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TO WATER DESERT

Big Irrigation Project for Deschutes Valley.

Waymire at the Head.

New Company Will Be Organized to Take Up Work of Oregon Irrigation Company.

Judge James A. Waymire, of San Francisco, and Benton Killin and C. C. Hutchinson, of this city, returned last evening from an inspection of the Deschutes Valley with reference to its irrigation possibilities says the Oregonian. They spent 10 days driving over the country on the east side of the river from Agency Plains to the southern boundary of Crook County, and away out into the "desert" beyond Prineville. They examined sites for head works for irrigation ditches along the river, and made a reconnaissance of between 400,000 and 500,000 acres of land that would fall under the ditches to be constructed in pursuance of the project they have in mind.

Mr. Hutchinson is now president of the Oregon Irrigation Company, which has made a thorough survey of the Deschutes country, and which applied last fall for a contract with the state for the reclamation of about 100,000 acres. That application was found to be in conflict with one from the Pilot Butte Development Company, of which A. M. Drake is the head. That company applied for a contract to irrigate 85,000 acres in the vicinity of Bend. After a short delay the Oregon Irrigation Company withdrew its application and the other company got its contract. But yet there is a great deal of land in the Deschutes Valley susceptible of irrigation that nobody has applied for. This, it is understood, is what Messrs. Waymire, Killin and Hutchinson were examining. Judge Waymire last night said it was the intention to organize a new company with much larger capital than the Oregon Irrigation Company has, and to proceed with reclamation works in accordance with the Carey law. This new company will succeed to all the rights and property of the Oregon Irrigation Company, and will take up the work where the old corporation now rests. This will give it a great advantage in the matter of time over any other company that can enter the field.

"Still, a work of this magnitude cannot be put through in a day," said Judge Waymire, "and I think it will be two years before our main ditch will be completed and the land really opened to productive farming. But what a country that will be! It will support a denser population than Western Oregon will. The soil is strong and friable, and can be tilled at any season of the year. Absolutely the only thing lacking is water, and when we put water on the land there will be hardly a limit to its agricultural possibilities. It is a beautiful country, too, with an equable and invigorating climate and in full view of the snow-crested range to the westward. I regard it as offering the best opportunity today that can be found in the United States."

What the capitalization of the new company will be, or just the extent of land that will be reclaimed by it, are details that have not yet been settled. Judge Waymire will leave this morning for the south, stopping over between trains at Salem to ascertain precisely the condition of the record of the present company and application. Then he will go to California, and he expects to return in two or three weeks to perfect arrangements for putting the new enterprise in the field. He has been extensively engaged in irrigation projects in California, his latest work having been in the construction of a system of irrigation ditches in Stanislaus county, in the San Joaquin Valley. He has a complete construction plant ready to bring to Oregon and set to work in the Deschutes Valley.

Judge Waymire is an Oregon pioneer. He spent his early life here, and was admitted to the bar in Oregon. He removed to California in 1872, and has had an active career there. Of late years his activities have been chiefly in connection with irrigation matters, in their legal aspect and in practical construction and operation, and he is deemed well qualified for prosecuting that work in Oregon.

Residence Burned.

Yesterday morning at 10:30, an alarm of fire was turned in, which brought the fire companies out in short order. Smoke was issuing from the residence of W. R. McFarland, and before the fire companies reached there the blaze had broken through the roof, but by hard work a part of the house was saved, but in a badly damaged condition. The fire is supposed to have originated in the kitchen where dinner was being prepared. Mr. and Mrs. McFarland were away from home at the time and it could not be learned whether the house was insured or not, and the loss will not be known until they return. Very little was taken out however as the fire had gained too much headway before discovered.

The fire companies deserve praise for their good work, under the circumstances, having a long run to the fire, but when they did get there and got the water started, they extinguished the flames in short order.

