

Recent Search for Water in the Northwest.

The steady increase in the use of irrigation in parts of the West, and the success which has attended its practice, has naturally led to a close inspection of large tracts of land which are now desert wastes, in the hope that they may also be brought under cultivation.

In view of these facts the investigations of two parties, among others, of the United States Geological Survey, which were engaged in studying the water resources of the Northwest, will be of interest.

Several flowing wells exist in this locality already and there are indications of artesian water also near Shoshone. In connection with his investigations Prof. Russell collected a large amount of information relative to the agricultural and timber resources of the region which are considerable.

The other party, under Mr. F. H. Newell, the chief of the Division of Hydrography of the Geological Survey, made an extended reconnaissance of northern Oregon with reference to the water supply of that section. They penetrated into the wilderness of central Oregon along and to the head of the Deschutes River and turning to the eastward skirted the northern portion of the great Harney and Malheur deserts into which the mountain ranges to the north send many streams.

Prepared for the Worst.

A good story is told of a farmer up in Sherman county who rode in to a town to consult a physician. Having done so he went to have the prescription made up. "How much is the lot?" he asked the druggist. "Well, let me see," was the reply, "there's 80 cents for the medicine, 10 for the bottle, and—" he hesitated, uncertain whether he had charged for everything. "Oh, hurry up," said the impatient farmer, "put a price on the cork—let us know the worst."—Clatskanie Chief.

Bad Fire at Salem.

The industrial building of the State Reform School, about three miles from Salem was destroyed by fire between 1 and 2 o'clock last Wednesday morning. No one was injured. The loss will reach \$25,000; insurance, \$8000. For a time it seemed as if all the Reform School buildings would be destroyed.

The fire was discovered in the engine room, Superintendent Bickers says he has no idea how the fire started. The engine room is on the first floor of the industrial building, and in the same room as the boiler for the steam-heating plant and the dynamo for the electric light plant. A night watchman is employed at the building, and the fire was discovered by him before it had made great headway.

Steamer Ruth Sinks.

The O. R. & N. river steamer Ruth, Captain Inman, struck a snag in the Willamette, off Corvallis, at 5 o'clock last Tuesday morning, and sank within two minutes. A number of passengers were in their berths on board, but all escaped in small boats, with no worse damage than bad fright. The bow of the Ruth is 40 feet from the east shore, and in six feet of water. The stern is out in the channel, and is surmounted by the bottom of the cabin windows.

Saw Death Near.

"It often made my heart ache," writes L. C. Overstreet, of Elgin, Tenn., "to hear my wife cough until it seemed her weak and sore lungs would collapse. Good doctors said she was so far gone with Consumption that no medicine or earthly help could save her, but a friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery and persistent use of this excellent medicine saved her life."

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