

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager



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Official Paper of Jackson County.

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SWORN CIRCULATION.
Daily average for eleven months ending
November 29, 1912, 2500.

The Mail Tribune is on sale at the
Every News Stand, San Francisco.
Portland and New York News Stand, Portland,
Portland News Stand, Portland, Ore.
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Paid Leased Wire United Press
Dispatches.

MEDFORD, OREGON.
Metropolis of Southern Oregon and
Northern California, and the fastest
growing city in Oregon—\$840,
Population—U. S. census 1910—\$840,
estimated, 1912—10,000.

Water system completed, giving finest
pure mountain water, and 17.5
miles of streets paved.

Population—U. S. census for year ending
November 30, 1912, show increase of 19
per cent.

Banner fruit city in Oregon—Rogue
River pears won sweepstakes
prize and title of "Apple King of the World"
at the National Apple Show, Spokane,
1909, and again in 1910.

First Prize in 1910.

At Canadian International Apple Show,
Vancouver, First Prize in 1911.

At Spokane National Apple Show won
by earload of Newtowners.

Rogue River pears brought highest
price in market of the world during
the past six years.

DYNAMITE PLANT UNDER A BARN

Grant Harrison, of this city, is
thankful for the lucky
termination of an attempt to wreck
his barn by dynamite, says the Gold
Hill News. Sunday morning, while
choring around the premises, Mr. Harrison
noticed a coil of fuse, such
as is used in blasting operations, pro-
truding from a dust heap beneath
the corner of his barn. Presumably the
coil had been snatched out by his
chickens. Investigating the coil he
discovered that it had been ignited
and completely burned, and further
search discovered seven sticks of dy-
namite, carefully packed down and
covered by sacking. Apparently the
fuse had set off the cap, which was
not found, but for some unknown
reason the powder had failed to re-
spond. As several heavy frosts have
been experienced of late it is thought
that the sticks were frozen at the
time of the attempt, in which condition
it is not infrequently difficult to
cause an explosion. Directly above
the plant were the stalls of Mr. Har-
rison's team, and had the apparent
plan not miscarried, these would
have undoubtedly met death in the
complete demolition of the barn. The
structure is but a few steps removed
from dwelling houses, which would
also have been endangered by the
terrific blast. The discovery was re-
ported to the authorities, and an in-
vestigation will be made to trace the
dynamite to its point of sale by the
date which are upon each stick.
Mr. Harrison has no opinion to offer
as to the perpetrator, stating that no
enmity exists to his knowledge that
would prompt so cowardly an at-
tempt at reprisal.

MORE EXPERTING NEEDED.

THE new county court is to be congratulated upon making a good start in the right direction to give the county an efficient and businesslike administration.

The precautions for public protection, such as increased bonds for officials handling large sums of county money, and the requirement that all appointees be above suspicion, gives the court the united support of the people, regardless of party.

A matter which should be probed to the bottom is the reported shortage in the office of the sheriff, made good by the personal sacrifices of ex-Sheriff Jones.

Mr. Jones himself is above suspicion. He is as honest as the day is long. He is not a bookkeeper nor an accountant, and so foolishly left tax money handling to others in whom he had implicit faith—with a \$21,360 shortage at the end of four years,—a heavy penalty for trusting others.

What became of this \$21,360? Who got it? Of course Jones didn't—a man doesn't steal from himself. Jones has always lived quietly and economically, within his means. He has no bad habits. He has made a good sheriff, quiet, unassuming, diligent. His life record is in his favor—and if reputation can be cashed, as Morgan says, Jones could raise a lot of money—and he has had to.

Other things need explanation. How was the shortage, noted by the expert last April, covered up in July and reported squared up? How were the accounts juggled to hide the discrepancy? Perhaps if this transaction was probed, and it was ascertained how the bank balances and cash were juggled to cover up a \$21,360 shortage, there would be a clue to the missing money and those who got it.

The bank books and the cash records ought to be experted, the expert ought to be experted, and so had all others who handled the money or had access to it.

NEW YEARS ISSUES.

PORLAND, Salem, Eugene and Medford are the cities in Oregon whose newspapers make a practice of issuing annuals the first of January each year, depicting the growth and progress of the state and the respective communities. Many thousands of extra copies of these issues are printed and sent broadcast throughout the nation, doing great service to the state in attracting immigration and development.