Hip Hay, a Chinaman brought down from Alaska on a murder charge, committed suicide in the Port Townsend, Wash., jail last Saturday night by strangling himself with a shoe string.

Nineteen people from Idaho, returned from Bend Sunday and left for The Dalles Monday, to file on timber claims.

A negro accompanied by his wife, who was a white woman, and their three children who in complexion took after their mother, was seen last week below town. Their wagon was loaded with household furniture and they were hunting a place to build them a home.

O. M. Pringle, last week sold the falls that bear his name on the Upper Deschutes, to Judge James Waymire, for the sum of \$2000. Judge Waymire is at the head of the new irrigation company, and they expect to begin active work on their ditch in a short time.

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NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week Timely Topics

The following is from Cleveland, O: Fredric Morrison, of Salem, Oregon, while riding in a carriage on Miles avenue with Miss Mary Cowley today drew a revolver and fired a bullet through his brain that resulted in his death shortly afterward. Miss Cowley's refusal to marry him was the cause.

The option which M. J. Kinney took a few weeks ago on a large block of property reaching inland from Coos Bay was taken up Saturday, and Mr. Kinney made his first payment. The property includes 97,000 acres of timber land and most of the platted town of Empire City, including the big sawmill that was built and operated for a time by Elijah Smith. It is owned by the Southern Oregon Company, of which Prosper Smith, brother of Elijah, is the head, his home being in Boston. No official announcement of the price to be paid has been made, but is said to be the round figure of \$600,000. It is also said that this deal is favorable to the success of the Great Central Railroad.

James Worsham has made one of the richest strikes that has ever been made in Malheur and Baker counties, reports the Ontario Argus. Last week while prospecting on the divide between Shasta and Clark creeks, one and one-half miles north of Malheur City, he encountered a vein of ore four feet wide which was just literally full of gold. The ore will run several thousand dollars per ton. Mr. Worsham has gone down ten or twelve feet on vein, and it is supposed to be the famous Lost Nugget vein, for which old prospectors have been looking for years. The vein joins that of the Malheur Mining Company, on which they have a vein of very rich ore and are working at present.

Frank Ingram, the prisoner who was shot by David Merrill at the time of the outbreak at the Penitentiary, left the prison hospital Saturday. His left leg was amputated above the knee, and he walks on crutches. As he is unable to make a living at present by working, he is raffling off a splendid set of steel hearth utensils made by him while confined in the Penitentiary. When his means will permit he will purchase an artificial limb and engage in some useful occupation. During his 10 year incarceration, Ingram learned the blacksmith's trade, but the loss of his limb will probably prevent him from continuing in that work. Ingram grappled with Merrill while the latter was in the act of firing at a prison guard, and the bullet passed through his knee. His heroic act led to his pardon by the Governor and won him the sympathy of the people. He is receiving temporary aid in Salem

from people who are charitably disposed.

Miss Martha Wilson of Stayton, a school teacher and a pretty girl, has sued David B. Smith, the town druggist, for breach of promise, and demands \$6750, and is attracting a great deal of attention owing to the wide acquaintance and standing of the parties. Miss Wilson alleges that she became engaged to the gay druggist last winter, and that the course ran smooth until July 6th, when the lover informed her that he would not wed her. Miss Wilson claims \$6,000 general damage, \$250 damages on account of loss of employment by reason of her failure, at this instance, to make a new contract for teaching, and \$500 damage on account of mental and physical suffering for which a physician's services will be required.

Tracy Seen Again.

Harry Tracy, the fugitive desperado, is now in Eastern Washington. Unwounded, in good health, armed with four guns and plenty of ammunition, provisioned for five days, and equipped with two horses, Tracy crossed the Columbia river at 5 o'clock Thursday morning, and is now supposed to be headed toward the Idaho line. Tracy declared that he wants to hold up a bank or rob an express car. He says that he has promised to give the sum of \$5000, within one year, to the parties who helped him escape from the Oregon Penitentiary. He is making his way to the "Hole-in-the-Wall" in Wyoming. When there he declares he will be a "thief among thieves," and will be safe.

