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TO DEVELOP LAND

Oregon Soil as Good as That of Idaho.

What Irrigation Will Do

Geological Survey Calls Attention to the Vast Extent in Oregon.

One of the members of the United States Geological Survey recently called attention to a striking contrast in the development of the country lying on each side of the boundary line between Oregon and Idaho. In Southwestern Idaho, near Boise City and the state line there is a considerable section well developed by irrigation. Owing to the combined advantages of the rich character of soil, the favorable conditions of the climate, and irrigation, this district contains some of the best fruit growing country in the world. Just on the other side of the state line in Oregon along the Malheur and Owyee river exactly the same conditions exist, rivers, soil and climate, with the exception of the application of water to the land by irrigation, the vital condition. In consequence this section, though but a few miles distant from the other, and just as capable of high development, is a desert country. Here is the whole important question of irrigation in the arid west in a nutshell, with its homes, farms and industry; without it, a desert.

Experienced irrigators of the arid lands of the West say that where the character of the soil is loose and sandy, as it is in many parts of the central valley of California and often elsewhere in the West, it drinks up water put upon it in a most astonishing way. Thousands and thousands of gallons are run over it and quickly absorbed by the thirsty soil when irrigation is first begun, and this may be continued for two or three years if the soil is deep. After several years of continuous soaking, however, during which time the ground has taken in great quantities of water, it reaches a condition approaching saturation, when it no longer needs more to make it suitable for crops, and the question may even become one of getting rid of the surplus. It is a well-known fact that the country where Fresno, in Southern California, stands today, was originally a desert arid waste where sheep had to scramble for a living in a good year, and frequently starved to in a dry one. Today there are thousands of acres of land under cultivation there, and the problem is no longer one of irrigation, but of drainage; and there is being now seriously agitated in the San Joaquin Valley the question of the construction of a great drainage canal to drain off the irrigating water. In the city of Tulare, when the white people first went there, water could not be found in wells at depths less than 75 to 100 feet below the surface of the ground. Today it is impossible to pump a well dry; it is even difficult to pump it down a foot; 10 or 15 feet below the surface the country seems to have become a great sponge. The reason for this rather

surprising result of irrigation is that water introduced upon a given tract sink into the soil, and in the course of years widely overflow its boundary, thoroughly moistens the adjoining lands and completely changes the character of the whole section. The significance of this result is that though the first investments in irrigating plants give returns for but a limited area, in the course of years the same plants will have opened up for occupation and cultivation a much larger area than was originally intended. This view of the matter is interesting and suggestive of the possibilities of present irrigated lands in the next generation. Data concerning the conditions are being brought together by the Geological Survey as part of its investigation of the extent to which arid lands can be redeemed.

Geo. B. HOLLISTER, Resident Hydrographer, U. S. Geological Survey, Rutherford, N. J.

Sentence Commuted.

The state Board of Pardon at Boise, Idaho, July 15, unanimously decided to commute the sentence of "Diamondfield Jack" Davis to imprisonment for life. Davis was under sentence to hang Wednesday for the murder of two sheepmen in Cassia county, February, 1886. The case is one of the most celebrated in the history of the West, and has been before all the tribunals in regular order from the district court of Cassia county to the supreme court of the United States. Davis was convicted in April, 1897, and sentenced to be hanged. In 1898, when the case was before the Board of Pardons, J. E. Bower and Jeff Grey confessed to having committed the crime saying it was done in self defence. Upon the theory that they were telling the truth, Davis' attorneys struggled hard for the pardon of their client. Gray was tried for the crime and acquitted. The great Sparks-Herold Cattle company has backed the defense throughout.

Wallowa County Shaken.

Mrs. D. P. McDaniel, who returned from Wallowa county Tuesday, where she had been visiting her son, Hon. Chas. T. McDaniel, reports that, that county was visited by an earthquake between three and four o'clock on the morning of Monday, July 1st.

This was such an unusual and unexpected occurrence that the people scarcely realized the cause of the earth's nervousness until the trouble was over. The beds in which people were sleeping slid from one part of the room to another as the earth rocked to and fro, blinds were thrown from their places on the windows in various parts of the county and many other minor and similar occurrences took place. The shock lasted for a few minutes, then all was quiet again. No damage worthy of mention resulted.

This is the second time that a shock has been noticed in Eastern Oregon since the advent of the white man. The other occurred in 1876 when a slight shock was felt throughout this section, but no damage resulted in either case.—Union Republican.

AFTER FOSSILS.

The John Day Valley to be Explored.

The Professors at Work.

Scientific Men Head the Party Which Will Visit That Country.

What mysteries the exploration of the fossil beds of the John Day valley may solve this summer is a question. Certain it is that the result of these explorations will be awaited with interest by geologists, anthropologists and scientific men in general all over the world. Upon the pages of these fossil beds there is written history that has an important bearing upon many theories that now obtain relative to the earliest types of animals and the primitive man in Eastern Oregon.

The fossil book is this year to be opened and perused by no less eminent scientists than Dr. John C. Merriam, of the University of California, and Prof. T. H. Knowlton, of the United States geological survey. Dr. Merriam arrived in Portland on the 3d, and left at once for The Dalles, where he expected to be joined by Prof. Knowlton, and from there proceed, without delay, for the John Day country. This will be Prof. Knowlton's first trip to this section. Dr. Merriam has visited the John Day fossil beds before, and his interest in them is growing.

