

Build Your Strength

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FREE LANDS IN HARNEY

AL ROBERTS SAYS HOMES FOR MANY TO BE HAD.

Looks for Rush to the New Country This Spring.

"It is a great big country and a good country," said Al Roberts to an Observer reporter today when the Harney country was mentioned. "I do not believe," continued Mr. Roberts, "that anyone can conceive of the immensity of that region unless a visit has been paid to it. There are not many people in there as yet, but the railroad that is building through is bringing the man who will stay, as railroads always do. I consider it the only 'out west' left, for there is a chance to obtain government land that has merit and is about the only place I know of. I am located at Juntura, and while we haven't much of a town, we have a trading center for a vast area of country. Last year I bought wool there and it was surprising how far some of the wool was hauled that was offered for sale at Juntura. There is no longer any possible doubt about the railroad extending through the interior. It is at Riverside now and construction work is almost finished to what is known as the 'Gap' in Harney county. As soon as the trains run into the Gap the great Harney country is tapped and the building on to Burns will follow."

Mr. Roberts, who is well known in Eastern Oregon, having been a land office official here for some time, is here on court business. He is at the Sommer hotel and said he would gladly give anyone desirous of knowing more about the free lands of Harney all the information he could if they would call on him at the Sommer.

REGISTRATIONS ARE TARDY

STATE VOTING REQUIREMENTS SIMPLIFIED.

Urgent Appeal to Get Civil Requirement Attended to Made.

County Clerk Wright reports that the voters are very tardy in the matter of registering. It would seem that this would be exactly the favorable season of the year, when there is so little else in the way, for voters to attend to this matter. An attempt has

been made to simplify the registration requirements so that one registration will do unless the voter may change his residence and in that event it is fixed so that but little trouble is entailed in keeping up his qualifications as far as registration is concerned.

The fact remains that very few have registered and the time is still slipping onward toward the primary elections. And it is not going to be so easy for those who wait for time to cast their ballots until the last day in the afternoon. It is much better to have this matter attended to and out of the way and be in a position to go to the polls with a light heart and a clear conscience. It always does look a little sneaking for a voter to commence howling for his franchise the last minute when he has had months to attend to registering, and besides that he puts others to a lot of trouble.

To make registering as little a hardship as possible a deputy has charge of the books at the office of the Security Land and Savings company in the La Grande National bank building where any one qualified may register during the afternoon up to 6 o'clock, or registering may be done at any time during office hours at the office of the county clerk.

LUMBERMEN MEET.

(Continued From Page One)

Western Pine Manufacturer's association at Spokane to promote the reorganization of the association that is now proposed. His efforts were fruitful for the Eastern Oregon Producers' association ratified the movement and henceforth has a dual existence, as it were. Within a few weeks final reorganization will be accomplished, but even at this date, the Eastern Oregon Lumbermen are pledged to support the proposed change.

As the matter now stands, practically every Eastern Oregon mill is an individual member of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association which has headquarters in Spokane and embraces parts of Washington, Oregon, Montana and all of Idaho. But Eastern Oregon lumbermen were banded together in a separate organization without relations whatever to the bigger institution, in what is known as the Eastern Oregon Producers' association. By the new scheme, there are to be three units of the main association, and Eastern Oregon is one of these units. The association which met yesterday became the nucleus of this main parent. Therefore the Eastern Oregon Producers' association retains its identity being, but instead of existing as an association within itself and wholly unrelated to any other, it hereafter will be a subsidiary of the parent organization. This district is to have representation on chief committees of the big association, and furthermore will have a member on the board of governors for the whole institution. Therefore in all deliberations undertaken hereafter by the Western Pine concern, Eastern Oregon mills will have a voice.

In order to distribute territory properly, the Eastern Oregon territory embraced in the big association is enlarged. The two mills at Bend and the Boise-Payette concerns become part of this unit. Spokane and Northern Idaho is the second, and Montana forms the third.

Davis C. Eccles of the Oregon Lumber company at Baker was chosen as representative of this district, or unit, in the main board of governors, and, as such, becomes ex-officio chairman of the Oregon unit.

Future Is Indeed Bright.
Conditions in the lumber market today are such as to inspire the lumbermen who attended the meeting. The outlook is very bright and this condition is widespread for outside men who were present claim that this situation is reflected in all reports from the entire northwest.

The date of holding the next meeting has not been set, but at such a time business left unfinished yesterday will come up.

SAVE THE SHADE TREES.

La Grande, Feb. 10.—(To the Editor)—With the return of the warmer weather it is natural to think of the lawn, flowers and trees. I want to make a plea for the shade trees. It is profoundly disheartening to see the way in which so very many of the trees in our city have been butchered. The tops have been cut out from one to four times until they look like an African Kaffir on the war-path. The appearance of the trees in our city is not only ridiculous and pathetic but the custom of butchering them up in such a ruthless manner is altogether

unreasonable and without a single excuse.

