

COMMISSION FIRMS CONTRACTS ARE BELIEVED TO CONTAIN JOKER

COMMISSION FIRMS ATTEMPTING TO "TIE-UP" FARMERS WITH IRON BOUND CONTRACT WHICH WILL PROVE RUINOUS IT IS BELIEVED

COMMISSION MEN SURE WINNERS

Commission Men Would Profit by Need of Ranchers for Capital and Foist Manifestly Unfair Contract Upon Them

Commission firms are already in the field attempting to secure control of the crop of potatoes to be raised in this section by ranchers through the means of a crop mortgage contract; and also by an alternate plan of a partnership agreement both of which are "rotten to the core."

Under either of these contracts the commission firm is playing the farmer as a "sure thing." It is a bunco game right and in spite of all the warnings of recent years, in spite of past experiences with similar commission firms' activities, some farmers are "falling for the commission men's game."

Several of these contracts have fallen into the hands of the County Farm Bureau, and the County agent and business men who have studied the contract are united in the opinion that it is most one-sided and unfair.

"If the farmers who are approached by any one of the several representatives of different concerns offering these contracts will only read them, and before signing them get advice, or even stop to study them, they will never commit themselves to such a deal," says County Agent L. R. Briethaupt.

"The Canyon County Farm Bureau keeps in close touch, has had a committee at work for months on plans for the organization of a co-operative marketing association to handle the early potatoes, and this committee has spent a large amount of time and money investigating various California organizations as well as sales and distributing agencies," continued Mr. Briethaupt.

"This committee is now drawing up suitable documents preliminary to undertaking the organization for active work. The plan contemplates a large organization to do business in Southern Idaho and Malheur county, Oregon on a strictly cooperative basis under the direct management of the growers, somewhat on the order of the egg marketing association and seed marketing association."

"It is unfortunate both for the farmers and the general business interests of the county, that financial conditions are such that farmers are almost compelled to accept any proposition offered them in order to secure seed, even though by so doing they destroy their power to organize for orderly marketing of their crop in a way to bring back the greatest return to the grower and help to establish a fair balance of trade in the county."

CARTER HOUSE SOLD

Mrs. Amos Roethler sold the Carter Hotel this week to Mrs. S. E. Loch and her son, C. O. Redd from Thompson Falls, Montana. Mrs. Loch and Mr. Redd were formerly in the hotel business in Colorado. Mrs. Roethler will remain in Ontario until school is out.

PIANO PUPILS ASSISTED BY VOCALIST AND READER PLEASE

A delightful recital was presented by the pupils of Miss Luella Callin, before a large crowd at the Masonic Temple last Saturday evening. The seventeen pupils furnished a progressive study in musical development for there were numbers from the beginners to the more advanced.

Assisting in the presentation of the program were Mrs. W. H. Harrison, vocalist; Miss Elinor Randall, violinist, and Miss Ruth Caboon, reader; all of whom delighted the audience with their numbers. The students who took part in the program were: Ruth Hunter, Margret Rasmussen, Robert Larson, Margaret Blackley, Alice Dorman, Max Taggart, Ruth Caboon, Teresa Young, Catherine Powers, Dorothy Lazon, Ethel Conway, Margaret Drane, Ruth Roberts, Crissie Graham and Cecelia Gallagher.

SLIGHT OPERATION

Harry Kennard came down from Vale Saturday accompanied by Dr. C. C. Burrows. Here they met Dr. Carl Bartlett of Baker who performed a slight operation upon Mr. Kennard, from which he is now convalescing.

The Monday Bridge met this week with Mrs. J. A. McFall.

Mrs. Ivan Oakes was hostess to the Tuesday bridge club.

The Wednesday Bridge Club met with Mrs. R. O. Payne.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rader entertained the Carnation Club Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Fortier will entertain the Imperial Club this evening.

Robert Graham the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Graham is ill with pneumonia.

DEEM CHANGE IN HANDLING PUBLIC RANGE DANGEROUS

After Forest Service Has Improved Range Opponents of Change See Effort to Control Stock Business—Would be Detriment to Malheur County

Rumors of an effort on the part of someone to take the administration of the forest reserve range rights from the department of agriculture in which they are now vested and transfer them to the department of the interior reached this section during the past week.

The possibility and the danger to the small stockmen of Malheur county contained in such a change is patent, for the appointees in the land offices are political office holders, and not regulated by the civil service as are men in the forest service.

Think what it might mean to the stockmen of this county if control of the public range and reserve rights passed into the hands of the land offices of Vale and Burns after the men who secured office under United States Senator Stanfield are in power?

Of course they might be absolutely impartial, but it would be hard to make the public believe this would be true, and anyway the danger that such a change has for the small stockmen makes it mighty bad business as well as politics, if nothing else.