While Prof. Knowlton is especially interested in the leaves of fossil plants in which branch of scientific research he is an enthusiast, Dr. Merriam will look for larger game. Dr. Merriam expects to find early forms of the horse and mastodon, deer, camel, elephant, cattle, boar and man.

The exploration party will be in the John Day country about six weeks.—Grant County News.

Another Killing.

Early Sunday morning a telephone message came to town for the doctor saying that Emmett Eagan had been shot by Andy Lytle. The shooting occurred at Durham's sawmill, near Ashwood. Dr. Belknap went over, but found on arriving there that the wound was mortal and that the wounded man had but a few hours to live. He died early Monday morning, and was buried Tuesday in the Haystack cemetery. We have been unable to hear the report of the coroners jury. A preliminary examination will probably be held here the latter part of the week. Many conflicting reports are in circulation regarding the events that led up to the shooting. Lytle started for Prineville immediately after the shooting and gave himself up to the sheriff and is now in jail. Lytle alleges attempted rape of his wife by Eagan as the motive leading up to the killing.

Rev. Grannis, of Portland, Oregon, will deliver a public lecture in the interests of the United Artisans at the Methodist church in Prineville next Monday evening. The public generally are cordially invited to attend. All members of the order are requested to meet at the hall at 6:30, Monday evening.

"Portland's Opportunity."

The Oregonian published a well written editorial under the above caption a few days ago and among other things says; "The visitor who will come to our 1905 fair will be delighted to see carpets from Philadelphia, cottons from Fali river, sewing machines from New York and electrical appliances from Chicago, but what he will look for most of all will be the products and manufactures of the Pacific States and of Siberia, China, Japan, the Phillipines, Hawaii and Siam etc: and further on the multitudes which will be attracted to the fair and the money they will spend, added to the disbursements of state and private exhibitors, are of deep significance to Portland.

Having carefully read all that has been published for several months past in the Oregonian and of the action taken and expressions given by the governors, representatives, organizations, newspapers, and municipalities, favoring the Lewis & Clark Exposition to be held in 1905, no mention is made of the rates of fare to and from Portland. The railroads are all as quiet as the Sphinx, and are trusting no questions will be asked them as to transportation until matters shall have so far advanced and the managers so far implicated that no backward step can be taken and the fair managers are completely at their mercy, as it were, when rates of fare will be made to suit the railroads, and not the success of the fair, or they would have come forward long ere this and contributed towards the success of the fair by giving rates or expressions that the public could depend upon when the time for action arrived. Who will make up the 'multitudes that will be attracted to the fair' if the railroads make a prohibitory rate?

It seems to me that this matter of transportation is of the very first importance and should be designated and advertised now, taking as an example the rates from this coast to the Pan-American at Buffalo. It takes a round \$100 to make the bare trip which is a perfectly absurd figure. \$40 would have been ample and trains going east would have gone well filled over every route instead of as present frequently scarcely a baker's dozen. The fair managers should exact a promise of a rate of at the very most \$30 from Chicago, and all Mississippi river points and between, including the Rocky mountain district, to Portland and return, good for at least 90 days. This would give visitors an opportunity to visit the fair as well as examine the great Pacific Northwest, which the design of the fair is to advertise as well as commemorate the events of Lewis and Clarke.

Lewis and Clarke managers! Lay your foundations and lay them well. Look after the railroads first, as the combinations are such now that an answer from the one will be the answer from all. Let the people know the rates so arrangements can be made with their friends in the east to prepare to come to this not only one of the greatest fairs but to this the best part of these United States.

ANXIOTS.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

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

Quartzburg is doing more development work than at any time in its history and another year ought to place it among the best and biggest camps in the Blue mountains.—Prairie City Miner.

The report of Superintendent Lee, of the Oregon state penitentiary, for the quarter ending June 30, shows a daily average enrollment of 294 convicts. The payroll for the quarter amounted to \$4490.63, and the expenditures for subsistence \$789.66, or a total of \$5280.29.

A St. Joseph, Mo., attorney claims to have received a \$250 fee owed to him for several years from Pat Crowe, sent him from Johannesburg, South Africa. If the lawyer really got his fee thus unexpectedly he is a mean man to give away Pat's address.

Lester Wright, a brakeman on the Lebanon branch of the S. P., died in Portland, July 14, 1901. Deceased was a son of W. T. Wright, of the First National Bank of Roseburg; a member of the B. of R. T. and the U. B. of R. E., and was one of the most popular employees of the S. P.

Harry E. Eggerton, arrested on a charge of perjury, in disposing of twenty-three scalps in Eugene, Thursday, was given a preliminary examination before Justice Wintermeir yesterday afternoon and bound over to the circuit court in the sum of \$200 in default of which he will languish in jail until court convenes.

The secret service agents of the United States have the biggest job yet on their hands in ascertaining who took the \$30,000 out of the mint at San Francisco. That mint was considered one of the most closely guarded and securest depositories for money in the world, and yet some one walked away with the \$30,000 in gold, and the most discreet secret service men in the employ of the government are unable to find even a clue as to who took it or when it was taken.

The head of the family will now please step up and buy new sets of school books throughout, in response to the cry for a change. The text book choosers did their work quickly and just about as the people wanted it done. Now that they have the opportunity to reflect that the change will cost about \$140,000, the people may conclude that they were too hasty in demanding a new deal. The writer has no love for the American Book Co., or its methods and sincerely hopes that the change in text books may be worth the heavy burden it levies upon the people.