

IT CERTAINLY PAYS TO RAISE SUCH HOGS

The Good Prices Paid For Thoroughbred Stuff.

A short time ago the price of hogs dropped and about that time many of the farmers who were raising hogs sold out all they had and declared that it was impossible to make hog raising pay in this country.

There were other people who thought differently and they were as eager to buy these hogs as the owners were to sell and the result is the last named stand to make a nice margin of profit on their investment.

Of course the above has reference only to stock hogs. There is another line of hog raising that shows an even better margin, which was illustrated here Saturday when the De-foe herd of O. I. C. white was sold. These were well known prize winning animals and there was a large crowd present to secure some of the stock, but the most of it went to Tunny, the butcher who is going to raise hogs as a side issue.

Here are a few of the prices realized for this stock: sow and 12 pigs, \$70; sow and 5 pigs, \$55; sow and 10 pigs, \$57.50; sow, \$60; sow and 9 pigs, \$77.50; sow, \$69; sow, \$65; sow, \$65; sow, \$76; total for the nine \$625, an average of \$69.33 each. One 8 months old boar sold for \$80.

While at the sale Mr. Tunny booked the sale of eighteen of the young pigs at \$15 a head when two months old.

Surely the above prices do not need any comment as this sale was from stock well known in this section and it is only what can be done by any good hog man who is willing to take the time and trouble to look after the hogs, after securing good foundation stock.

IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN OUR CITY

David Wilson was here several days this week from Davenport and other Washington towns where he has interests.

The business situation shows a decided improvement, but is a long way from being normal yet. The people are beginning to realize that the business situation is good and the prospects all right, so they are loosening up a little and there is going to be some building done this year.

Davenport has been doing a little advertising and the results are notable, showing there is a large number of eastern people who are making changes in location.

Mr. Wilson is the owner of much Ontario property and stated that he was about ready to modernize all his Main street property by changing the fronts. The block where the Argus is located will have new pressed brick and steel fronts installed and made modern in every respect.

This improvement will make this the best block in the city and will no doubt bring renters here for all the store rooms when completed.

The plans have been drawn for this improvement and the work will start in the near future.

COL. DAVARAN HAS LOCATED A SALT MINE

Colonel Davaran, the Democrat solicitor, made a trip to Watson last week and located an epsom salt mine. Ed says there is a mountain of the stuff and it is practically pure. Many of his friends have been presented with samples and the verdict in almost every case is that it is genuine salts.

The Colonel expects to start work on the property on an extensive scale when the weather opens up and believes he has a proposition that will attract the attention of the mining world.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Aker entertained Mrs. S. Snyder, mother of Mrs. Aker and Mrs. H. Tallette, a sister, from Meridian this week.

SMOKE AND SOME FIRE YESTERDAY

The fire department was called out at 3:30 Wednesday morning by a fire in the basement of the Temple of Sweets.

The fire was discovered by an employe of the Moore hotel and when the firemen arrived it was found that the chemical could handle the situation.

The rafters are badly burned and the floor through in some places, and the smoke did plenty of damage in the store room, ruining all the stock.

The loss will be less than a thousand dollars and is covered by insurance.

W. H. Doolittle's office adjoins and would have been ruined if the firemen had turned water on.

The usual crowd of curious people assembled with red slippers and other adornments supposed to be for home use only, but there was little for their amusement.

FRANCISCO VILLA



Photo by American Press Association.

Francisco Villa, the Mexican bandit, who crossed the American border and attacked Columbus, N. M., killing seventeen Americans.

MASONS ENTERTAIN AT CARTER HOUSE

The Royal Arch Masons were honored with a visit from their Grand High Priest, G. C. Evans, on Monday evening and they are all enthusiastic over the talk made to them.

There was a banquet at the Carter after the regular meeting and many crisp talks were made. The hotel management received many nice compliments on the luncheon provided and the excellent service.

There was a crowd down from Vale.

WIDE MARGIN IN CLIMATE IN THIS COUNTY

Ferry Hayden, who lives on the Flat opposite Weiser, was here this week and reported that the snow had commenced to disappear from the points in his section and it will not be many weeks now when the farmers can commence their spring work.

E. F. Pratt, who has a farm on the Owyhee, near Big Bend, was here a few days ago to have a mouthful of teeth removed and reported that the farmers of his section are busy seeding and the roads are dusty.

These two men live less than forty miles apart, still there is a big difference in the climate at the two points. Mr. Pratt keeps a record and says there is usually a difference of at least ten degrees in the temperature between his place and Ontario. The winters are milder and the summers cooler.

A. E. Brown is here from the Barren valley section on business and visiting with relatives.

DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION, RURAL CREDIT BY AID OF THE STATE

Bills Covering This Much Needed Legislation to be Submitted to Voters.

