

Crook County Journal.

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HOME ENTERPRISE

Deschutes Reclamation-Irrigation Co.

Work Is Progressing

It is the first to get water on the so called desert of the Deschutes country

B. C. Low came in from Deschutes the first of the week and informed a JOURNAL representative that work was progressing very satisfactorily on the ditch of the Deschutes Reclamation & Irrigation Company. They have it almost completed, there remaining about one mile yet to build, and as it is all down hill and no rocks it will be a comparatively easy matter from now on. This ditch is an all-home concern and is the first on a series of canals that are contemplated, to get water on the desert. There are eight stockholders and each one has a quarter section of land that he intends reclaiming, besides they have filed an application to take an additional quarter section each under the Carey act. Mr. Low stated that while they were at work that the water was turned into one of the numerous little dry lakes that are to be found in that part of the county, and while they were making an outlet to continue the ditch the water suddenly began to disappear. He went to the side of the lake, which covered about an acre of ground, to where the water was sinking and while watching it to discover the outlet there was an explosion near him and a "chemise" bush and several yards of earth were shot into the air several feet above the water, which at that place was several feet deep. This diversion caused Mr. Low to get out of the way for fear that a greater amount of soil should blow up and make it disagreeable for those in the near proximity. These explosions may be looked for with a great deal of regularity when the water is first turned onto the desert as the whole country is full of underground caves which will fill up with water and as the water rushes in, the air that is confined in the caves will be compressed until it will be forced up through the intervening soil with more or less force, but when the soil is once saturated there will be no more of these upheavals. The soil is very productive where it has been irrigated and in a few more years we will see some of the finest farms on the desert of any part of the state.

Keating Has Compromised.

Jessie M. Stilson has settled with Jack Keating and the long-expected \$20,000-damage suit was quietly dismissed this morning in the State Circuit Court, instead of coming to trial, much to the disgust of the lovers of sensationalism who were gathered in large numbers. While the attorneys refused to speak in regard to the terms of the settlement, authentic information has been secured to the effect that Keating paid Miss Stilson \$5000 on conditions that the suit be dismissed.

George W. Joseph, representing

Miss Stilson, stated that he felt satisfied he could have secured a larger award from the jury than he received by the compromise, he was satisfied to settle the matter out of court. He also said that Mr. Keating has paid over the sum of money agreed upon, and that all dealings between the two are settled. The love letters have been exchanged, and the papers in the case have been withdrawn from court.

Keating, who as Lynn Udall, has written many popular songs, from which he has received considerable money, was sued several months ago by Miss Stilson for breach of promise, the damages being fixed at \$20,000. Sensational charges were made by both parties but until yesterday there was no plan of compromise. Keating, through his attorneys, had steadfastly refused to make any offer to Miss Stilson, but an agreement was reached yesterday.

George Joseph and Chamberlain and Thomas, who appeared as attorneys for Keating, had a conference at which the details were arranged. As has been stated, it can be stated on good authority that Miss Stilson receives \$5000. This is considered a good settlement on the part of her attorney, for a trial by jury is always uncertain and the expenses of the trial are heavy.

When the motion to dismiss the papers was made this morning, the court was asked to give permission to have the papers withdrawn. Judge Frazer at first said he could not grant the request, but when both attorneys urged that it be allowed, he finally consented, and the papers were withdrawn.—Telegram of Nov. 29.

What the Sheepmen Want.

The woolgrowers of Umatilla county met at Pendleton a few days ago to elect a delegate to the National Woolgrowers' convention that meets in Chicago the first week in December, and the delegate whom they authorized to represent them stated that the instructions which he received as to the demands of the sheepmen were:

"First, we sheepmen are opposed to the leasing of the public range lands of the government, and we will oppose for the reason that it will not be in favor of the small owner and will tend to retard the development of the country, and hold it back for long periods.

"Second, we sheepmen are in favor of the enactment by congress of a law requiring that all goods in which is any shoddy shall be branded by the manufacturer, that people may see what they are purchasing, and not think it is wool when it is shoddy.

"Third, we sheep men demand that congress in framing reciprocity treaties with foreign countries, shall see to it that all the interests of the woolgrowers are protected."

Artisans Celebrate.

The United Artisans will give a grand Minstrel Show at Culver on Friday December 20 1901. There will be a dance after the entertainment. Admission to show 15 cents, children over ten and under fifteen 10 cents, under ten free. Ten cent lunches will be served at the dance. Everybody invited to see the greatest event of the season.

By Order of the Committee.

BIG SCHEME

Syndicate Will Operate On Upper Deschutes.

An Irrigation Company

Will Build 65-Mile Canal to Reclaim 165,000 Acres of Crook Co. Land

J. J. Windle, of Minneapolis, representing a syndicate of capitalists of that city, who are contemplating the construction of an irrigation canal in Walker's Basin; on the headquarters of the Deschutes river, in the northern part of Klamath county, is in the city, says the Portland Oregonian. He has been five weeks in this state, making investigations in connection with the proposed irrigation scheme, and also looking into some timber land propositions. Major Alfred Sears, of this city, is now engaged in making a reconnaissance along the route of the proposed canal, and B. J. Pengra, for many years a resident of the southern part of the state, has afforded Mr. Windle all the information and assistance in his power in making his investigations.

