

Crook County Journal.

VOL. V.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, JUNE 27, 1901.

NO. 30.

ABOUT BADGERS.

Why They Should Not be Killed by Miners.

Badgers as Prospectors.

Bert W. Jones, State Auditor of Idaho, Relates His Experience With Them.

"When I was a member of the state legislature a wild animal bounty bill was killed because it carried a bounty on badgers." This expression from State Auditor Bert W. Jones caused his hearers to settle down in their chairs and prepare for a story. It came without delay.

"Badgers," said he, "are public benefactors, a truth recognized by every mining man and prospector. More good mines, and I might say more poor ones, have been discovered through the agency of badgers than any other. These animals are persistent burrowers. They are only satisfied when digging holes. They like best to dig where there is no water, but still where there is some moisture.

"In a granite country especially it is found that the ledge matter carries a certain amount of moisture, and in the main it is always quite cool. The badger revels under these conditions. He will dig and dig until he gets below the real hot marks on the surface of the earth, and then he'll fix up a home and call in his family. The old folks may be sedate enough—they usually are—but the kids are different. They scrape and scratch around the mouth of their little tunnel, continually disturbing the earth.

"One of the first discoveries of the Wood river section was through a badger. Two prospectors, after a hard days search for placer gold, camped beside a badger hole. After supper they sat about the camp fire smoking, when one noticed a badger appear for an instant at the mouth of the hole. The man investigated just for a little pass time but he soon became excited, for, as he attempted to peer down the hole, he noticed what to his practiced eye was instantly recognized as gold.

"Calling his partner, they both began a hurried examination. They found that the badger had burrowed down deep in a ledge of very rich quartz. Early the next morning they made their locations, and before night had a hole ten feet deep in the ledge, which was composed of soft material. The men made money from the start. That mine is today the Minnie Moore.

"There are many instances of like character. All old mining men know this peculiarity of the badger and usually take a sharp look about their holes. This knowledge was what caused rejection of the bill granting bounties on the scalps of badgers.—The mining men members of the legislature would not consent to anything tending to harm and exterminate their harmless little friends."—Boise Statesman.

Dr. V. Gesner returned to his home in San Jose, California, after a pleasant visit with his many friends in this community.

Philippine War Over.

A dispatch from Manila dated June 19 seems to indicate the close of the war on the islands. The dispatch is as follows:

Colonel Guivara, together with 80 men of Caillies' command, are now at Paganjan. Caillies entire force will surrender next Monday. A representative of Caillies' has telegraphed to Judge Taft, conveying his principal's compliments and announcing that Caillies will henceforth be friendly to the Administration.

The Third Artillery will sail for the United States tomorrow on the transport Indiana.

The United States Philippine Commission has modified the provision of the law providing for the use of the Spanish language in the courts for five years by permitting proceedings to be conducted in English and native dialects; the same to be translated into Spanish unless the litigants stipulate otherwise. If the latter case the records are to be written in both languages.

Scouring Mill Needed.

Prineville should have a scouring mill in order to handle all the wool that is produced in this county to the best advantage. Crook county produces a very large percentage of all the wool in eastern Oregon and should do the cleaning of it at home, in order to keep as much of the money at home as possible.

Pendleton has a scouring mill that is a wealth producer for that town as well as for the county at large and we see no reason why Prineville should not do as well.

Wool after being scoured can be handled much better not to speak of the great reduction in weight. Why not save the freight on the dirt that can be washed out of the wool?

As to power, that can be had at a reasonable cost, either water or steam. It will not be many years until the immense forces of the Deschutes will be harnessed and utilized for power to run all the machinery in this and other towns yet unknown.

We have the material and all else but the energy to put the wheels to turning in one of the finest scouring mills in the west. The harvest is ripe, but the reapers are few.

Net Waist Girl.

The girls this summer are to wear the net waist, a garment so gauzy and transparent that one can see every pulsation of their dear little hearts. One who has inspected these new-fangled waists turns himself loose as follows:

"The shirt-waist man and the net-waist girl go hand in hand today, and all the people year after year keep throwing their clothes away. The coat and vest we laid to rest and where is the fleecy shawl? And clothes get thinner and tawer—what will be the end of it all? Oh, what will the shirt-waist man take next from the things he has to wear? And what will the net waist girl throw off her shoulders now so bare? The shirt-waist man and net waist girl go rollicking down the way, Have we started a thread that is going to end in the old fig leaf some day? —Ex.

A PLEASANT TRIP

Sights and Scenes Along McKay Creek.

Its Crop Conditions.

Shady Dells and Finny Tribes. Fine Site For Storage Reservoir.

Saturday morning ye scribe and S. R. Slayton started on a trip to explore the shady dells on the headwaters of the classic McKay creek in search of such members of the finny tribes as had hid themselves away "far from the madding crowd" of farmers farther down the creek who keep the water in a turmoil.

Old Selim seemed to feel the importance of the journey and with head erect and nostrils distended he tore along at a clipping gait that would shame many of the fine haired city horses.

Scarcely a mile from town one is astonished to come out of the junipers into a lane on either side of which stretch away large fields of fine looking rye. These fields disprove any statement to the effect that the juniper hills will not produce anything in the way of cereals.

A section or more of land has been fenced up and is becoming well set with the native bunch grass, showing that if care were taken the country would again become seeded to that best of all range grasses, but we do not believe that it will ever become so well set as it was originally.

The cold weather this spring has left its mark on the growing crops all along the creek. Especially is it noticeable in the alfalfa fields which are very backward. In a few places the rye has been slightly damaged, but not to hurt the hay crop. One farmer is plowing under a pretty good stand of volunteer rye.

