

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FOR BETTER ROADS

Linn County Spending Hundreds of Dollars in Uniform Work.

Albany—Some of the best road work in Oregon is being done on the roads of Linn county. The work is systematic and uniform throughout the entire county. Last spring the county court, in fixing apportionment of moneys for road purposes, offered as an additional inducement to build good roads that every district which by subscription should raise \$100 would be given \$100 by the county.

Many of the districts took advantage of this offer, and not content with raising \$100, doubled that amount, the county producing its proper proportion. As a result, more money has been spent improving the roads of Linn county this year than ever before, and the money has been spent to some purpose, because the work is uniform throughout the county.

One of the actions looking to good roads was the purchase of about a dozen reversible road scrapers, thus making 20 in all the county. The preceding county court put \$3,500 into a big steam road roller, which was not a success for roads in this county. This machine was traded to a scraper company for the 12 machines.

Wherever the land is white or clay-like, the roads have been rounded up and will not be graveled. They become compact and hard, and make the best roads in the county. Where the land is low, roads are rounded up with fine gravel.

Grass Outlook is Promising.

Sumpter—There is promise of an unusual grass yield this season on the Blue mountain ranges. Rainfall this spring has been far in excess of that of previous years, which, coupled with the warm weather that prevailed during the latter part of February and first of March, is accountable for this favorable condition. Cattle and sheepmen are elated over the grazing prospects, and expect to carry their stock well through the season of 1905 with little expense of feeding. The Blue mountain ranges are still covered with snow on the uplands, while the valleys are showing a good, healthy growth of grass. This ought to mean a continued supply of grazing land until the snow again comes late in the fall.

Telephone War On.

Albany—As a result of a petition to the Pacific States Telephone company, which was numerously signed by Linn county patrons of the company, a reduction has been made in the telephone rates between Albany and Sheds, Halsey, Brownsville, Lebanon, Seio, Crabtree and Jefferson, the principal towns of the county. The rate was reduced from 25 cents to 15 cents, and is good only for subscribers to the Pacific States system. This is considered by many as the beginning of the war between the independent telephone lines and the Pacific States lines in Linn county.

Blue Mountain Creamery.

Pendleton—The Blue Mountain creamery has commenced to receive cream from Umatilla county points in addition to that being shipped from the Grand Ronde valley. In a short time Charles Berkeley, who recently purchased a \$10,000 ranch on McKay creek, will commence milking 20 cows, increasing to 30 or 40 this winter. T. G. Halley will milk 22 cows on his Wild Horse ranch, and F. B. Clifton a number on his farm near this city. They are professional men of Pendleton and enthusiasts on dairying.

Do Combines Spread Weeds?

Pendleton—E. L. Smith, who sells combined harvesters, says that the report that the combines spread weeds in the fields is not a fact, as the tendency of those machines is to gather the seeds in sacks where they can be transported from the land and burned, if so desired. Mr. Smith says that the combines are taking the place of steam threshers in Umatilla county, there being nearly 200 in the county.

Y. M. C. A. is Formed.

Grants Pass—Through the assistance of Secretary Stone, of the state association, final work has been done in the organization of a Young Men's Christian association in this city. The association starts out with a membership of over 100. Many of the prominent business men are interested in the association, and plans are already under way toward the erection of a Y. M. C. A. building.

Loth to Lose Land Office.

Independence—B. C. Curry, attorney, of Oregon City, has been in the city circulating a petition against the removal of the United States land office from that place to Portland.

State School Fund Loans.

Salem—The state land board a few days ago approved applications in 22 instances for the loan of the interest upon the state school fund, aggregating \$31,950.

PURCHASE 40,000 SHEEP.

McCandlie & Burgess Will Ship 118 Carloads from Shaniko.

Kent—McCandlie & Burgess have purchased 40,000 sheep and expect to commence shipping them in a few days to Soda Springs for feeding for the market. Following are the bands they bought: Charles Hinton, Antelope, 1,000 head; McGreer, Antelope, 3,400; McGilvery, Antelope, 800; McCandlie, Antelope, 2,300; Charles Lavene, Antelope, 1,100; Brogan, Antelope, 1,100; Smith, Condon, 1,500; A. Stahl, Condon, 800; Tobey, Condon, 1,900; McIntyre, Condon, 550; Josh Hardy, Condon, 400; Barker, Condon, 2,100; Barker, & Fliter, Condon, 2,600; Reeder & Fisher, Shaniko, 1,300; A. C. France, Antone, 3,400; Parnhouse, Antone, 1,600; John Thornton, Antone, 1,600; Morrow & Keeney, Hay Creek, 4,100; McCain, Hay Creek, 600; Wurzeiler & Thompson, Prineville, 3,000; Col. Nye, Prineville, 1,800; C. W. Colly, Prineville, 1,150; J. E. Roberts, Prineville, 800; Jones Bros., Prineville, 500. Total, 39,400.

