

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING RARE IN THE EARLY DAYS

One of the peculiar things noticeable by the early settlers of Grande Ronde was the absence of thunder and lightning and other electrical disturbances. While there was rainfall in the summer seasons there was not for many years such a thing as a clap of thunder heard nor a flash of lightning seen. This condition continued for many years in the earlier times and it was not until nearly 1880 that "thunder showers" became common.

Two Killed By Lightning
It was about 1880 that the first fatality from a thunderbolt in Union county occurred. The victim was a man named Boley and he lived in what was then called the Indian Valley country near Elgin. He was killed in a thunder storm on the Sandridge. On Sunday, July 3d, 1892 a man named C. G. Moore was instantly killed by lightning in La Grande. He was an employe of the brick yard at Oro Dell and was going to one of the houses in the northern part of town near the river on what was then called Fourth street.

Such casualties were rare all over the coast.

In the year of 1880 C. M. Pennington had a team of four horses which he was driving all killed by a thunderbolt while he escaped injury. That same summer four horses were killed in a pasture within forty rods of the courthouse at Union. Since that time there have been many animals killed and property burned by being struck by electric bolts during storms.

Twenty-Four Years Ago
(Clipped From Old Files)

The grocery firm of Miles and Hendricks has moved to Elgin.

H. M. Hassett, of La Grande; J. L. McKinnis, of Summerville; and B. W. Huffman, of Telocaset, were delegates from Union county to the Populist convention at Omaha. (This was the convention which gave to the country what afterwards became known as the "Omaha Platform." Among the declarations which were then considered vagaries have since become fundamental law in all or most of the states. The list includes graduated income tax—the Australian or secret ballot; initiative and referendum; and election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. Also postal savings banks.)

Ed. C. Moore, cashier in the railroad freight office at Pendleton, has been appointed agent for the Union Pacific at La Grande and arrived this week to enter on the duties of his new position.

L. R. Holmes, an old and respected pioneer resident of Union county,

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died at Enterprise in Wallowa county, early Sunday morning. He had arrived at that place on a business trip from his home in Cove but a few hours before and the fatigue of the trip no doubt had a great deal to do with hastening his death. (The deceased was the father of F. J. Holmes of La Grande; W. R. Holmes, of Enterprise; E. A. Holmes, of Wallowa; George Holmes, of Union county; and Mrs. Dr. McKennon, resident of Arkansas.)

Another pioneer of Union county who has passed to the silent majority is Grandpa Woodell, who died at his home near Summerville Tuesday morning at a very advanced age. (His surviving sons are J. A. "Doon" Woodell and James L. Woodell.)

RELIEF FOR WAR HORSES

Do horse owners in Union and Wallowa counties who, because of the far-reaching fame of the district, have realized fancy prices for their stock to war horse buyers, ever stop to ponder on what ultimately happens to the horses? Do they know that it has been deemed humane to establish bureaus of relief for war horses?

Just how many fine horses have gone forth to war without their own consent of course, from these two counties since hostilities began in Europe, is more or less of a nut to crack but carloads and even trainloads have been hauled out in one month—therefore the total for the two years must be startling. Is it very fanciful to think that a recently-organized bureau may be spending money to care for some of these very horses right now?

The Hon. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, under date of May 22, 1916, invited The American Humane association to prepare and organize a relief service for animals used in the United States army, which shall do for them what the American Red Cross is prepared to do for our soldiers in time of war. We quote a portion of Secretary Baker's letter as follows:

"All countries in time of war must depend to a large degree on the voluntary assistance of its citizens, and especially is this so in the case of the sick and wounded, both men and animals. Such voluntary assistance to be the greatest value in war, however, must be organized, trained and equipped in time of peace, as only in this way can full coordination be maintained between the regular and volunteer forces.

"The function of the American Red Cross is to assist the government in caring for the human sick and wounded in its armies. The American humane association could very well function in a similar manner in assisting the government in caring for the sick and wounded animals in its armies. Such assistance would be very greatly appreciated by the war department.

"It is believed that plans similar

in tenor to those of the Red Cross could be very advantageously adopted by your society for rendering organized aid to injured animals in time of war. If your society will undertake this work, the war department will be very glad to co-operate with you."