A. W. Trow attended the conference held at Salem last week to get the matter of state aid for irrigation, drainage and farm loans properly before the people.

At present the state school fund, amounting to \$6,300,000, is being loaned to the farmers at an expense of one fifth of one per cent, and there are no losses. This is less than one fourth of the total money loaned on Oregon farms.

The state engineer, together with the government men, have estimated that there are 300,000 acres of land in the state that can be irrigated for \$40 an acre. It has also been estimated that there are 500,000 acres in the state that should be drained, where the cost will average ten dollars an acre.

It will be seen that the state needs for drainage irrigation and contributing expense \$35,000,000 and for farm loans about \$25,000,000, which is less than eight per cent of the assessed value of the state.

Bills will be prepared for the election, one covering the irrigation and drainage and the other the farm loans which will be presented to the people at the election this fall.

This will be a chance for rural credits and also to develop thousands

of acres throughout the state and reclaim other thousands of acres.

Arrangements will be made so these loans may be paid off in annual installments, which cover the interest and a part of the principal, covering a long period, so that the borrower will hardly miss the money.

Apparently there is little opposition to these measures as the business men realize that it means a world of development and that it insures good business conditions for the future. For the farmers it means everything. There are thousands of acres that will be improved with the cheap money, that cannot be touched with ten per cent money.

Australia, New Zealand, British Columbia, and other countries have tried out these plans and they have proven successful. They have loaned over \$62,000,000 and 45 per cent of this has been paid off and reloaned on the amortization plan. Loans are made of any amount from \$125 to \$15,000 to an individual.

The bills to be presented cover only two per cent of the state valuation or \$18,000,000. When this money is placed then bills may be prepared for the raising of further amounts as needed.

ONTARIO BUSINESS CONDITIONS GOOD

W. E. Lees made a business trip to the Twin Falls section last week and was much impressed with the way they are doing things in that section.

They have been carrying a number of large advertisements in Eastern papers and the results are apparent in the large number of new people coming in and taking hold of things.

The city of Twin Falls shows a substantial building boom, many fine store and residence buildings going up.

The people are all optimistic and are doing business with as much vim as the old boom days. They have had good crops there and have sold everything to good advantage so there is plenty of money available. The banks all show large deposits.

GET READY FOR THE SPRING CLEANING

A few of the merchants have had their store rooms brightened up with new paint and many others are contemplating improvements soon.

The Alexander Clothing Company has improved the appearance of their store room very much by some new paint and kalsomine.

The time has about arrived for the general cleaning of the streets, also the alleys and back yards.

It is also about time for gardening to start and there should be another special effort this spring to have trees and shrubs planted throughout the residence portion of the city. A few trees and bushes add much to the appearance of a home and this is especially true in this section, so remote from the timber.

Thousands of rose bushes and trees have been planted the last few years and there is still room for many more.

The large bunch of 2-year olds purchased last week by J. P. Smith and C. E. Emison are being fed near the Conover place. They are a fine looking lot and stood the trip over the snow in good shape.

The Tom Thumb wedding at the Methodist church Tuesday evening was well attended.

THE MAXWELL CAR GAINING IN FAVOR

L. G. Olsen has taken the agency for the Maxwell auto and is showing the local people what a good car it is and what an economical one to operate.

This year these people are making a better car than ever before, with all the modern improvements found in the higher priced cars and they have also reduced the price.

Some of their strong talking points are: Electric starter and lights, miles per set of tires; miles per gallon of gasoline; miles per quart of lubricating oil; lowest year in and year out repair bills.

Go around and have a ride, just to see how a really good car should ride.

STRAHORN BUSY IN THE INTERIOR

Mr. Wilson, who was here this week from Spokane, stated that he recently saw Mr. Strahorn, the railroad builder and that he was preparing to rush work on the roads to Central Oregon. Surveying parties are in the field and the work will be carried on this season from Bend and other points so that a connection can be made with the line building west from Vale at as early a date as possible.

There is a vast empire in the central part of the state to be opened up by the building of the Strahorn lines.

CONTRACTING FOR EMMETT PEACHES

James A. Coogan of Kansas City, Mo., and his Idaho representative, F. P. Gaines, arrived Monday to contract for Emmett fruit for the fruit marketing firm of James A. Coogan Co. This house wants 150 carloads of Emmett peaches in crates. Their canvas, Mr. Coogan stated yesterday, has been successful and they hope to be able to secure the quantity desired.—Index.

Dr. How was at the Fruitland Baby Contest last week.

