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BIG WATER DITCH

To Be Taken Out of The Deschutes.

Oregon Development Co.

Walker Basin To Be Brought Under Irrigation In A Short Time.

Field work on another big irrigation enterprise in Crook county will be begun this week. It contemplates bringing under irrigation a little valley on the upper course of the Deschutes River, known as Walker Basin. That basin includes about 100,000 acres of excellent sagebrush land, and it is estimated that about 60,000 acres of that area can be brought under the proposed irrigation system. The soil is so very porous, however, that it will be an expensive job to carry the water. It will be necessary to cement the canals in order to prevent seepage that would soon exhaust the water supply. The soil is said to be exceptionally rich and it is free of stones, water only being needed to make it ideal farming land. But the altitude is about 4500 feet above the sea, and the temperature is so low that only the hardy crops flourish there. It is adapted particularly to fattening cattle for the market.

The Oregon Development Company, which filed incorporation articles at Salem last week and has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, will conduct this irrigation enterprise. Eastern capitalists will supply the money for it, but a small amount of the stock being held in Oregon. J. E. Morrison, who recently came to Oregon from Minneapolis, is president of the new corporation. His attention was first drawn to the Walker Basin last April, and he then made a cursory examination of the place which convinced him that it would be a good field for an investment in irrigation works. Then he made a trip to the East and began arrangements which have matured into an organization prepared to go ahead with the project. A surveying crew will be put in the field this week to locate routes for ditches and make estimate of the cost of the improvement.

President Morrison says he doesn't know whether his company will proceed under the terms of the Carey land act or take an independent course. Under the Carey law there are certain guarantees that cannot otherwise be obtained, such as the lien on the land for interest on the capital invested in the irrigation plant. On the other hand, however, that law requires a considerable amount of official supervision, which might subject the company to annoyance through red tape, delays, etc. As this company does not look to ownership of the land for its compensation, it is inclined to ignore the Carey law entirely and to start out on an independent business basis. By doing this it would get its returns from the sale of the water.

There would be a certain charge per acre for the water delivered in the fields. The irrigation plant would be on the same basis as pri-

vate water systems that supply cities. The company would not have any special lien on the land for its investment, but would depend on the demand for water for irrigating crops, and the charge would be such as would permit development of the country and at the same time yield profit to the company. It would be to the interest of the company to offer inducements for settlers, for it could do nothing without purchasers for its water.

The water supply will be taken from the Deschutes. The proposed irrigating system will be on the east side of that stream, the west side ascending to the Cascades. With irrigation that section could hardly be surpassed, it is said, for farming and stockraising. The land has long been surveyed by the government, but also none of it has been taken by settlers. A strip of timber lies between Walker Basin and the forest reserve, but that was stripped a few months ago by Eastern timbermen. Walker Basin is about 30 miles southerly from Prineville.—Oregonian.

Arizona's Ruined City.

Some four miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, lie the ruins of what is supposed to have been the greatest of the prehistoric cities of the southwest. The area of the ruins is nearly a mile in width. Above ground may be seen fragments of walls and buildings the largest apparently having been a temple or amphitheater, covering a space 200 feet wide by 300 feet long. The Arizona Antiquarian Society is about to begin the first systematic excavation in this interesting tract with the hope of adding much to our knowledge of the early history of the continent. It is thought that only a portion of the ruins are now visible and that excavation will show that the ancient city extended for some distance down the valley of the Salt River, says the Great Round World. A few years ago a party of men, who represented themselves as agents of the Smithsonian Institution, made a search of the ruins. They secured a quantity of pottery and stone implements, which they pretended to send to Washington, but we understand that the consignment never reached the Smithsonian Institution. There is a legend at Phoenix that the searchers were hunting for a treasure of gold, and that they found it and took it away with them.

Only two women in the United States may use the mails without paying for the privilege. These women are widows of former presidents. They are Mrs. Julia D. Grant and Mrs. Lucretia A. Garfield. All mail matters sent by Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Grant under their respective written autograph signatures, and all mail matters sent to these two ladies, will be carried free during their lives. No signatures or marks are necessary to free carriage of mail matter to either of these ladies, the address being sufficient. Mrs. Garfield has enjoyed the privilege since 1881, and Mrs. Grant since 1886.—Ex.

The small boys are now wrestling with the green apple problem with more or less disastrous results. Apples have caused trouble ever since the days of Eve.

MUST LIVE ON IT.

Continuously Says Homestead Law

Decision By Secretary.

Staying Over Night Once In Six Months Not Sufficient Residence.

The secretary of the interior has handed down a decision of great importance relative to the tenure of homestead claims. He holds that the homesteader must actually live upon the land filed or his entry will be null and void.

The decision is given in the cases in which the homestead entry of Bernard McGarahan and William Ludton on land in Humboldt county were contested by Henry Brace, William Elsomore. The judgment in general land office sustained the decision and finally a second appeal to the secretary of the interior has been met with affirmation of the decision of the lower tribunals.

The reason for the loss of their claims by these entrymen," says the decision, was that they did not live upon the land in question, as provided by the homestead laws. The fiction that it is only necessary to go upon the land once in six months and stay over night a cabin has deceived many a homestead entrymen. It requires residence, improvements and cultivation to hold the land, and it must be continuous or as nearly so as circumstances will permit.

"A person who has a homestead entry can go some place and work to earn a living for a time, if necessary, but his home must be on the land as nothing else will take the place of residence and improvement.