If this change is made it places in politically controlled men the control of the entire stock business of this section. With the advent of the 640 acre homestead act the free range of a few years ago has disappeared. Practically the only open range left is that within the reserve, and upon their tenure of grazing rights the life of many small stockmen depends.

Before the change proposed can be made a bill will have to be passed in Congress and small stockmen are already taking note of the proposed innovation and are to oppose its passage.

BIG PRICES CERTAIN FOR 1922 WOOL CLIP

Boston Transcript Wool Page for Last Thursday Confirms Previous Statements Showing Shortage of Wool Stock

Malheur county wool men have every reason to be joyful over the prospects of good prices for their 1922 wool clip. Harry B. Cockrum who has been following the wool market carefully for weeks is very optimistic over the prospects of high prices in this section, and declares that the Boston reports continue to show a decrease in the stock of wool on hand in the United States and that thus, statistically wool is on a firm basis. The only danger seen now is that of too early contracting on the part of growers.

While no buyers have appeared in this section to buy wool on the sheep's backs, still with the buyers now completing the purchase of the Nevada and Utah flocks, in all probability wool buyers will soon be in evidence in this territory.

Transcripts Statement—Speaking of the wool situation as reflected in reports to Boston wool buyers, the Transcript of January 26 says:

Contracting Indicates Confidence—That the wool trade is far from down hearted is shown by a sudden expansion of contracting in the West. This has developed largely during the past week, considerable wool having been placed under contract. Practically all of this wool is in Utah and Nevada. Beginning, recently, at 19 and 21 cents in Nevada, as noted a week ago, the movement spread rapidly to Utah, where a big volume of wool has been secured by Eastern dealers, mainly from Boston. Top prices for the best fine and fine medium clips have been 25 to 27 cents, it is claimed, the clean cost for lots landed in Boston being estimated at 90 to 95 cents. Some leaders in the movements claim to have withdrawn after securing a good bit of wool. They say that the growers have become excited by the operations and are advancing prices faster than buyers care to follow.

The radical contrast with the situation of last year may be gathered from a comparison of prices. When the Jericho wools were offered at a seal-bid sale at the end of April, the best bid obtained was 16 7-8 cents. Now these or similar wools are being contracted, months ahead of shearing, at 25 to 27 cents. This movement makes it plain that the wool trade is in an exceedingly sensitive position. In spite of the experiences of the past two years, the speculative spirit still is strong, as shown by recent trading between dealers in this market and emphasized by the contracts mentioned above. Those who have been thinking they had taken away a good slice of the Boston wool trade may find that the fight has just begun.

T. M. Gough, publisher of the Parma Review, was a business visitor in Ontario last Monday.

FEDERAL AND STATE MEN AGREE ON MALHEUR LAKE

Long Pending Dispute Which Threatened Irrigation Development in Harney Valley Has Apparently Been Settled Amicably.

The following statement of the Malheur Lake controversy from the Burns Times-Herald will be of interest to many Malheur county citizens who have lands in the Harney Valley. Concerning the adjustment of the Malheur controversy the Times-Herald says:

Mrs. Sam Mothershead, Judge Hughes and A. R. Olsen arrived home Monday from Portland and Salem, where they joined William Hanley in conferring with the state officials and a representative of the Biological Survey of the government in discussing compromise plans for the settlement of a possible controversy over conflicting rights connected with the storing of the water of the streams flowing into Malheur lake and thus injure the bird reserve.

These men expressed satisfaction as a result of the conference and feel confident the controversy will be settled definitely, thus allowing the irrigation projects to proceed without interference and still preserve the bird refuge.

This difference threatened to delay matters in the development of this big country and it was confidently believed that it could be adjusted when the importance of the projects was once understood. People have no desire to destroy the bird refuge; they believe in it, but it is also imperative that this big agricultural section be not retarded because of it, therefore it was desired to have the matter adjusted immediately in order that nothing come up in the future that would lead to delay.

FROZEN IN DEATH BOY IS FOUND BY BROTHER

Eleven Year-old Skull Springs School Boy Evidently Lost Way and Dies of Exposure Monday Night—Brother Locates His Body

Passengers on the train arriving today from the interior brought the story of the death of George Gogle, 11 years old, who was frozen to death near the Skull Springs school house south of Harper on Cottonwood Monday night.

Although the details of the story as it reached here were varied and could not be confirmed accurately, it appears that the little chap left school Monday night before the teacher with whom he was staying at the Skull Springs ranch. He lost his way, and after a two days search the body was found by his brother, who, when the report that he was missing, started a search.

Where the body was found there was a circle in the snow, with a stick at its center showing that the little chap had made a brave struggle to keep warm until morning.

