## The Heppner Gazette.

Issued Every Thursday Morning

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#### TO REPEAL TIMBER ACT.

ner, Oregon.

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#### Senate Committee Reports Favora bly on Compromise Bill.

Washington, March 16 .- By unanimous vote, the Senate committee on public lands today favorably reported a compromise bill intended to modify the public land laws so as to minimize the opportunity for fraudaulent operations. and to insure the settlement of the public lands by bona fide entrymen. This compromise is the result of a protracted and heated discussion of the public land question, and, to a large extent, carries out the recomendations of the Public Land Commission.

The bill agreed upon authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell to the highest bidder the right to cut and remove timber from any unappropriated, the management of a dance held at the non mineral surveyed public lands after home of George Jones in Lost Valley first having such timber appraised and Thursday night, Ben Ensly was stabbed giving due notice of such sale. The funds derived from timber lands in the arid and semi a id Western States ar to be placed to the credit of those states and two-Jesse and Oliver Mungerin the fund ultimately to be expended in the construction of National irrigation works.

the entry of timber lands, though it does not affect the acquisition of stone lands. It provides further that lands valuable for timber shall hereafter not be subject to entry under the commutation clause of the homestead law. This last provision removes the most objectional feature of the commutation clause. and the one under which the government has heretofore been generally injured. The committee did not feel justified in going further in the way of modifying the land laws.

day is thought to insure its early passage by the Senate, and it may get and was fined \$15, while the other enthrough the House this session, though there are several members of the House public lands committee who will oppose it and attempt to prevent a report. Nevertheless, advocates of reform in the land laws are greatly encouraged by the action of the committee today and regard it as a long step in the right direc-

No bill introduced in Congress in sev- ago. eral years has been pushed with more vigor by its friends, or fought more stubbornly by its enemies. For two years the committee on public lands has had the measure almost constantly before it. Last year the committee reported the bill over the head of the chairman, Senator Hansbrough, but he served notice that it could not be passed and it died with the Congress. This year all the Democratic members of the committee except Senator Duboise and The hail on the streets was a foot deep three Republican members, Bard, Nelson and Dietrich, were again against it, came, and some of the hailstones were making a majority of one in favor of reporting the land bill. Chairman Hansbrough declined to put the motion for reporting the bill without having a

man Hansbrough talked to members of the committee individually, and gave as his view that the bill, if passed, would upset the land laws of the entire country and turn to Canada the great stream of immigration that was now building up the West. He declared the homestead law vital to the interests of the unimproved West, and suggested to the friends of the bill that a measure be introduced for the repeal of the timber and stone act only. He won Senator Nelson to the same view, and the bill was introduced by Senator Quarles and approved by the committee.

The House committee on public lands today favorably reported a bill, which, it enacted, will rob the land law of an objectionable and dangerous feature. But the chances of its final passage are not bright, as it is opposed by the landgrant railroads, still recognized to be powerful before Congress, and in a position to block legislation this late in the session, when every attempt is being made to adjourn by the first of May. The bill provides that no vacant public lands chiefly valuable for their timber shall be subject to selection in lieu of tracts relinquished within forest reservations, except in cases where owners of land within reserves relinquish to the government lands which are chiefly valuable for their timber, in which event lieu selections can be made on any public land subject to homestead entry including timber lands. This bill will effectually prevent the exchanging o arid, rocky and non-timbered land within reserves for valuable timber outside, yet permit an owner of timber land within a reserve to procure timber land outside if he so desires.

#### ROW AT A COWBOX DANCE.

## Knife-Play Enlivens a Social Af-

Fossil, Or., March 21 .- In a row over in the right side by Al Smith, who then escaped in the darkness. Most of the male dancers were involved in the fight, were severely cut about their heads.

The affair started about 4 o'clock Fri day morning, and between 7 and 8 a The bill repeals the act permitting messenger arrived in Fossil after the Sheriff and a doctor. A physician at once started for the scene, and was soon followed by Deputy Gillis Kelsay, with a warrant for the arrest of Smith. He returned with his prisoner Friday afternoon, and Smith is now held in the county jail awaiting the outcome of his

> While Ensly was badly wounded, the doctor save he will recover unless something unforseen happens.

During the forenoon the two Munger boys arrived here to have their wounds The ananimous report on the bill to- dressed, and were both arrested on the charge of assault. One pleaded guilty tered a plea of not guilty.

It is said that trouble has been brew ing for some time, among this crowd and Thursday night's fight was not unexpected. Al Smith, who did the stabbing, is an ex convict, and Bert DeFord, who was manager of the dance, was pardoned from the penitentiary by Governor Chamberlain only a few weeks

#### HOUSES UNROOFED.

#### Tornado Wrecks Fifty Buildings in Missouri Town.

Higginsville, Mo., March 21.-Fifty buildings are partly wrecked, one man is mortally injured and several others hurt, the town is in darkness, and the streets strewn with debris as 'the result of a tornado and hailstorm, which struck this place late this afternoon within five minutes after the storm very large. Dozens of trees in the town were blown down and several horse were killed in the street.

The storm came without warning, chance to be heard in opposition to the The wind and hail came first and were messure. He was charged with filibus- followed by a terriffic downpour of rain tering but remained steadfast. Chair- which flooded nearly every cellar in the

# Health

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Pure and rich blood carries new life to every part of the body. You are invigorated, refreshed. You feel anxious to be active. You become strong, steady, courageous. That's what Ayer's Sarsaparilla will do for you. \$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

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we will be satisfied.
J. C. AVER Co., Lowell, Mass.

town. The storm came from the West It kept within a narrow path, at least the tornado portion, only about two blocks of the business portion of the town being damaged.

Two other towns in this section were in the path of the storm, and both have populations of from 500 to 600. According to meagre reports that are received here several houses in both places have been wrecked, but the extent of the damage is not known.

A grocery store in the business part of this place was wrecked by the storm. John Dolphen, a clerk, was mortally injured.

More than 50 houses were unroofed.

#### To Pay the Klamath Indians.

Washington, March 21.-Through the efforts of Senator Mitchell, an amendment has been attached to the Indian appropriation bill to pay the Klamath Indians \$537,007, in settlement of their claim against the Government. If this amendment can be retained in conference it will dispose of a bit of legislation that has been pending before Congress for many years.

#### Alexieff to Hold the Reins.

St. Petersburg, March 21.-Admiral Avellon, the Russian Minister of Marine, denies that there is any intention of modifying the position of Admiral Alexieff in the Far East. The Admiral, he said, would continue personally to represent the Czar. In fact, continued the Minister, there is at present no intention of making a change in the personnel of those chosen to conduct the

Four hundred sixty-five Filipino scouts have arrived at the Presidio en route to St Louis, where they will be encamped for several weeks during the World's Fair.

Edw. Kerlin, a Chicago man, has confessed to robbing mail boxes in that city of hundreds of letters. He realized on them by forging indorsements to the checks and money orders.

#### BUSINESS and want ads of all descriptions will hereafter be published in a column by themselves.

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Nice new patterns of Floor Oilcloth at

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New Home Sewing Machines, the best on earth, from

\$32.50 to \$50

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Stoves, Ranges and Cooking Utensils cheap. Crockery, Lamps and Clocks.

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Anything not carried in stock, cheerfully ordered cheaper than you can send for it.

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# Souvenir Dishes

Of the Heppner Flood

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