Foremost among the annuals ranks the Oregonian, with its 78 pages of illustrations and reading matter. It is undoubtedly a valuable asset to the state and a veritable encyclopedia of information.

First in quantity ranks the Eugene Guard with 88 pages, the largest paper issued in Oregon this year. It is devoted to Eugene and vicinity, its era of railroad building and the state generally.

Better illustrated and printed, though not so large is the Eugene Register with its 48 pages of matter and numerous illustrations. It is also devoted principally to its home city.

The Salem Statesman blossomed out as usual in a 36 page New Years issue, printed on calendered paper with many illustrations, which it calls "the Willamette Valley progress edition" in which the resources and advantages of Salem and the valley are comprehensively set forth.

There is more or less similarity in all these editions. They follow the conventional rut—a mass of dry-as-dust stuff that no one reads enlivened with a scattering of pictures. Next New Years, the Mail Tribune will, if sufficient patronage is forthcoming, break away from the established order and issue, not the biggest, for size defeats its own objects, nor the most wordy, for it won't be read, but the best illustrated, most unique, most original and most distinctive annual ever attempted—which will advertise the community far better than a hundred page collection of ads and words would do and show the world at a glance what we are doing.

Are you going to be in on it?

PANAMA CANAL NEARING COMPLETION.

THE Panama canal, which unites the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific, is almost finished and its completion will be the supreme American achievement of 1913.

President Taft found on his Christmas inspection trip that the six great locks were 70 per cent completed; that the excavation was 95 per cent completed; that the backfilling of the Gatun dam was 93 per cent, the concrete work of the Gatun locks, (Atlantic entrance) 94 per cent, the dam itself 97 per cent and its spillway 94 per cent completed; and the Culebra cut 94 per cent completed.

A correspondent who accompanied the president gives the following description of the canal:

"As the canal looks today—imagine the waters of the Atlantic almost lapping the edges of the Gatun locks, a lake 13 miles long—entirely artificial—to the Culebra cut; then the staggering, dizzy abyss of the "cut," another lock at Pedro Miguel, another lake a mile long, two more locks, a muddy channel teeming with dredges and steam shovels, and then four miles of completed canal, filled with the emerald-blue waters of the Pacific. That is the canal as it is today, from Atlantic to Pacific."

At Balboa a large mountain of solid rock, 1200 feet high, is being razed to secure more material for the breakwater. Three islands reaching into the Pacific are being joined by the breakwater. On two are being built concrete forts, for mighty 12-inch guns. On another is the quarantine station, and on the farthest island, the sentinel of the canal in the Pacific, is another fort, precipitous and inaccessible except from the breakwater. Powder magazines are being built, hidden earthworks installed and other fortification work begun.

President Taft was told while in Panama that all working records are being smashed to complete the canal this year and also that the canal, begun in 1904, would be presented complete to the government for about \$365,000,000, selected as the day for the first shoot.

UTAH BANKERS BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Operation of the Clearing House association of Salt Lake City and its controversy with the National Copper bank of that city were re-explained to the money trust investigating committee Monday. Five Salt Lake bankers testified.

W. W. Armstrong, president of the National Copper bank, declared his bank had separated from the clearing house when it refused to abide by a ruling forbidding banks to pay interest on open check accounts. He said it cost his bank \$25,000 a year extra to do business outside of the clearing houses. He claimed the clearing house regulated practically all the transactions between the banks and clients, and argued this was in restraint of trade.

GUN CLUB ORGANIZED BY TALENT SPORTSMEN

A number of trap-shooting enthusiasts met at the city hall in Talent Friday evening for the purpose of organizing a gun club. H. M. Gleim was chosen president, Charles M. Anderson, vice-president and G. W. Ager secretary and treasurer. A suitable constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted. The club will hold monthly shoots on the first Saturday afternoon of each month and suitable trophies will be offered to members making the highest percentages during the series of shoots in 1913. January 11 was selected as the day for the first shoot.

REAR ADMIRAL W. C. COWLES TO BECOME THE COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC FLEET



REAR ADMIRAL W. C. COWLES.

