

Crook County Journal.

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RAILROAD NOTES.

Columbia Southern May Extend its Lines to

Crook County Points.

Irrigation Systems to be Put in Operation at an Early Day.

Now that the troubles that delayed the progress of the Columbia Southern Railroad have been settled, there is a pressing demand for the extension of its lines through the country in which surveys were made last year. The Columbia Southern projected two lines—one southward across the state to Lakeview, and the other up the John Day River to Prairie City. It was understood that plans had been made for the extensions when the dissensions arose that blocked all progress. Now the road halts at Shaniko, where substantial improvements have been made by the railroad company and others, and an important trade has grown up. But the people of the interior and merchants of Portland are pressing for transportation facilities far to the southward of Shaniko. Important development agencies are at work in that country, and they, too, are crying for a railroad.

The timber of the Deschutes Valley has all been secured by Minnesota and Wisconsin lumbermen. There is nearly 125,000 acres of this land, and it will yield 18,000 feet board measure to the acre, of fir and pine, or more than 2,200,000,000 feet of excellent lumber. Three extensive irrigation projects are on foot. A. V. Drake, a Wisconsin capitalist, has already invested about \$40,000 in the preliminary preparation for an irrigation system that will cover about 30,000 acres in the vicinity of Bend, 25 miles westward from Prineville. He left for the East this week to perfect his financial arrangements. The Oregon Irrigation Company, organized by C. C. Hutchinson, of San Francisco, has surveys made for irrigation system that will cover nearly 500,000 acres on the Deschutes bottom to the westward of Prineville. W. H. Moore, the Moro banker, has plans for irrigating some 400,000 acres to the southward of Bend, and C. M. Cartwright, of the Baldwin Sheep and Land Company, is preparing to irrigate a large tract west of the Deschutes. The completion of these enterprises will open a large and rich area of the state to general agriculture and afford a profitable business for the transportation lines that shall serve it. The forest land is easily cleared, and farms will immediately follow the removal of the timber.

North and east of Prineville there are promising oil prospects, and coal and asphalt have been discovered, though the prospects have not been pursued far enough to determine their value.

The development of that country will considerably change the character of its industries. The range stock business will retire, but it is not presumed that less live-stock will be kept there. Instead of the large herds and flocks roaming over the range almost at will,

each farmer will have his bunch of cattle or sheep, and the animals sold will be fat, not mere range stock that must be prepared elsewhere for the market. This will leave more money in the country. The closer working of the natural resources will be more profitable to all concerned.

The railroad company continues to make improvements at Shaniko, which is becoming an important shipping point. A wool baler is now being put up there, and it is expected that Shaniko will be one of the greatest primary wool markets in the state this season. The rail rate to The Dalles has been reduced to 30 cents per 100 pounds for wool, which will result in a great deal of the wool going to the railroad at Shaniko that has hitherto been teamed to The Dalles. The Columbia Southern now has a warehouse at Shaniko 300x100 feet, and it is adding an extension 150 feet long and two stories high. The company is also building a round house with four stalls, and repair shops for the road are being built there. A large number of settlers are going into that section, where land was never cultivated before, and they are expected to have a considerable wheat crop to ship from Shaniko in the fall. Those who are acquainted with the region say no other part of Oregon promises so rapid and so even development in the coming few years.—Oregonian.

A New Territory.

Capt. George W. Streater, of the "Lake Michigan District," is in Washington, seeking admission as a territorial delegate to Congress. Many years ago Capt. Streater was wrecked on a sandbar in Chicago harbor. As the vessel was about all he had in the world he decided to stay on the bar. After awhile the sand began to roll up around the vessel until an island was formed which now is said to contain 800 acres. The city of Chicago cast covetous eyes on this island and attempted to gain possession of it, first through the police and then through the court. It failed in both instances. The state of Illinois then attempted to gain possession of it and was likewise unsuccessful. Capt. Streater then organized his island into a territory which he calls the Lake Michigan District, and has organized a municipal and territorial government. At the late election McKinley received about three votes to Bryan's one, and Capt. Streater was elected territorial governor. He holds that his island is out the jurisdiction of the United States, and seeks admission into the Union by annexation, as in the case of Hawaii.—World's Events.

Strikes at Ashwood.

Hardly a day passes without a new strike being made in the district, and each day it becomes more evident that we have the richest camp in the state. The right kind of developed work is now being done to encourage capitalists to come in and invest, and when this is brought about, the district and the city of Ashwood will advance at an amazing rate, until a large city, surrounded by rich producing mines will take the place of our little city and partly developed resources.—Prospector.

OUR SCHOOLS.

Compare Very Favorably With Others.

Supt. Boegli Visits A Number of Them and Finds Them in a Flourishing Condition.

Superintendent Boegli returned Saturday from an extended trip visiting a portion the schools of the county. He first visited the Haystack school in district No. 10 which is under the supervision of prof. G. M. Paul who has thirty three pupils enrolled. The school shows good progress being made. From Haystack he crossed to the Sisters school in district No. 9, which is under the supervision of Dayton Elliott. This school has twenty four pupils enrolled all of whom are progressing nicely and the superintendent is well pleased with the status of the school. From Sisters to the Desert school house in district No. 45 was the next move. Here Miss Carrie Fee has eighteen pupils enrolled all of whom are showing a great deal of interest in their studies. The next move was from Sisters to the Combs flat school district No. 21, a distance of 47 miles. Here Miss Ada Foster is training the youthful idea in the way it should go. This is one of the smallest schools in the county at present; but the attendance in proportion to the enrollment is the largest as all the pupils enrolled were present. The scholarship and deportment in this school were found to be excellent. From Combs flat to Newsom creek a distance of 18 miles, was the next district visited. There the school is under the management of Mrs. J. P. Lyons who has a small school at present, but the attendance is good. This district usually has a very good enrollment for the winter term. A new school house will be built this summer. The district has lately sent its schoolhouse with the latest patent desks. All the above districts are well supplied with apparatus and all have libraries started. Taken altogether the schools of Crook county compare favorably with any portion of the state.