The present war has demonstrated most clearly the practical utilitarian and humane value of the special volunteer veterinary corps organized to look after sick or injured army horses and return them as quickly as possible to further service. All of the countries among the Allies have sought to secure the assistance of private organizations, specially equipped to supplement the work of their regular veterinary departments. These organizations are known by various names. In the English Army the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has charge of the work. In France and Italy other private organizations have been selected. None of these has been more efficient than the English society which is the only private organization recognized by the British army council, and authorized by the government to collect funds and work in direct cooperation with the regular army officers. Private contributions designed to assist the veterinary service in the English army must pass through the hands of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals before they can be accepted or expended.

To show to how large an extent this service has had the confidence of the English people and the army it is only necessary to point out that nearly \$300,000 have already been expended through it, with hundreds of requests still coming from the government and army officials, for which large sums of money are now being raised. At the last annual meeting of the Royal S. P. C. A. held in London, it was pointed out that through the funds collected by the society, two veterinary hospitals accommodating 1000 horses each, and another hospital accommodating 1,250 horses, had been erected in France. Temporary shelters for 500 horses have also been prepared. Accommodations were provided likewise for the officers and men having the hospitals and shelter in charge. Fifty horse ambulances have similarly been provided. Among the other things procured by the society were 20 corn crushers, with gasoline engines to work them; also two motor trucks and five motor horse ambulances, and hospital supplies in great quantities.

The various belligerents have been pleased to accept private volunteer aid because of its great value. The work has seemed naturally to fall to the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals because of their humanitarian interest and the fact that they were able to supply men specially trained for the proper care of sick and injured horses. Of course, all of this private volunteer work is done directly in cooperation with the governments concerned and is necessarily subject directly to the suggestion and orders of the various war departments. In order to secure a perfect coordination between the regular service and the volunteer service it is of the utmost importance that a work of this kind shall be carefully planned for in times of peace and organized along lines approved of by the heads of the army and veterinary departments. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to state that the work referred to has been of untold economic value. Up to April last it is stated that 150,000 horses had been treated in the hospitals of the Royal Society, out of which large number 105,000 animals had been returned as cured. Large numbers are still in the hospitals. With horses averaging over \$200 apiece, delivered on the battlefield, the work of these hospitals alone represents a saving to the government of approximately \$21,000,000. During the stress of war and the many pressing problems confronting the War Department, the majority of the wounded horses would have been killed rather than to have undertaken the elaborate work necessary to restore them to health and make them once more fit for service.

So much has been said about the use of motor trucks in transporting troops and supplies that sight is frequently lost of the fact that thousands upon thousands of horses are being used for transport purposes in the armies of the different countries in addition to the other horses which are necessary for the cavalry and the transportation of much of the artillery. The total number of horses which are employed in connection with the armies of the belligerents in Europe represent an enormous total. It is estimated that 2,500,000 horses are employed by the Allies alone. This number is divided approximately as follows: 800,000 for England, 600,000 for France, 300,000 for Italy and 800,000 for Russia. The central powers are also said to employ 1,500,000 horses. Nearly 700,000 horses and mules have already been purchased in the United States by the Allies. The total number of horses estimated to be employed in connection with the various European armies is not far from 4,000,000.

One of the lessons learned from the horse relief work in connection with the European war is that the volunteer service should be established long before war breaks out. In the case of the English government more than a year elapsed before the military authorities were brought to realize the vast economic saving which was bound to accrue through the acceptance of a relief work from a private volunteer agency. Many months elapsed with the other governments. The increased expense and delay which accompanied the late development of these organizations could have been avoided, doubtless completely, had they been started and organized in time of peace, so that a perfect system could have been created. Preparedness in the instances cited would have represented a much larger degree of humanity as well as a vastly better service.

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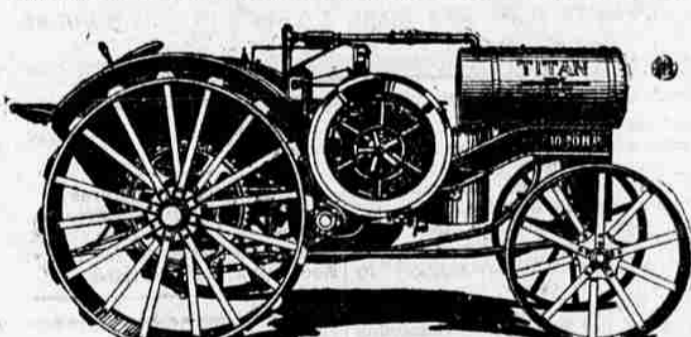
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