SHORT LINE OFFICIAL VISITS AT ONTARIO

Superintendent Stevenson, of the Short Line, was here last week. He made a trip over the branch to look over the road. Near Brogan the high water was giving some trouble and there was some danger from the Bully creek waters.

Later he went to the line down the Snake from Huntington to make an inspection.

Mr. Stevenson said the traffic over the line at this time is good, owing to the Canal being closed, but railroad circles are much concerned over the labor situation, because the employes of all the roads of the United States have voted for a big increase in wages which may lead to a national strike as it is simply impossible for the roads to increase wages at this time and under present schedules.

No important improvements are scheduled for this section this year by the company.

GENERAL FUNSTON



General Funston, who will direct the American troops ordered across the Mexican border for the capture of Villa.

WORKING FOR UNIFORM ROAD BUILDING SYSTEM

State Engineer Lewis is trying to get a system established that will enable the counties to compare their road upkeep costs and the methods employed. This is certainly something that we should have had long ago. At present there is not even an opportunity for the several supervisors of the county to meet and compare notes. There is absolutely no system and the several counties are not working along same lines. If the local supervisors are instructed by the County Courts and compelled to adopt a system then the building of permanent roads can be started. The road money expended is generally thrown away, so far as the making of permanent improvements are concerned.

COMMERCIAL CLUB TO MEET MONDAY

The regular meeting of the Commercial Club will be held Monday evening in the Club rooms at the City Hall.

There is no especial business to come up, but several lesser subjects will be discussed.

Reports will be in on the establishing of a cannery here and the building of a wagon road to Grant county and on down the John Day river. This matter has been started by State Engineer Lewis who is making an investigation to get an estimate of the cost.

HARD TIMES

The Friday night dance last week was a great success both in pleasure and attendance. It was given by the ladies and was called a hard times affair, giving the people a chance to wear their old clothes. Some of the hats and dresses were of the styles worn many years ago, in fact so long ago that they are getting back to the same styles again.

SUMPTER VALLEY R.R. TO BUILD THIS WAY

Want to Reach Large Body of Good Timber.

Preliminary work toward the long talked of Sumpter Valley railroad branch to the Burns country, will be taken as soon as the going off of the snow makes railroad operation possible.

The first step will be the construction of 50 miles of railroad south from Dixie Summit.

D. C. Eccles, president of the railroad, was in the city Tuesday, and following his departure for Ogden, it developed that surveyors will be sent out to work from the top of the Dixie divide, to set stakes for the proposed extension, as soon as the ground is clear.

The date at which roadbed construction will commence, is uncertain, depending on the time of year at which the survey is finished, but the work will start within a few months.

The extension as it is now planned, aims primarily at one of the richest timber belts in Oregon, located 50 miles from Dixie Summit in the south east corner of Grant county, a part of the old Military Road Land Grant, alternate sections being held by the Balfour-Guthrie Co., of Portland, or by subsidiary concerns.

The timber is yellow pine, near the northern line of Malheur county, and will total one billion feet.

It is understood that the Oregon Lumber Co. will figure in the deal, in the way of securing cheap stumpage on the enormous pine tract.

Other developments in the general plan of extension will doubtless materialize later.—Baker Herald.

QUARTER MILLION OF IDLE DOLLARS HERE

On the 7th there was a call on the National banks for a statement of their condition and the First National of this city shows deposits of \$410,488.78. One year ago, the same date, the bank showed deposits of \$325,043.73, a gain of \$85,445.05.

At the Ontario National the same increase was shown, the figures being, for this year, deposits, \$325,317.65 and for one year ago \$246,683.05, a gain of \$78,634.60.

Total gain for the town of \$164,079.65.

There is another feature of the bank business that is worthy of study and that is the amount of cash reserve. The First National shows \$143,155.45 and the Ontario National \$108,845.05, a total for the two of \$252,000.50.

Why is there over a quarter of million dollars of idle money in this city when there are so many excellent opportunities for good investment?

When the owners of this money finally come to and realize that the period of business depression has passed and that it is again safe to invest money it will not be necessary to go outside of the home banks to get the money. If this money was made available at this time it would go a long way toward bringing back the old time swing to business.

SPECIAL FEATURES DUE AT DREAMLAND

Clyde Fitch's powerful drama "The Moth and the Flame" will be flashed on the screen at the Dreamland Theatre Saturday evening, March 18. The play presents with all the realism of life itself the dominant elements of that great stage success.

On Monday evening Theda Bara will star in "The Devil's Daughter," a modern society drama inspired by "La Gioconda."

Wednesday evening, March 22, Mary Pickford, the idol of the screen, will star in "Fanchon the Cricket." This old play is well known to theatre goers, but never before has the drama been presented as it will be next Wednesday.

Twelve new patterns of library tables.—Ontario Furniture Co.