In the first place the beauty of the tree is forever ruined, it will never grow into that graceful and becoming form and symmetry planned for it by Mother Nature; where one branch has been cut off there are several smaller ones growing out from the point of the cut branch making a clump of inferior limbs having the appearance of a bush not a graceful tree-branch. Let some one cut off twenty branches from one tree and then when each branch shoots five sprouts, what have we? A tree ruined, with a hundred small limbs growing straight up, devoid of any beauty or grace.

In the second place no tree will stand the windstorms so well after it has been crippled for life by some tree-butcher. Is it reasonable to suppose that a tree with a hundred little limbs growing straight up from the main branches which have been cut off, will have the resistance that a tree will have which has not been damaged by the saw or ax? Those twenty uncut branches are much stronger than the clumps growing from the stubs of limbs. I know well, that some trees need to be thinned a little and some limbs should have and deserve, but I am protesting against such a wholesale slaughter of the tops of the trees. Get an idea of how the town really looks by climbing one of the near mountains a little way and survey the whole town. The trees have been hacked and butchered until very few, comparatively, are higher than the houses. Ours is a beautiful city but our trees are not yet a contributing factor to such an impression. There are a few homes where the tree-butcher has been forbidden, the hope of the writer is that the number of such homes may rapidly increase. Where the trees have not been topped they are graceful, strong, able to resist the wind and afford some good shade when shade is needed. Under no circumstances should the city allow any corporation to cut the trees in running wires for commercial purposes. If there is not room above the trees let's see to it that the wires are put underground. It takes a long time to get a respectable shade tree and one that really adorns the street but it takes a mighty short time for someone to ruin it with an ax, saw or knife.

In the third place the trees that are sawed off and chopped up are not attractive to the birds. Have you not been impressed with the scarcity of song-birds in our city? Some birds demand bushes for nesting, some want buildings but many of the birds want real trees for nesting, limbs that are strong and tall—out of harm's way. How many nests have you seen in the many trees that have been butchered until they look like bushes rather than trees?

The custom of La Grande in topping the trees is nothing less than shameful and almost criminal. The trees around the Presbyterian church have been well-nigh ruined by topping. The same is true of many others. Let's preserve the trees not ruin them; let's provide for the birds not drive them away; let's care for our trees that they may be able to withstand the wind; let's protect the trees that they may become beautiful; let's save the trees. Away with the tree-butcher.

G. L. CLARK.

At the Savoy.

H. S. Coleman, Joseph; Mrs. J. W. Johnson, Enterprise; J. Jensen, E. H. Becker, Summerville; C. F. Oswald, J. W. Williamson, S. H. Fleener, Summerville; Fred Braidan, Perry and Ben Green, Vincent, Frank Thomas, W. F. Wade, Lostine; L. Lakin, Peter Freeman, F. E. Stubble, Milton C. Walsh, Elgin; J. F. Hunter, City; Chas. Bean, Enterprise; M. D. Boothe, Milton; C. B. Rigor, W. H. Glenn, Imbler.

At the Foley.

H. K. Mead, G. M. Conwell, J. D. Donnell, Horace Ades, F. H. Anderson, Portland; W. W. Griggs, J. W. Scully, Seattle; W. L. Lightman, Thos. E. Bowdish, Baker; J. Simmon, Chicago; G. D. Foster, Union; W. W. Green, Union; B. E. Anderson, Cove; L. F. Wright, Alcedo; Jack Fisher, Logan, Winfield, C. Merrill, H. Wilson, Joe Bush, Fred Clemett, Minam.

At the Sommer.

E. E. Wright, Baker; L. H. Dill, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. F. Geo. Stanley, J. P. Candler, St. Louis; Mrs. A. L. Clark, Baker; Biz Rode, La Grande; H. R. Spencer, Chicago; J. T. Wallace, J. V. Carey, Portland; J. A. Givens, Boise, F. E. Myers, Portland; M. Freiberg, Spokane; A. Kleney, L. B. Carter and wife, Cove.

Died Following Operation.

The remains of John W. Grant who died following an operation in Portland, arrived in La Grande this morning. The deceased is a son-in-law of Mrs. Penniwell of this city. Funeral arrangements have not yet been arranged.

Death of Mrs. J. K. Jones.

Mrs. J. K. Jones whose home is near Island City, died last night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Carlyle in North La Grande. She leaves a husband and several grown children, one of whom arrived from Portland this morning. The family lived for a number of years near Elgin. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

PENDLETON BEER SPILLED

Pendleton, Feb. 10.—Five hundred and thirty-five bottles of beer, and seventy-five bottles of whiskey, seized in a recent raid, were broken and poured into the gutters while a great crowd gathered this morning. Sheriff Taylor and deputies officiated.

