people. Have you heard of the Vale water works costing \$110,000.00. Wonder if Rigby and the bunch would give us something like this for our money. Reliable contractors say they got a \$25,000 to \$35,000 job for this money. I am not asking you where the balance of the money went. One business man of Vale told me they had just about water enough to swim a duck in wet weather. Mr. Editor the Enterprise and the Vale bunch is right. It would take \$200,000.00 to build a court house to be constructed from county money and disbursed by or under the influence of this bunch living in Vale. They might under these conditions get as good a building for the money as Ontario proposes to donate to the county, but I am from Missouri. In this item they speak of the vast development going on in this section. Do you know this all a joke. \$80.00 for water under the Billy Creek is a farce. The land is rough and of doubtful quality and you can not fool one farmer in this whole country into the belief that this land will ever be settled under these conditions. This ruse going on now under the heading of "Dirt Flying on the Billy Creek Project" is all buncombe. Vale has raised a corruption fund with which they are undertaking to colonize Grange precinct for election purposes, only. It is simply one of Vale's attempts to thwart the will of the people. From now on Mr. Editor I am for Ontario first, last and all the time. I believe in fair elections and a square deal and if Ontario is willing to donate to the county free of charge such a court house as they picture, I for one am willing to accept, and I believe most of my neighbors look at it in the same way.

TAXPAYER.

Rumors have been started on the Dead Ox Flat that the Washington hotel cost \$70,000 more than the estimate of the architects, Tourtellotte and Hummel. The truth is that the building cost \$150 less than the architects estimate on the original building. The members of the building committee will substantiate this statement.



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