SHRINE CLUB GIVES PRETTY PARTY AT VALE ON TUESDAY

At Vale Tuesday evening the members of the Malheur county Shrine Club held a delightful gathering. It was a bridge party held at the Masonic Lodge rooms which were handsomely decorated. During the evening vocal solos were sung by Mrs. H. L. Peterson and Mrs. Edgar S. Fortner of Ontario, and Mrs. H. E. Young and Mrs. A. W. Reed of Vale. Honors at bridge were divided between Ontario and Vale with Mrs. W. H. Brooke, and Dr. C. C. Burrows returned high point winners.

CHARIVARIES POPULAR WITH YOUNG FOLKS ON OWYHEE

Two Couples of Newly Weds "Properly" Received by Friends—Fake Hold-ups Gives One Couple Delightful Scare—Other Owyhee News

Mr. and Mrs. Lu DeGoede returned Sunday from a two weeks honeymoon, spent in Baker City. They were met in Nyssa by Oral Hite. On their way home they were held up by a couple of masked men. For a moment terror reigned supreme, when a laugh from one of the bandits revealed his identity. Lynn Kyger and his accomplice, O. R. Hite, Mr. and Mrs. DeGoede were hilariously charivariated by the young people of the community. They will be at home to their friends on the Jack McConner ranch which they have rented in partnership with J. W. and Lynn Kyger.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schweitzer arrived home from Ontario Friday. The young folks of the neighborhood tendered them a charivari on the night of their return.

Andy Hansen returned home from Emmett Saturday and leaves Wednesday for Yuma, Arizona, where he will have charge of a mine.

S. D. Bigelow and daughter, Junita were Ontario visitors Tuesday.

BITTER LEGAL BATTLE BEING STAGED IN TRIAL OF NICHOLS FOR MURDER

FIFTY CHILDREN TO PRESENT PLAY FOR LIBRARY BENEFIT

Fifty children from the Ontario schools will take part in a costume play, to be given next Thursday evening at the Majestic Theatre. The Woman's Club are the sponsors, and the receipts will be used for the Library Benefit fund. Miss Ada Lee has been training the children for some time, and much interest is being taken in the event. Book characters and Mother Goose tales so dear to the hearts of the children, are to be presented. The entertainment will begin directly after the first serial.

NEW DRY CLEANING PLANT OPERATES FOR FIRST TIME

Modern Equipment in New Building at Ontario Laundry Gives Ontario Institution Not Exceeded In West so Far as Detail Is Concerned

The first consignment of fine fabrics as well as heavier wearing apparel to be dry-cleaned at the new dry cleaning plant of the Ontario Pressary, which is now a branch of the Ontario Laundry and Dry Cleaning Works, was finished Monday afternoon, and thus another forward step in an Ontario concern was recorded.

R. W. Jones, who purchased the Pressary and at once started to modernize the service and put it on a par with the laundry service which he established, now has a plant in which the city can take real pride. It is thoroughly equipped and located in a modern fire proof building.

No longer will it be necessary for any Ontario folk to send out of town for fancy dry-cleaning, for that service can be done as well at home. What a trade at home campaign can do for the milling industry was recently demonstrated in the case of the Ontario Flour Mill, and it can be duplicated in the dry cleaning field, and in others too. As the purchase of Ontario flour makes labor for Ontario people of the patronage of the Ontario dry cleaning works employ Ontario men and women, and at the dry cleaning works a start has been made for an institution which ultimately will employ a number of people, increase the pay roll of the city and otherwise help in the business battle.

LOCAL PERSONALS

Miss Barbara Castleman has been ill with bronchial pneumonia.

Mr. Leland Ready is visiting with her parents at Long Beach, Cal.

John Mathews left Wednesday for Medford Oregon where he expects to locate.

L. D. Frye and family of Emmett were week end visitors at the T. B. Fisher home.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Engle and Mrs. Bela Atherton visited at the Ed Berry home Friday afternoon.

Ted Kinsey and Bert Peterson were Ontario visitors Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Patton and Mrs. Walter Keller of Payette visited at the Harry Howe home Wednesday.

Mrs. J. A. Walters was an Ontario visitor Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Duan motored to Dead Ox Flat Friday evening to the meeting of the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Rae Parson and children returned to her home in Idaho after a few weeks visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Blanton.

Mrs. T. B. Fisher returned from Eugene Monday morning.

Robert Odell and son John were in from the ranch near Vale Thursday.

Mrs. Ben Rose spent Tuesday in Ontario as the guest of Mrs. Alice Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Engle spent Wednesday with L. M. Capron and wife.

The Ontario Girls Club met Tuesday at the home of Mrs. J. R. Blackaby and were entertained by Miss Mae Platt and Mrs. M. D. Thomas. Cards were enjoyed after which refreshments were served. A very pleasant evening was spent by about 35 of the members. The meeting next Tuesday evening will be held at the home of Mrs. D. M. Taggart.