Rear Admiral Walter C. Cowles, commandant of the Honolulu naval station since December 14, 1910, is to become the commander of the United States Pacific fleet. There is much speculation as to Rear Admiral Cowles' successor.

Westerlund Would Give Half of Fair Appropriation to Building Highway

Representative Westerlund, of Jackson county, considers that the question of the appropriation for the Oregon exhibit at the Panama-Pacific fair at San Francisco and the question of good roads in Oregon are so closely related that, rather than stint the appropriation for roads, or omit it altogether, he would be in favor of making no provision for an exhibit whatever, says the Portland Oregonian. However, Mr. Westerlund does not contemplate anything of the sort. He suggests that \$200,000 be appropriated for the Oregon exhibit at San Francisco, \$50,000 for the Oregon exhibit at San Diego, and \$250,000 to be spent on the Pacific highway, between Portland and the Columbia river, he believes, would "soon convince these tourists of our enterprise, and open up to them a close, first-hand view of our wonderfully abundant resources in fruit, lumber, grain, dairying, hop-growing and any and every item of our other varied productive industries and possibilities." The trip, under such conditions, according to his idea, would impress upon the tourist's mind a picture that would never fade, and that would keep him talking Oregon for months after his return home.

"Good Roads First"

Mr. Westerlund is an enthusiastic good roads advocate. He maintains that a safe and well-kept Pacific Highway should be the state's contribution to this great work; a crowning inducement to all travelers, and a lasting benefit to the entire state. A tour over such a road, from the California line to Portland and the Columbia river, he believes, would "soon convince these tourists of our enterprise, and open up to them a close, first-hand view of our wonderfully abundant resources in fruit, lumber, grain, dairying, hop-growing and any and every item of our other varied productive industries and possibilities." The trip, under such conditions, according to his idea, would impress upon the tourist's mind a picture that would never fade, and that would keep him talking Oregon for months after his return home.

"Moving Pictures Favored"

Like Representative Anderson, of Wasco county, Mr. Westerlund favors, in connection with a state bureau of publicity, a daffy moving picture show. He says: "There should be ample and varied pictures of our beautiful scenery, the streets of our cities, public and business buildings, the actual operations of our various industries, lumbering, mining, fruit-growing, agricultural operations, fishing and canning, the various phases of our great grain production in the eastern counties, etc. Last, but not least, there should be views showing the excellent highways which Oregon by that time should have, to be the crowning attraction of this state to anyone but a crow or a flying machine."

"Roads Best Investment"

"If \$250,000 should prove to be not enough to make the Pacific highway a complete and lasting fact, an open door invitation to all tourists, visitors and prospective investors, then I shall be heartily in favor of increasing the appropriation to suit developments. Under rigid and careful expert supervision of state road funds, we can assure ourselves of the best possible results and against extravagant misuse of the money."

Tyranny Drove Labor to Dynamiting Asserts Gompers Before Committee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Shifting responsibility for alleged dynamiting from the shoulders of the convicted dynamiters to those of the employers, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, made a passionate plea for the enactment of the Clayton bill regulating the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes. Gompers was a witness before the senate judiciary committee, which is conducting hearings on the proposed injunction bill.

Discussing for the first time the trial and conviction of the ironworkers, Gompers said:

"The 'conscientious' tyranny of those who control the hours, wages and conditions of work, and who are in control of legislative and judicial power drove the ironworkers to dynamiting. For six years this tyranny continued. All the forces of organized society were used against these men, while subtle minds were scheming and plotting, that legal authority and practice might aid in their breaking down."

"You say these men resorted to forbidden methods of violence and even sacrificed lives; you condemn their methods of fighting as elemental. If any of these men are guilty, this condemnation is true,

but I ask you where the methods of the employers is less deadly to humanity and freedom? Do you think one side can play with the forces of injustice and tyranny without leading to a defensive movement on the part of the other side?"

"I would have you ponder how it is that among a people professing to believe in the brotherhood of man and the gospel of love, men and American citizens come to look upon violence and dynamite terror as the only defense left them. As to those who counsel harshness and the denying of mercy—are they men who have fought the fight in the world of men and conquered without blemishing themselves? Are they men who know the world of work and toil, who have felt the powers pitted against the weaker elements and felt the cruelty and harshness of the world of profits, where men succeed by climbing over and standing upon these they have struck down and defeated?"

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