"Those who tell homestead entrymen that they need only go to the land occasionally and stay over a night or two in the cabin erected as an excuse for a dwelling, is injustice to the entrymen, who must lose their claims by accepting it. Because some entries are made and the land patented under such circumstances, when no contest is entered it must not be inferred that the law requires nothing more than a cabin, a little fence or clearing and an occasional visit to land embraced in a homestead entry."

A. B. Cady, of Beaverton, Ore writing to the Oregonian says: "I have noticed of late articles in your paper of the depredations the Canada thistle is making in Oregon—the greatest pest that was ever allowed to grow in any land or state. I worked in Canada thistles from 1840 to 1850 in the State of New York, Cayuga county. I have bound oats and wheat, and received 25 cents a day more wages than I would if the grain had been free from Canada thistles, but that is not the point. To get rid of them is the question. Summer fallowing will not do it, altho it will decrease their growth. My father had a small patch on our farm and they were all cut down, taken off and burned. Then we went on the patch, crawled around on our hands and knees and split open every stalk and put salt in

he split, and that fixed them. They never came up again. I moved to Wisconsin in 1850, and went five miles a few years later to see some Canada thistles. This was in Winnebago county. There were only three stalks. I fixed them as aforesaid. I lived there 19 years and never heard anything more about Canada thistles."

Maude Mulle on a summer's day jumped on the timeworn bike for an evening hit on the dusty pike. An old drop fame and away down gear with a rattle the sleeping dead could hear. The judge came bounding along behind, out airing his judicial mind. He noted the figure neat and trim and graceful move of the hidden limb, and he said to himself in grav delight, what's the matter with Maude? She's alright. He drew beside her and asked her flat why she rode such an ice-cart as that. And she said salesladies could ill support such a wheel as the district court. He told her a chainless she could ride, with a diamond frame, if she would be his bride. Or if she would burst her solo life they would tandem together as man and wife. Maude hit at the bait like a hungry trout the old man smiled as he yanked her out. They ride on a tandem now, of course, but Maude has to work like a tread mill horse. For the judge has learned to sit and shirk and let his darling do all the work. He weighs two hundred and forty-one, but the poor girl thinks it an even ton.—Ex

On the 30th day of this month there will be thrown open to settlers two townships of the Cascade forest reserve, situated west of Silver Lake. The opening of this land for the entrance of settlers has been accomplished largely through the efforts of the little Deschutes Irrigation company, which owns a large irrigating ditch in that country and some 13 sections of land along the course of the ditch. The company will extend their ditch into the area of land that is to be opened for settlement. It is expected that there will be a general rush for these lands, as they are very productive, and when irrigated will be doubly so. The result is watched with keenest interest throughout southern Oregon.—Ex

The citizens of The Dalles are going to make the street carnival and the Second East. Or. District fair a success in every particular. It will continue six days and during the entire time visitors will have something to interest them. Not a dull day in the six. Every person in the neighboring counties that are expecting to take a few days off to attend the fair, should make it a point to go to this one. Help the committee with your presence and you will never regret the time or money spent in the Dalles between September 30 and October 5.

The Oregonian says: "The United States Geological Survey party is at work in the Cascade mountains in the vicinity of Odell and Crescent Lakes at the summit of the Cascades, in Lake county. The surveyors have found Odell Lake to be 4860 feet and Crescent Lake 5025 feet above the level of the ocean. The summit of the mountains where they crossed is 6850 feet above the level." The places referred to are not in Lake, but close to the line in Crook.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week Timely Topics.

Wheeler county sheepmen have organized a wool growers association which is to include the counties of Crook, Wasco and Sherman.

The business men of Prairie City have signed an agreement to close their places of business on Sunday. And if any of them break this contract they will pay to the city treasury the sum of \$50.

Officials of the Oregon Sugar company estimate that there will be available for the beet sugar factory at La Grande a crop of 15,000 tons of beets this season. Last fall the factory handled only 9,000 tons.

Corvallis, Oregon, is almost the headquarters of the world for caca bark. No less than six, and possibly eight, carloads, of 20,000 pounds each, will be shipped from Corvallis, and several from Monroe, this season.

C. E. Lytle and A. M. Kelsay, have purchased the townsite of Ashwood and eighty acres adjoining for themselves and others which shows confidence in the mines of that region. Ashwood will be to The Dalles Southern an important point.

For the first time in its history the Snake river is dry below Blackfoot, Idaho. The unusual dry weather and the large amount of water taken out above town for irrigating purposes is given as the reason. Nothing in the history of that locality has caused so much comment, as it was supposed the mighty Snake was inexhaustible.

It has been definitely decided to have a warship proceed to the Pacific coast side of the Isthmus of Panama for the protection of American interests that may be jeopardized by the revolutionary movement in progress there. Thus far orders for the Wisconsin do not take her beyond San Francisco, but either that ship or the Ranger will be sent soon.

This is the driest season the Blue Mountains have experienced for many years. The same thing was said by old-timers last summer. An unusually heavy snow fell during the past winter, and it was hoped the water supply would be ample, but the intense heat of early July melted it all very rapidly, and now the mountain streams are fed by springs alone.

The women who have been engaged in spreading flax have put in the time faithfully, and as a result there are a good many acres covered with straw waiting for a shower of rain. In this manner the straw is rotted, and with one good rain a couple of hundred tons may be rotted at once and after it is again dried it will be taken up and stored in the ware house, where it will be worked into fibre during the winter.—Sci. News.