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Ladies' Handkerchiefs 1c
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Quality Gingham 8 1-3c
American Calicos 5c
Ladies' Hose 10c
Fancy Hair Ribbons, a yard 19c
Crown Corsets 69c, 98c
Girls' Corsets 98c
Coats Crockett Thread 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 9c
San Silk, all colors 4c
Corticelli Silk Thread 6c

Men's work shirts 25c
Men's Work Sox 5c
Men's Canvass Gloves 5c
Men's Canvass Gloves, leather face 15c
Men's Canvass Gloves, blue wrist 10c
President Suspenders 19c
Boston Garters 10c
Dress Pants 98c, \$1.49, \$1.98, \$2.98
Covert Pants 98c
Moleskin Pants \$1.98
Khaki Pants 79c
Boys' Overalls 49c
Small Boys' Overalls 25c

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DO BETTER AT

THE UNITED STORE

83 BIG BUSY
STORES

J. C. PENNEY CO.

ANNUAL WATER REPORT FILED

TOTAL EXPENSES REACH \$36,000
FOR 1915.

Income Over \$25,000.00. Expenses
Include New Dam and Rim.

How the water department of the city maintained itself, and wrestled with \$20,000 to build the city dam at Beaver creek and nearly \$2000.00 to build a rim on the reservoir, during the year 1915 was set out to the city commission last evening at the mid-week meeting in the annual report of the water superintendent, L. M. Hoyt. Total receipts for the year were \$25,078.71 and general fund warrants received on water rent amounted to \$1,116.68, making a total cash received of \$25,962.03.

The expense accounts show the following items: salaries and labor, \$6,081.92; thawing out of frozen pipes \$616.49; building rim on reservoir, \$1848.41; Total paid on Beaver creek dam, \$20,252.49; cleaning septic tank, \$247.00; Repairing Beaver creek road, \$1188.53; Material purchased for use of system within the city, \$6629.25; Total expenses for the entire system during 1915, \$36,864.09.

This is offset by stock on hand to the amount of \$4448.12 which is practically enough to run the system for the next 12 months.

Among other matters to come before the commission was to listen to reports from the treasurer and recorder, allow bills and take up distribution of water coming out of Deal Canyon during the spring freshets. Part of this has been diverting into the gulch, part to I street and part down First street's new cement ditch. The city manager was instructed to employ men to take care of the water.

The matter of storing gasoline in firelimits came up for discussion and it is likely that a new ordinance will have to be drafted to cover the situation.

President Gardner and Commissioners McKennon and Palmer were present for the deliberations last evening.

Snow Brings Expense.

That the work of keeping the streets passable, or as nearly so as possible, cost money, is shown by the report of the manager for the week. Concerning these items the report says:

The street superintendent had two teams on 11 days or \$52.24. Extra teams and drivers, 32 1-2 days \$153.18. Shoveling snow including roof of City Hall \$117.50. Shoveling snow Sunday out of gutters and catch basins \$88.87. White wing \$5.00. Blacksmith 80 cents. Supplies \$19.00.

Will say that the teams were laid off this noon and all but two extra men are laid off tonight.

The fire team is also laid off tonight except on call.

The gutters are not all open yet. The grader was used for opening gutters. A few trips were taken in going to and from the places where work was needed. All told the cost of caring for walks and streets last week in the snow and this week for the water was \$570.00. Four or five sidewalk rigs were run over the walks three or four days. Then four and six horse teams kept the streets open until Sunday. Since then we spent about \$120.00 taking care of the water and making streets and cross walks passable.

Visit Postponed.

Owing to the bad condition of the Wallawa county roads Pastor B. M. Grandy, the Seven Day Adventist evangelist has postponed his visit to Wallawa county points.

He will remain in La Grande for a few days and will speak at the Adventist church on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, and Saturday at Eleven o'clock a. m.

The subjects are: Tuesday night "Signs of the Times."

Saturday night "The Remnant Church."

Sunday night "Christian Unity or Why so Many Churches?"

Saturday 11 a. m. "The Millrate moment of 1844, and Its Effect on Christendom."

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Securities Over \$7,000,000. Chas. E. Ladd, Pres.

Hoboes Find Snap.

De Kall, Ill.—Hoboes have struck a soft snap here. Besides being accommodated at the local jail on cold nights, the unconsumed delicacies from banquets are sent in to them.

Greek War in Court.

The case now on in Circuit court is that of George Kapellas vs. Frank

Chattas. Both litigants are natives of Greece.

In the case of Stevens vs. Williams the jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$225.

A verdict for defendant was found in the case of Decious vs. Faulk. The first case under the prohibition law, that of the State vs. Hamilton, is set for next Monday.

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To-night

Arcade