

St. Helens Mist

FOUNDED 1881

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

ALARMING THE PEOPLE

President Wilson is making his present tour with the avowed purpose of impressing the people with the necessity for military preparedness. Our lack of adequate facilities and preparation for war is not a new thing. The president, it is true, was unable to discern our deficiencies a year ago, but they were as great then as they are now. The war in Europe has not taken anything away from us; it has merely shown us, with brutal emphasis, the urgency of our needs, and many people, the president among them, are awakening to a realization of a condition that was known, to those having better information or greater discernment, before the war commenced. Mr. Wilson is trying now to increase the number of those who realize the situation, and in this purpose we are with him, for the Globe-Democrat stands squarely for a navy worthy of the nation, and an army strong enough to be relied upon for initial operations, at least.

But the president, in furtherance of his purpose, is solemnly warning the country that we are in imminent danger of immediate war. He conveys the impression that circumstances which he is unable to reveal are at this moment threatening a conflict in which we shall be a principal. Now, either this is true or it is not. If it is true, we are unable to see how the cause of preparedness is to be helped by sounding such an alarm. The event itself would bring the American people to arms in an instant. There would be no need for speeches by anybody. We would fight with what facilities we have and what we could develop under the stress of actual war. Preparedness would at once cease to be a subject of discussion and become a program of immediate action. Nothing that could be said upon the platform now would hasten or retard that action. If, we say, this alarm is based upon truth, if we are in actual and immediate danger of war, the cause of preparedness cannot be helped by appeals to the people.

But, on the other hand, if it is not true, if war does not really confront us, such an alarm is not only unjustified but is pernicious. Preparation for war, unless under the compulsion of actual or immediately impending conflict, is a matter for calm deliberation and of steady and continuous action in accord with a settled program. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of months and years. That is the kind of preparation the country is considering now, and that is the only kind it ought to consider in time of peace. It should be founded not upon a sense of fear but upon a sense of prudence; it should not grow out of excitement but out of the cool counsels of wisdom. To alarm the public is but to hasten ill-shaped and ill-advised measures, while at the same time endangering public confidence in commercial stability. Emergency preparation, if there is or should be an emergency, is another matter, which is wholly within the hands of the president and congress for action without the necessity for an appeal to the people.—Globe-Democrat.

LEAP YEAR

The custom which ordains that a woman may propose marriage to a man in leap year dates back seven or eight hundred years. An act of the Scottish parliament, passed about the year 1228, made it a crime punishable by a fine, for an unattached man to refuse to become the life partner of a woman who had the courage to "speak ye mon she liked!" The custom in a milder form is referred to in a work published in 1606, entitled "Courtship, Love and Matrimony." "Albeit it has now become a part of the common law in regard to social relations of life that as often as every bissextile year doth return, the ladys have the sole privilege during the time it continueth of making love unto the men, which they doe either by wordes or by lookes, as to them it seemeth proper; and, moreover, no man shall be entitled to the benefit of clergy who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely."—People's Home Journal.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEHALEM VALLEY

Mrs. Wildman visited with Mrs. J. Smith Wednesday. Mrs. Frank McGraw entertained company Thursday. Mrs. Tom Troop visited with Mrs. M. Johns Thursday. Oscar Weed went to Timber one day last week on business. H. Wilson decided to try the road to Timber Monday. Fine sledding now.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sheeley took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. John Smith Tuesday. Hans Christensen took a sled of grain to Mr. Johns Thursday and had it chopped. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Wildman were seen in Vernonia Thursday doing some shopping.

The wives and mothers will appreciate this, I know. This grand good rest from mud. Thursday, Mart Christensen was transforming a monstrous log into a rick of wood. T. H. North and family, who have been under the weather for some time, are much better. Mrs. Hult, who broke her arm last week, went up to Mrs. Dr. Coles Friday to have it dressed.