Most of the ranches along the creek have very good houses and other buildings on them, showing that the owners are in a flourishing condition, while on a few the buildings are going to ruin, the owners having made a fortune and retired from the active life on the farm to the more quiet one of a landed proprietor in the city.

Some six or eight miles out is one of the finest groves for picnic purposes one ever meets and it should be utilized for such, as it would be a fine drive and would become very popular with our people were it fixed up in good shape.

At the forks of the creek a lot of much needed road work is being done. A new bridge has been built and rock work and gravel approaches have been constructed.

About twelve miles up the creek we made camp and tried our luck with the festive trout, but there had been others there in such numbers that the fish were very particular as to whom they became intimately acquainted with, therefore our catch was a limited one.

However the scenery is simply grand, the canyon being scarcely a hundred yards in width and lined on either hand by gigantic cliffs two hundred feet. Here would be an ideal site for a storage reservoir where water could be stored suf-

ficient to irrigate many fine farms that are now waste land lying out on the common and ready to bring forth abundant crops if the water was put on them. In the course of time the general government may be prevailed upon to aid in constructing such a reservoir which would add no less than \$100,000 to the taxable property of Crook county.

Wheeler County Sheep Killed.

Last Sunday night unknown vandals to the number of 10 or 12 rode through a band of sheep belonging to Shown Bros., of Waldron, which were camped near where Rock creek empties into Crooked river in Crook county. As they rode, the lawless gang fired about 100 shots into the sheep, killing five and crippling many others. The herder, R. E. Scott, was awakened by the commotion, and saw the men ride away. Prior to the shooting, a warning notice had been pinned on the herder's tent.

The sheep were on government land, many miles from the so-called forbidden ground of the Beaver creek settlers, and the outrage has aroused great indignation among the sheepmen of central Wheeler county who summer their sheep in that vicinity. The sheepmen have no intention of taking their flocks away from there and are organizing to meet force with force, which they have a legal right to do.

It is probable the end of the affair is not yet.—Fossil Journal.

Crime Outlawed.

Circuit Judge J. W. Hamilton, the second district, who is holding court in Salem in the place of Judge Burnett, advised the grand jury that the statute of limitations has run against the crime of embezzlement committed by George W. Davis in failing to turn over \$31,000 of school funds, received by him as clerk of the state land board. The grand jury presented the facts to Judge Hamilton yesterday and asked for his opinion. This proceeding was taken under a statute which authorizes the grand jury to state the facts of a case, using fictitious names, so that the judge may advise them as to the law.

In passing upon the question, Judge Hamilton did not state whether the statute began to run from the time of the taking of the money or from the time the clerk went out of office, for in either event the crime would be outlawed. It is nearly six years since Davis went out of office, and the crime outlawed in three years. There will be no further proceedings of a criminal nature against Davis, for nothing would be accomplished thereby.

Crook County Mines.

Lakeview Examiner.

J. W. Maxwell visited some of the Crook county mines during his trip north and says that county will soon become a great mineral producer. The Ochoco mine, 28 miles southeast of Prineville, has a tunnel 1300 feet in the mountain and was recently bonded for \$100,000. Ores from the Ochoco assay from \$34 to \$74 per ton. The Silver King mine, 47 miles northeast of Prineville, has a shaft 450 feet down. The comparative value of the ores in gold, silver and copper is \$250 per ton. The works to operate these mines are all first class.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

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

Search is being made in the Rabbit creek section near Desolation Lake for the remains of John James, who disappeared last December, and who is supposed to have perished in the mountains.

In the National Editorial Association the law committee precipitated a warm debate by submitting a report in favor of excluding from the mails all newspapers that give premiums. Albert Tozier, of Portland, Or., was elected president. The next convention will be held at Hot Springs, Ark.

Claud R. Fountain, an Ashland boy, has won one of the scholarships in the Columbia University of New York. Young Fountain is 21 years of age and graduated from the Klamath Falls high school in 1896. This year he is a member of the graduating class of the University of Oregon, standing highest in mathematics in the University.

Fish Warden Van Dusen returned yesterday from a trip along the Des Chutes river, looking for available hatchery sites. He reports the river to be an excellent one for the desired purpose and a further inspection is being made by Expert F. C. Brown. It is quite probable that racks will be built on the river and hatchery operations commenced in the early fall.—Astorian.

Theory that there is only one mine in the Trout Creek Mining District, is fast becoming disproved. There are several more claims now being developed that are showing up minerals and ore that cannot be other than rich propositions. It needs only a visit to the camp to prove this fact and that the one mine theory is a myth.—Ashwood Prospector.

Chas. White of Paper Sack has sold to Jas. Wright of Yakima the 2400 head of 2-year-old wethers he was about to ship to Chicago. The price is \$2.90 per 100 lbs., delivered and weighed at Heppner June 25. The sheep, which were sold to Mr. White by Rettie & Patterson last fall, are in splendid condition, and will average over 100 lbs. per head. The sale is considered a good one by sheepmen.—Fossil Journal.

S. A. Heilner of Baker City sold all of his wool on the 7th inst, which he bought last year and this, over 500 sacks or about 175,000 pounds at figures averaging 94 cents per pound. This is said to be the largest single sale of wool ever made in Eastern Oregon. This deal breaks the proposed woolgrowers' combine, which it was proposed to form at a meeting of the growers of Eastern Oregon to be held at Baker City early in July. Mr. Heilner, being the largest holder of wool in that section, his participation was necessary to make the combine successful. The wool was sold to Eastern dealers.