Mr. Windle is very favorably impressed with the sections of Oregon he has been over, and says he thinks the country is going to be settled up very rapidly. The backwardness in this respect, he says, is to be attributed to the fact that Eastern people do not know what there is out here. The people of Oregon have apparently been asleep and have failed to advertise their state, while the Washington people have been wide awake and hustling and bustling all the time. Mr. Windle has had a great deal to do with handling lands, as the firm with which he is connected has sold 1,500,000 acres of land east of the Missouri river. Heretofore it has not operated in the West, and is now just starting in. He finds it a long way out here, and imagines it will be expensive operating. He says ten men come into his office in Minneapolis inquiring for Washington lands to one inquiring for Oregon lands.

As to irrigation schemes, the great trouble with them, Mr. Windle says, is that, while they open up the country they do not as a general thing prove profitable to the investors, and irrigation securities are the hardest kind to sell.

Walker's Basin contains 150,000 acres susceptible to benefit by irrigation. To irrigate this vast tract successfully will require a main canal about 65 miles in length, from where the water is taken from the Deschutes river to where the canal discharges into the river again. There is plenty of water.

The soil is very good, consisting of decomposed lava. The trouble is that in places there is too much lava that has not decomposed. The loose lava formation in places makes the construction of a canal difficult and renders a great deal of lining and filling necessary. Mr. Windle figures that the canal will cost about \$5,000 a mile. The lands along the Deschutes river are the only ones in the basin

which are taken up and are owned by stockmen and haygrowers.

Transportation facilities are a factor which must be taken into consideration in connection with the irrigation scheme, said Mr. Windle, and the nearest railroad connection is at Shaniko, 150 miles distant. There is, however, every likelihood that the railroad will be extended and this distance much lessened in the near future.

Mr. Windle is inclined to think favorably of the scheme for irrigating Walker's Basin, but he cannot say what effect his report will have on the syndicate he represents. He leaves for Minneapolis in a day or two, by the way of Arizona and New Orleans, in order to look into some irrigation propositions in Arizona. The syndicate represented by Mr. Windle is composed of some of the best business men of Minneapolis, and the capital is all subscribed.

"If we take up this proposition," said Mr. Windle, "we intend to settle the land with people from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa principally. Many farmers in these states who have only 160 acres, have boys growing up who must strike out, and these, with some of the better class of renters, will be located in Walker's Basin."

Cattle Dying.

The Eagle is informed that a large number of cattle have been found dead on the range in what is known as the Rattlesnake country below Dayville, and the stockmen of that locality are considerably alarmed over the matter. Recently seventeen head were found dead in close proximity to the section mentioned, and when the stockmen endeavored to drive the stock from that section, several more head died during the drive.

The stockmen who have suffered loss of stock in that locality differed as to the cause of the death of their stock. On examination of the stomach of several of the dead animals it was found to contain a large quantity of alkali, but whether death was due from this, is not known. Some claim that the animals died from a poisonous grass which they eat as a result of the present condition of the range, while others are inclined to the belief that the range has been poisoned, which theory is hardly possible.

Cattle and stock of all kinds have been driven from the Rattlesnake neighborhood, in hopes of preventing further loss.—Canyon City Eagle.

Hugh Fields Dead.

Hugh Fields, of Brownsville, died at Portland Tuesday while on his way home from a trip to Eastern Oregon, where he had been to look after his stock interests. He was one of Oregon's best known citizens, a pioneer of 1845. He was born in Greyson county, Virginia, December 28, 1828. He was one of the first pioneers of the state, coming here in 1845. He was married in 1855 to Miss Sidney Younger. Two children born both died. Mr. Fields was at one time worth \$200,000, but he invested heavily in the Brownsville woolen mills and lost considerable of his large property. He did much for Brownsville, and his death will be generally regretted.

—Lebanon Express.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges
News Notes of the Week
Timely Topics

At the last term of circuit court held in Grant county, Alex Delore, who was held in bonds to appear and answer a charge of assault to commit rape, was found guilty of simple assault and fined \$150.

Superintendent Berriam of the Rogue River Hatchery reports that about 1,000,000 eggs have hatched there during the past season. The hatchery is working wonders for the salmon industry of Southern Oregon.

Oregon has good cause to be proud of its record at the Pan-American exposition, since the state received a total of 232 prizes. These consist of 129 medals and 103 honorable mentions. Many older states than Oregon were much less fortunate.

A statement has been prepared in the internal revenue bureau which shows total receipts from war revenue act only from June 13, 1898, to June 30, 1901; also the four months of the act of March 2, 1901, from July 1 to October 31, 1901. The total receipts for these acts alone amounted to \$643,834,633.

The discoverer, owner or operator of a mining claim to which he has a U. S. patent has a right to follow the dip of the vein under the agricultural timber land, if his is the senior title—that is, if his patent antedates the title of the agricultural or timber land, but if not, then the former has not such rights.

The Corvallis Times says that a portable sawmill near that city is sawing immense quantities of ash and other hardwood for the factories of Portland. The Portland people have bought all the ash and maple timber on Kiger island in the Willamette above Corvallis. That lumber is worth \$70 per thousand.

Sodaville already has two tickets in the field for their town election which will be held next Monday. One ticket will be known on the official ballot as the Citizen's Ticket and is composed of conservatives. The other is called the Anti-Chicken Ticket and is said to be opposed to chickens running in their neighbors' doorway.

Columbia George and Tey Toy, two Indians from the Umatilla Indian reservation, were found guilty in the United States court at Portland of murdering an Indian squaw named Anna Edna. They believed she had been guilty of witchcraft and gave her two bits worth of cayote poison. Tey Toy claimed that she had killed his father by witchcraft and he was surprised that such a thing could not be shown in the defense of his crime. The jury fixed their punishment at life imprisonment.

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