Pleasant Hill Sunday school did not meet Sunday on account of sickness, and for other good reasons. Kist Union Sunday school was not very large Sunday, but those who ventured out enjoyed the services. Mr. Olson, the cream hauler for Clatskanie, took his route Monday as the river was low enough to cross. Chas. Smith went to Vernonia Thursday horseback. Guess his sleigh must be out of commission.

Clifford Bergerson, Mrs. Wildman's son, who has been sick with pneumonia, is attending school once more. O. ye Oregonians, that have never enjoyed much sleighing in Oregon, get busy now while there is plenty of snow. Tom Troop went sleighing to Vernonia Thursday, bringing Mrs. Troop's mother home with him for a few days.

Parents' Day at the different schools in here was pretty well attended considering the condition of the weather. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin North, son Francis, and Miss Clark, spent a pleasant evening Sunday with Pete Bergerson and family.

Pete Bergerson's sons, Elmer and Percy, have been sick and missed school a few days, but are attending school at the present writing. A good many are round rustling hay. When will people learn that we have winters in Oregon and that harvest time is the time to rustle.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Troop and infant daughter with Mrs. Troop's mother, Mrs. Spencer, took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Rogers Friday. A. V. Mow went to Timber Saturday. Mrs. Mow and children went with him as far as her sister's, Mrs. Wildman's, where they spent a pleasant day.

Mrs. Dr. Cole was called to attend Mrs. Hults baby, Marvin, who is very sick and at Dr. Cole's advice they sent for Dr. Mumford of Banks, to consult with her. The automobiles have had to give it up and turn the mail carrying over to the sleighs; also the "Kid Auto" has had to let the kids ride in a sleigh. Well, everyone is enjoying it.

Plenty of snow here, about 25 inches at Kist and Pleasant Hill and about 40 inches at Timber, before the thaw Saturday and Sunday, but before it was half gone it turned colder and snowed from 12 to 14 inches of new snow. The sleighing has been excellent from Vernonia to Timber.

SCAPPOOSE

Miss Libbie Fowler made a shopping trip to Portland Monday. Ernest Johnson shipped a fine Holstein bull to Lostine, Ore., Monday. I. G. Wikstrom is moving his family to their cattle ranch a few miles from town.

Mr. Hiltz, Watts & Price's clerk, left for home Monday. Lloyd takes his place in the store. The blustering storm brought a fine baby boy to the home of Henry Newman last Tuesday night.

The man who rented the Dangerfield farm had the trees well pruned last fall and not a tree was destroyed. The Western Union had complete through service by Monday morning, and are now able to accept all business.

Mr. and Mrs. John Armstrong of Everett, Wash., visited a few days at the home of Mrs. Armstrong's brother, M. J. Butler. The heavy snow and ice is hard on the roofs of some of the buildings. Some of the weaker and more ancient ones are giving way.

The snow became so heavy on one of Burt West's barns that it caved the roof in and mashed the barn flat, killing one heifer, and Mr. West

saved five other heifers by digging them out. The West dancing pavilion, which was built last July, also was washed flat to the ground.

Frank L. Smith is anxiously awaiting the weather to permit shipping more cattle. The supply on hand in Portland is getting somewhat short.

Mr. and Mrs. Force of Vancouver, have been spending the stormy days with Mrs. Force's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Crowley, returning home on Monday.

A man living on a scow on the slough was found Monday morning with his leg broken below the knee, as a result of his roof caving in upon him about 3 o'clock Monday morning.

The recent storm was the worst we ever experienced. The financial loss is incalculable. Almost every telephone pole from Holbrook to Houlton, supporting about 40 wires, lays on the ground.

About 200 linemen of the several Telephone and Telegraph Companies are busy in and about Scappoose repairing their lines. Our rooms and lunch counters are about filled up these busy days.

Why is Geo. Grant's chimney at the livery stable like a stinky doughnut? Because there is not much left but the hole. A patch of snow went sliding down the side of the barn and took the chimney along slick and clean. No wonder George looks mad and smokes frantically nowadays.