There are not so many spring terms this year as usual on account of the small apportionment in April.

The leader of a band of Yaqui Indians, who was captured a short time ago at Cuesta Alta by a detachment of Government troops, has been executed at Antejuda Mexico, by order of General Lorenzo Torres. Prior to his execution he was positively identified as "Apache Kid" by Alexander MacDonald, an American scout in the Government troops, who said he knew the "Kid" well in Arizona.

James X. Smith died at Mehama Oregon, at 2 p. m. Saturday, April 27, 1901; aged 84 years and 10 days, after a long illness, of la grippe. Deceased was one of Oregon's early settlers and leaves two children—Mrs. G. P. Terrel and Dr. E. Smith, of Portland, Oregon. The town of Mehama was named after his wife, Mehama Smith.

Mammoth Nugget.

The Blue Mountain Eagle is informed that a mammoth nugget has just been taken from the placer mine owned and operated on by Robt. Cannon, of Spanish Gulch, and W. H. Johnson & son, of John Day, down at the Mule gulch in the Spanish Gulch mineral belt. The nugget weighed about twenty-five pounds and while it contained considerable quartz, it was valued at \$2500. This is decidedly the largest nugget taken from the placer mines of Grant county since the early mining days when Bob Marshall had a \$10,000 nugget stolen from his mines in Vinson creek by a Chinaman.

This placer mine operated on Mule gulch by Messrs. Cannon and Johnson produced handsomely last season, and bids fair to do equally well again this season. They have a large supply of water and will be able to continue the operation of their mine until late in the fall. This property is decidedly one of the most productive placer mines being operated in interior Oregon at the present time.

War Rumors.

In an interview with a London Daily mail representative Wm T. Stead in speaking of the future history of England said: "The Boers are calculating upon England's becoming embroiled with Russia, or some other complication. If I am not mistaken, we are on the verge of a storm across the Atlantic that will rudely shatter our peaceful calculations. When the United States congress meets, the Clayton Bulwer treaty will be torn into shreds and thrown into our faces. We shall have to choose between fighting or eating humble pie." The first serious discussion of the possibility of such a war will do more to keep the Boers in the field than all the speeches of all the pro-Boers in existence.

Crow Canyon Items.

May 3, 1901.

Weather fine and crops looking well.

Josiah Williams, of upper Crow canyon, spent Friday and Saturday of last week in Prineville.

A. S. Collins visited the canyon on May 1.

Forest Quimby, of Lava, was in our vicinity the 2d.

Arthur Kelly was in town on business last week.

Sid Stearns has the material on the ground to replace his dam as soon as the river goes down so he can begin work.

Mrs. Stearns and children have moved from town to their ranch to spend vacation.

John Hambleton is in town at present after enjoying (?) an attack of the measles.

Art Kelley is confined to his room with measles. X. Y. Z.

George Brown and Will Munger, two workmen at the Morning Star mine in Mormon Basin, near the Malheur and Baker County line recently completed a shaft through the "webfoot bedrock" or hardpan in the old worked out placer diggings on Pine Creek, which empties into Burnt River below Bridgeport. They encountered a new bed of fine gravel prospecting 25 cents to \$250 per pan. A stampede has followed their discovery.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges, News Notes of the Week, Timely Topics.

About 12,000 bushels of wheat changed hands at Grass Valley last week at 45 cents a bushel.

G. P. Miller has been appointed Postmaster at McKinley, Or., vice Homer Shepard, resigned.

A dispatch from Amsterdam announces, that Mr. Kruger will leave for the United States at the commencement of June.

Monument boasts of a girl baseball nine. The girls get out and practice frequently, and will undoubtedly challenge somebody soon.

According to a ruling of the commissioner of the general land office, all mineral springs must hereafter be taken up as placer claims.

The next eclipse of the sun will occur on May 17th, on which date the great orb will be out of sight for six and one-half minutes—provided the day is clear.

The war stamp on bank checks goes out of existence on the first of July, having been abolished as a means of raising a war revenue. The last fiscal year shows that 350,000,000 checks passed through the banks, each bearing a two cent stamp, yielding a revenue of \$7,000,000 to the government.

A. V. R. Snyder, editor of the McMinnville Transcript, has been offered and accepted the position of deputy collector of customs at Wrangle, Alaska. The office was tendered him through Senator Mitchell. Mr. Snyder will leave for his field of labor about May 12th.

Horse rustlers with two cars of stolen horses are dodging the officers somewhere in the eastern portion of Malheur county. The Stockmen's Protective Association maintain a sharp surveillance throughout the territory. The thieves are well known to the officers.

Texas is shooting oil wells to entertain visiting New Yorkers. There was a time when Texans of a certain class were fond of entertaining themselves by shooting visitors whose feet were tender. But the old days of gleeful pastimes with six shooters have passed away forever.

Aguinaldo has been interviewed by a fully authorized American newspaper man, and says he should like to visit the United States. It is likely that Aguinaldo doesn't know a good thing. At present he is a star boarder with General McArthur, but if he comes to America he will find himself sharing public curiosity with Carrie Nation and other great persons. If Aguinaldo will take a tip, he will stay on at Manila. Distance lends enchantment to the view, and we should be sorry to lose the idea that he is a hero.