They will all be shipped from Shaniko as follows: May 23, 15 cars; May 25, 16 cars; May 28, 18 cars; May 31, 16 cars; June 2, 18 cars; June 5, 15 cars; June 8, 20 cars. Total, 118 cars.

CONTRACTS PRUNE CROP.

Union Fruitdrier Ties Up Cove and Union Farmers for Five Years.

Union—S. A. Lassalle, of Albany, Or., owner of the Union fruit drier, has just closed a five-year contract with the prune growers of Cove and Union, whereby he agrees to buy at \$10 per ton the entire prune crop of this section, estimated at 1,200 tons per year. To aid in handling this product, a new drier will be erected at Cove in time for this season's crop, and both plants will be run to their capacity for about 40 days during the drying season. Estimating the crop at 1,400 tons, the dried product will be 400 tons, weight being reduced two-thirds by the drying process. The market for prunes is found principally from Colorado eastward.

It will be seen that the running of these driers will mean a revenue each year to the growers of from \$10,000 to \$12,000, or about \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the total time under contract—a period of five years. A certainty of a market for prunes will stimulate their growth, and it is fair to presume that at the end of five years the yield may be even greater than present estimates indicate.

Game Laws are Violated.

Pendleton—Deputy Game Warden Joe Nolf has returned from a tour of inspection through Union county. He finds that in the mountain streams the game laws have been totally ignored and violated in every way. On Catherine creek, above Union, the sawmills have dumped their sawdust into the streams and have nearly ruined the fishing in that stream. In a ride of nine miles down the Grand Ronde river Mr. Nolf found 13 dams over which fish could not leap in the endeavor to go up stream.

On Malheur Project.

Pendleton—After a two days' session here, the board of consulting engineers of the reclamation service adjourned and left for Ontario, from which place the members will make a personal investigation of the land included in the Malheur project. According to D. C. Henny, one of the members of the board, practically all the attention of the board was given to the plans for the Malheur and Owyhee projects. The Umatilla project was not taken up at all, and will not be on this trip.

Charged with Stealing Mail Pouch.

Woodburn—One result of Government Inspector Butler's investigation of the theft of the registered mail pouch at Woodburn, on April 12, is the arrest of B. J. Kuper. He was arranged before Justice Overton on two charges. He gave \$1,000 bond for his appearance for preliminary hearing. At the time the mail pouch was stolen Kuper was Southern Pacific baggage-man at this point and carried the mail bags from the post office to the trains.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 84@85c per bushel; bluestem, 90@92c; valley, 85@90c.
Oats—No 1 white, \$28@29.00 per ton; gray \$28 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½¢ per dozen.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 18@20c.
Potatoes—Old, 75c@81; new, 2½¢@2½¢ per lb.
Apples—fancy, \$1.50@2.50 per box.
Strawberries, Oregon, 10@15c box.
Hops—Choice 1904, 23½¢@25c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 25@27c; Eastern Oregon, best, 17@20c, mohair choice, 31@32½¢ per pound

HAS NOT SOLD.

Klamath Canal Company Holds Out for Its Terms.

Washington, May 12.—Up to the present time the government has been unable to come to any satisfactory arrangement with the Klamath Canal company, whereby that corporation will relinquish its rights and holdings in the Klamath basin and withdraw in order that the government may undertake the construction of the Klamath irrigation project.

At a recent conference between officials of this company and the engineers of the Reclamation service, the company renewed its offer to sell out for \$250,000. This offer was rejected. The figure named is very much more than the property is worth. An estimate on the property and work done by the company places the actual value at not to exceed \$100,000, and it is the general opinion among government engineers and residents of the Klamath basin that a bonus of \$50,000 additional is more than ample inducement to the company to step aside. The latest advice received by the Reclamation service here is that the company is holding out for its own price, and will not consider an offer of \$150,000.

It may be set down as a fact that the government will not pay \$250,000, and it is by no means certain that Secretary Hitchcock will approve the purchase of this property at \$150,000, although the matter has never been presented to him, and will not be until an agreement is reached between the Reclamation service and the canal company. If, after a reasonable time, an amicable arrangement cannot be made, it is understood the government will acquire that property by condemnation proceedings.

DEAD NUMBER ONE HUNDRED.

Twice as Many Injured by Tornado at Snyder, Oklahoma.

Snyder, Okla., May 12.—Approximately 100 people were killed in the tornado which visited Snyder and vicinity, and as many more were injured.

The havoc wrought by the tornado is complete. Out of a town of 1,000 people not more than a score of houses are intact, while two-thirds of the buildings are totally wrecked.