Word was recently received telling of the death of Mrs. Joe Courth, who has been living near Spokane. Mrs. Courth was a sister of Mrs. R. Joy, and lived near Scappoose for a great many years before going to live near Spokane.

Mrs. M. D. Reid of Portland, writes that a broken electric wire fell on her house during the recent storm, and set fire to her house, doing a great deal of damage. They had good neighbors who took the family under shelter.

John Wattson boasts of the finest bobbed in the country. He had just purchased real Eastern bobs, bells and all, at the beginning of the snow storm and got full benefit of them. He took his sister, Mrs. B. Scott, to his home for Sunday dinner and they voted the sleighing as good as any in Ohio.

Everybody lost fruit trees. L. Brown lost a splendid English walnut tree from which he picked six bushels of walnuts last year. John Wattson lost the most of his splendid orchard. Dr. Blatchford says his orchard is ruined; trees of every variety are lying broken to the ground. He had hoped that the Spy trees would be spared, but finds them about ruined. Those lovely cherry trees are also split open and fallen. His loss can hardly be estimated.

There was a musicale in the Congregational church Sunday evening, consisting of the following numbers: Voluntary, Ardath Hagey; Praise Ye the Father, Chorus; solo, Mildred Grant; trio, Misses Hagey, Manny and Helen Watts; solo, Ruby Tipton; quartette, Some Blessed Day, Messrs. Niblock, Fowler, Hiltz and Smith; sermon (Our Thoughts); The Heavens are Telling (from the Creation); Chorus; voluntary, Ardath Hagey. Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a good attendance. Those present expressed appreciation to the extent of feeling so sorry for those unable to come out, that many wished the musicale repeated. We may look or rather hope for it being repeated soon.

THE O. & C. LAND GRANT LANDS This office is daily in receipt of a number of inquiries relative to the Oregon & California Railroad grant lands, asking information as to the status of these lands, their location, character, when they may be entered or purchased, etc., etc.

This circular is intended to reply to these letters of inquiry and to give out such information relative to these lands as may now be stated. A list of these lands by township and range has been prepared for each of the several counties within the Roseburg Land district, containing these lands. These lists are intended to give merely an approximate area of such lands in each township, based on the list of lands given in the decree of the federal court.

This list for any county or counties will be furnished on request. This office has no map for distribution, nor does it prepare blue prints, but will furnish township plats showing location of all vacant land and unsold railroad land, at \$1.00 per township. In ordering township plats, both the range and township number must be given, and remittance should be made by certified check or U. S. postal money order payable to R. R. Turner, receiver. Personal checks may not be received in payment.

This office is not in a position to give advice as to the character of the land in any locality, and can not attempt to advise any one in this regard. As to the disposition of these lands

nothing can be determined until congress shall act in the matter. It is probable that such action will be taken some time within the next six months, and until such action is had no information can be given by this office. We would suggest to parties interested to watch the daily papers, as whatever action congress may take will be given therein before this office has official information thereon to give out.

Based on the list of lands given in the decree of the court, the approximate acreage of unsold railroad lands in the several counties of this district, at the time the suit was instituted, was as follows: Lincoln, 1040; Benton, 27,716; Linn, 14,20; Lane, 300,110; Douglas, 607,360; Coos, 100,620; Curry, 8400; Josephine, 172,460; Jackson, 444,560; Klamath, 13,440; total, 1,690,326.

In addition to the above lands there are other railroad lands in several of the counties named, that at the time the suit was instituted were unsurveyed, and hence not included in the list given in the suit, but coming as well under the decree. The approximate areas of such lands are as follows: Coos, 15,000; Douglas, 65,000; Josephine, 17,000; Curry, 15,000; Jackson, 20,000.

There is still a certain amount of unsurveyed railroad lands in several of the counties, namely: Curry, Douglas and Josephine. These lands when surveyed will come under whatever plan of disposition congress may provide.

J. M. UPTON, Register. R. R. TURNER, Receiver U. S. Land Office, Roseburg, Ore.

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