R. C. Town who has been for the past two years connected with the Ford Garage here, resigned his position and this week has taken a position with the Universal Motor Co. of Fruitland, which is a new firm for the agency of Ford Cars. A new garage is being erected in Fruitland for their use.

John Shamberger of Washoe visited the Jacob Stroup home here on Wednesday. Mr. Shamberger recently came to this country from the oil fields in Kentucky, where he was in business.

Fred Sheets of Nyssa, was an Ontario visitor last Wednesday.

Acel Witbeck will leave this week for Eugene to look for a location.

M. Spaulding of Oregon Slope was a business visitor in Ontario Wednesday.

ALL DAY SKIRMISH STAGED OVER ADMISSION OF CONFESION SECURED AT JORDAN VALLEY FOLLOWING SHOOTING

ARMS SPECIALIST UNDER FIRE

Court Room Practically Filled With Jordan Valley Residents and Few From Other Sections—Touching Scenes Enacted at Trial

One of the hardest fought criminal trials in the annals of Malheur county is in progress at Vale and probably will not be completed until Friday or Saturday, when the jury will decide whether or not Arch Nichols is guilty of murdering Bill Hicks in the drunken row in a shack at Jordan Valley December 6.

Assisting District Attorney Robert D. Lytle in the prosecution of the case is Judge George E. Davis of Vale; while J. W. McCulloch of Ontario and Judge K. I. Perky of Boise are defending Nichols.

The trial started Monday afternoon, the jury being quickly secured. The contest between the attorneys started early over the admission of an alleged confession secured by District Attorney from Nichols. The defense counsel submitted Mr. Lytle to a most rigorous cross examination After an all day battle, followed by an evening session Wednesday, Judge Dalton Biggs presiding, admitted the confession.

Nichols Repudiates Confession—On the stand late today when the defense started its case, Nichols repudiated the confession and declared it was given under duress.

Touching Scene Enacted—Among the witnesses of the trial are four women, two each of whom are relatives of the dead man and the accused. At noon today when the court adjourned, Mrs. Jessie Hicks, Van Ricklin and his sister, Mrs. Parks, crossed the court room where they greeted the gray haired Mrs. Nichols, mother of the accused and her daughter.

Mrs. Van Sicklin embraced Mrs. Nichols and kissed her. This proved too much for the grief stricken woman. She broke down and sobbed on the shoulder of the younger woman, whose brother her son is accused of murdering.

Nichols, the defendant, is plainly under great stress and emotion. Nervously he is watching the course of the trial upon which his life is held in the balance.

Expert Under Fire

Today the first fireworks came when the State introduced J. C. Sellers, general superintendent of the Revelers International Secret Service, of Pocatello, Idaho. Mr. Sellers who claims to have been connected with the unravelling of evidence against the Centralia, I. W. W. and other famous cases, was on the stand before and after dinner; the last hour being graced by Attorney McCulloch. Mr. Sellers was introduced as an expert on fire arms and kindred matters.

The battle centered over the declaration of the witness that the bullet alleged to have been found in the lining of the coat Hicks wore when he was shot had the impress of the material of the lining of on its nose and that it was of the exact character as the bullets found in the chambers of Nichols' gun, and could not have been fired from Hicks' gun.

He also testified that there was no powder marks, nor further testimony to show that the bullet which killed Hicks was fired at a distance.

The theory that the defense in the opening statement of Mr. McCulloch, indicated it would advance, is that Hicks was killed by a bullet from his own gun during the struggle. The state apparently was advancing a defence of this line of reasoning, through Mr. Sellers, testimony concerning the absence of powder marks and burn, as well as the difference in the size of the bullets.

Titters Come From Crowd—Many times during the trial the sallies of counsel have brought titters from the crowd in the court room and these have brought raps for order from the bailiff.

After learning that the state had a firearms expert the defense countered and sent for R. E. Herrick, president of the rifle association of Boise, who will probably follow Mr. Sellers on the stand.

The Jury—The jury which is to determine the case is composed of L. Adam, Ontario; Guy Johnston, Ontario; J. O. Vines, Vale; E. T. Aker, Ontario; John McConnell, Nyssa; S. D. Goehert, Nyssa; J. W. Westfall, Vale; C. C. Bradley, Nyssa; P. L. Farber, Harper; Charles A. Johnson, Ontario, and E. E. Sizemore, Buelah.

Mrs. E. W. Howard has gone to Vale to stay at the Sanitarium for a time.

Little Bert Emison fell during a game on the school ground, Wednesday and broke his collar bone.

J. Bown and family are moving to Wilder this week where Mr. Brown has secured a ranch for the next year.