Tracy spent Wednesday at the ranch of W. A. Sanders, six miles below Wenatchee, on the the Columbia river. He crossed the Columbia Thursday morning at 5 o'clock, at a ferry 18 miles below Wenatchee. The reason the outlaw was not reported sooner by Sanders was that he threatened that if he got into any trouble he would return and "get even" with the people who reported on him, if that was the last thing he did on earth.

About 10 o'clock Wednesday morning a rider leading one pack-horse approached the ranch of W. A. Sanders, six miles from Wenatchee. He said: "Do you know who I am?"

Sanders replied "No."

"I am Harry Tracy, the escaped convict."

The outlaw announced that he would stay all day and that he would not harm them if they did not do any funny business. He ate two meals at the ranch. Tracy inquired about the bank at Wenatchee and wanted one of the men to help him rob it, but the latter begged off. The outlaw denied that he had been wounded and declared he had gained 15 or 20 pounds since escaping from the penitentiary. He left after dark having exchanged his two horses for two fresh ones. At 11 p. m. he appeared at the ferry, about 18 miles below Wenatchee and wanted to cross the Columbia. He did not tell his name. The ferryman refused to cross in the night, so Tracy hung around that vicinity until daylight Thursday morning. He then aroused the ferryman. After crossing the river, he said

he had no money and could not pay for the ferry. He rode away and has not been seen since. Two or three small posers are reported to have started out from Big Bend towns to seek him.

When at Sanders' house, Tracy was dressed in black coat and shirt, blue overalls, miner's shoe and a slouch hat. He carried extra ammunition in a bag.

DETERMINED OF HIS RETIREMENT ON ARRIVAL FRIDAY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—Standing on the bridge of the transport Thomas, eagerly waiting with the ship's captain for a glimpse of his native shore, General Jacob H. Smith, tried by court-martial for having ordered the Island of Samar transformed into a howling wilderness, was doomed Friday morning to first learn that the President had retired him from active duty. The pilot boat which met the Thomas just outside the Heads at 2 o'clock this morning brought to General Smith the first news of the President's action. In the faint light of a binnacle lamp, the veterans read the message that apprised him of his fate.

An hour later the dawn came, and with it the sight of land, but General Smith had retired to his cabin, where, with his wife and chief aid, Lieutenant G. H. Shields, of the Twelfth Infantry, he discussed the outcome of the long ordeal through which he has passed. Six hours later, when the Thomas reached the quarantine station in the harbor, Major Duval, of the transport service, boarded the ship with his secretary and met both General Smith and Lieutenant Shields at the door of the General's cabin.

A sealed document from the War department was handed to General Smith. It contained the official notification of President Roosevelt's action, and, upon reading it, General Smith retired, overcome with emotion. He was not again seen until the United States customs tender, the Hattie, was ready to take the General and his party ashore. He then denied himself to all interviewers, who were met by Lieutenant Shields. Together with his wife and aides, General Smith proceeded to the Occidental Hotel, repairing there at once to Army headquarters in the Pullman building, where he remained during the morning.

General Smith, who is wearing civilian attire, appears exceedingly nervous and worn. His 62 years are plainly read in his every action, and his intimate friends fear he is breaking down under the severe strain to which he has been subjected in recent months. His next known assignment (General Smith) will proceed East. His sealed orders require him to report to the Adjutant General at Washington. It is likely that he will take no time in starting west.

Notice.

To my many Friends and Customers: I am indebted for your patronage and I am sure that you will find it to your advantage to continue to patronize me in the future. I am at the present engaged by the state for the purpose of collecting and distributing the same.

After August 15th, 1902, the same will not be operated on Sunday and I will be glad to be of service to you and your family and will be glad to have you call on me from time to time.

W. A. Sanders.