The most pressing need is financial. Organization was perfected among the citizens today, and appeals sent out to leading cities of the territory asking for immediate assistance. In addition to the many injured who are being cared for at the hospital, many sustained lesser injuries and are incapacitated for the work of caring for those who are in need of assistance.

Hundreds of inquiries have been pouring in all day from relatives and friends of Snyder people in all parts of the country, severely taxing the capacity of the telegraph office. With the removal of the injured to other points, the strain upon the people of Snyder will be greatly reduced.

The property loss is variously estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000. Two hundred residences were demolished, and about half the business buildings are practically a total loss. The remainder are more or less damaged. The Hilton, the largest hotel in town, remains intact, and a portion of the building was used for an emergency hospital.

TIDAL WAVE ON LAKES.

Damages Chicago Docks and Floods Many Basements.

Chicago, May 12.—Rumors of a remarkable tidal wave along the west shore of Lake Michigan were received today. The wave seemed to be the highest at Kenosha and Racine, Wis., where a wall of water swept in, causing much damage and alarm along the docks. At Chicago the wave simply raised the stage of water and caused a very heavy current down the drainage canal. Boats navigated the river with the greatest difficulty as a result of the high current.

Weather conditions in Chicago this afternoon were such that a recurrence of the tidal wave along the west shore is anticipated. The rain during the last 12 hours has been almost unprecedented. Within a few hours the fire department answered 80 calls to pump out basements in various parts of the city.

Iron Mountain Group Sold.

Victoria, B. C., May 12.—The Iron Mountain group of 22 claims of hematite iron, on the west arm of Quatsino sound, has been purchased for \$75,000 by J. A. Moore and William Piggott, of Seattle, the latter being the head of the new rolling mill at West Seattle. The purchasers are in negotiation with prominent Eastern Canadian capitalists and contemplate the establishment of blast furnaces involving an initial expenditure of \$100,000, contiguous to the ore supply, and if successful will begin work at once.

Denies He Sold Russia Coal.

Paris, May 12.—The Marquis de Barthelemy, who with Count de Pourtales, operates the French concession at Kamranh bay, Annam, in the course of an interview today denies that his establishment furnished coal or provisions to the Russian squadron.

CANAL WILL CURE

Shipment by Panama Now Slow and Expensive.

REPORT SENT TO PRESIDENT

Rates by Government Railroad Must be Very Low to Offset Loss in Handling.

San Francisco, May 9.—A matter of great commercial importance to the Pacific coast is discussed in a report that has been prepared for the information of President Roosevelt, Secretary Taft, of the War department, and J. L. Bristow, a special commissioner appointed by President Roosevelt to visit this coast and acquire facts. The question refers to the utility of the Panama route for the movement of freight between San Francisco and the Atlantic states. The report was submitted to W. R. Wheeler, W. J. Dutton and Rufus P. Jennings. It was adopted by the trustees of the chamber of commerce and forwarded to Washington in printed form by the chamber.

The report says in part: "The present freight schedule via Panama is, apparently based on the overland railroad freight schedule, the charges of the former varying from 78 to 90 per cent, with an average of about 83 per cent of the latter; in other words, the differentials in favor of the Panama route, with its 30-day trip as compared with the transcontinental route with its 14-day trip, are so small that the shipper either east or west does not consider the saving sufficient to cover the risk of damage or breakage in the necessary several handlings of goods via Panama.

"Under government ownership of the Panama railroad and the sea route to New York from Colon, the only question to be considered would be whether the freight rates could be made sufficiently low to make the saving on transportation expense an object to the shipper and enough to offset the additional time required in transit."

GOOD MEN GO UP.

Forestry Service is Improved Under Civil Service Rules.

Washington, May 9.—Up to a few months ago the forestry service, including forest inspectors, forest superintendents, forest assistants and forest ranger, were outside the classified service, and the positions paying all the way from \$720 to \$2,000 a year were prey for influential politicians. As was to be expected, many incompetents were loaded onto the government, and there was much complaint because of the inefficiency of the forestry force.

December 17, 1904, the president brought the forestry under civil service protection; soon thereafter congress transferred forest reserves to the control of the department of Agriculture, and now Gifford Pinchot, chief of the forestry bureau, who is actually in charge, is inaugurating reforms which he believes will greatly improve the service in every way.

The Roosevelt idea of promoting good men is being applied, and the higher positions in the forestry service are hereafter to be filled by the promotion of competent men in the lower positions. In the new service the positions will be graded as follows: Forest supervisor, \$1,800 to \$2,500 a year; deputy forest supervisor, \$1,500 to \$1,700 a year; forest ranger, \$1,200 to \$1,400; deputy forest ranger, \$1,000 to \$1,100; assistant forest ranger, \$800 to \$900.

Persons who were in the forestry service on the date of the president's order were carried under civil service protection; hereafter all appointments will be made after examination of applicants and preference will be given to local men, selecting rangers and supervisors, when practicable, from the states in which they are to be employed.

Copper Found in Helena.

Butte, Mont., May 9.—A miner from Helena says rich copper ore was uncovered today within the limits of Helena. The lead of the red metal was found adjoining the Parsell lime quarry, on the east side of the town, the lead being worked by the Alberta Mining company. Sixteen inches of very rich ore is in the lead and the discovery created no little excitement. Some of the ore was "blistered" in a blacksmith's forge and the copper and silver were very distinguishable. The ore runs \$75.31 to the ton.

New Road to Pacific Coast.

New Orleans, May 9.—The Colorado Southern, New Orleans & Pacific railroad filed a charter here today to build a railroad from New Orleans to connect with the Colorado Southern and thence to the Pacific coast. The charter bears the names of local directors.

TWENTY-NINE ARE DEAD.

Marquette, Kansas, in Path of Tornado's Destructive Sweep.

Marquette, Kan., May 10.—Following a terrific rainstorm, a tornado from the south tore a path through the residence part of this town at midnight last night, destroying almost every house in its path and causing the death of 29 and injury to 44 persons, several of whom will die.

An unusually hot and oppressive afternoon, during which the atmosphere was loaded with electricity, was followed by a night peculiar for a deluge of rain. This continued until 11:55 p. m., when the tornado, which had formed about three miles south of town, spent its force among the best residences, dashing them into ruins, in which their occupants were entombed. It was gone in five minutes and continued to mark its path with devastation for many miles northward.

The people of the town were dependent entirely on their own resources, for all telegraph and telephone wires were down and only by sending out to neighboring towns was it possible to get help. Not until 8 o'clock in the morning did physicians begin to arrive from outside, and they set to work to care for the wounded.

When the missing in Marquette had been pretty thoroughly accounted for, the searchers directed their attention to the surrounding country. Soon half a dozen wagonloads of dead and injured had been brought to the town from the district adjoining it on the south.

Tonight order has been brought out of the chaos, and a relief committee has begun dispensing relief. Among the relief sent from nearby towns were 150 pupils from Bethany college, who acted as nurses.

TAFT'S PLAIN TALK.

Tells Railroad Men Rate Law Must Be Passed.

Washington, May 10.—Secretary Taft fairly took the breath of the 300 railway men, members of the International Railway congress, dining tonight as the guests of the American Railway association at the New Willard hotel, when, after being introduced as "the apostle from the Philippines," he emphatically declared that railway rate legislation must come; that, if the railway men of the country were wise, they would aid and not hinder it; that the sentiment of the country is such that failure of proper regulation meant a campaign on the subject that would do no good to the railroads.

Absolute silence reigned as Secretary Taft spoke his mind on the subject of rates. He was positively against government ownership, he said, believing that nothing so deleterious could come to the country as this solution of the question. "But," he continued, "you cannot run railroads as you would run private business. You must respond to the public demand. If there is danger of discrimination, then you must allow the establishment of some tribunal that will remedy that discrimination."

NEW GERMAN TREATY NEEDED.

Gonsul General Predicts Loss of Export Trade Otherwise.

Washington, May 10.—Gonsul General Mason, reporting to the State department upon the disastrous effect upon trade with Germany involved by the new German tariff law, which is to go into effect next March, urges "the preparation of a new and carefully drawn treaty of amity which will promote a normal and increased reciprocal trade while conserving and protecting the interests of both nations."

Mr. Mason says that it is his opinion Germany is sharply divided on the question whether the most favored nation clause of the German-American treaty will be allowed to continue after the new commercial treaties become effective. The commercial and industrial classes generally, he says, are opposed to a drastic policy which might lead to reprisals and increase the cost of bread.

The State department is daily receiving protests from large American business houses against the new German tariff rates, which they claim will destroy their German export trade.

Still in French Waters.

London, May 10.—There is no further news of the whereabouts of the fleets of Admirals Rostevsky and Nebogatoff and the dispatches wired from Paris to the effect that they have left French waters are not credited here. That they joined in French waters is certain and that they are still there is likewise a palpable fact. That they are to move northward may be so, but it is not because France demands it, but rather because the Russian commanders feel that the time has come to risk everything on a desperate move.

Shake-Up Among Gotham Police.

New York, May 10.—The most extensive shake-up in the New York police department in years took place today, when Commissioner McAdoo announced the retirement of two inspectors, ten captains and 45 sergeants on the ground of physical disability.