

Crook County Journal.

VOL. VI.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, DECEMBER 11, 1902.

NO. 52

IRRIGATION AGAIN.

An Enthusiastic Meeting Held.

Resolutions Adopted.

Crook County Irrigation Association Holds Its First Session.

Last Saturday a large number of the members of the local irrigation association met at the courthouse pursuant to call from the president. After the usual preliminaries a number of resolutions were introduced and passed that voice the sentiments of the people of this county and in fact of the people of the entire arid region of eastern Oregon. The general sentiment expressed by those present was that the time had arrived for the general government to step in and assume control of the reclamation of the arid lands of this country and no longer leave the people at the mercy of grasping monopolies who would assume to themselves rights hitherto delegated only to private citizens. The resolutions are as follows:

Whereas: At the last session of the National Congress of the United States a law was passed appropriating many millions of dollars for the reclamation of the semi-arid west, known as the National Irrigation Act.

And Whereas, a large number of the irrigable arid lands of the state of Oregon lies within the boundaries of Crook county.

And Whereas, it is the earnest desire of this Association to promote in every legitimate manner the speedy reclamation of the arid lands of Oregon,—Central Oregon in particular.

Be it Hereby Resolved, that it is the unanimous sentiment of this Association that all our state laws be so amended that the National Irrigation Act shall take precedence in this state over all other reclamation projects.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the secretary of this Association is hereby directed to communicate with the Secretary of the Interior tendering the hearty co-operation of this Association to the department in all its efforts to pave the way for the erection of irrigation works under the provisions of the said Government Irrigation Act, in this section of Oregon.

Whereas, as a result of the action of certain public spirited citizens of this state, there is now on foot and well under way a movement to celebrate in a booming manner, in the city of Portland, in the year 1905, the most important occurrence in the history of the Northwest, viz, its exploration and discovery, and

Whereas, such a celebration as proposed is directly in line with the spirit of advancement now evident throughout the entire west particularly the northwest, and

Whereas, it is plain that such a celebration as proposed would have an undoubted tendency to attract in a marked degree the attention of both the capitalist and homebuilder to the unsurpassed opportunities for investment and permanent settlement in Oregon, and

Whereas, it has been publicly announced by the committee of competent gentlemen having the matter in charge, that an appropriation from the state of Oregon of the sum of \$500,000 is essential to the successful accomplishment of the undertaking.

Be it Resolved, that this Association, comprising 500 citizens of central Oregon do hereby most heartily endorse the purpose and spirit of the Lewis and Clark Fair, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the secretary of this Association is hereby instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our joint state representative and senators, and urge upon them that they both vote and work in the coming session of the Oregon Legislature for an appropriation out of the state funds of the full amount suggested by the worthy committee having the matter in charge, viz, \$500,000.

Whereas, a contract has been entered into between the State Land Board of the State of Oregon, and the Pilot Butte Development Company, wherein the said State Land Board has applied to the Interior Department for certain lands under the provisions of the Carey Act in Crook county, Oregon, aggregating near 85,000 acres, and

Whereas, it is the unanimous sentiment of this Association that the price per acre set by said contract for reclamation is far in excess of the amount actually necessary for such reclamation, and

Whereas, to the certain knowledge of many people now living in the vicinity of said lands, that during the past 25 years fully 20,000 cords of wood and tens of thousands of fence posts, rails and other timber products have been marketed, and the further fact that hundreds of thousands of cords of wood and other timber products are yet remaining in the tree on the lands included in the contract and surrounded by the lands selected and applied for, and

Whereas, owing to the fact of the Deschutes river dropping into a deep canyon immediately below the water frontage of the proposed irrigating canal of the Pilot Butte Development Company and the further fact that the lands applied for under the said contract are taken in a long, half circle or shoe-string fashion, including on two sides with the Deschutes canyon on the other, many times more land than is applied for under the said contract,

Be It Resolved, that owing to the timber contained thereon and also upon the large scope of country practically surrounded by the said selection, the said lands do not come under the provisions of the Carey Act, which requires the land to be strictly arid, and

Be It Further Resolved, that in selecting the lands in a long half circle or shoe-string fashion is an abuse of the law in Oregon, taking advantage of the Carey Act, and further, if such state contract be ratified by the Interior Department it will result in allowing the Pilot Butte Development Company to almost completely surround and corral a large scope of valuable irrigable country, containing many times the amount of land contained in the said selection, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the secretary of the Crook County Irrigation Association is hereby directed to convey to the Secretary of the Interior Department a copy of these resolutions and urge by letter and otherwise upon the Secretary of the Interior the momentous importance to the development of the hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable irrigable arid lands lying along and adjacent to the Deschutes river in Crook county, Oregon; that the application for the said lands on the part of the State Land Board, of the state of Oregon, and in behalf of the Pilot Butte Development Company, be entirely ignored, rejected and set aside.

Adopted by the Crook County Irrigation Association, in regular meeting, at Prineville, Oregon, this 6th day of December, 1902.
M. E. BRINK, President.
Wm. HOLDER, Secretary

HITCHCOCK'S REPORT

Frauds in Timber Locations

Timber is Disappearing

At Present Rate It Is Only a Question of Time Until All Is Gone.

The recently discovered timber frauds in Oregon are rather widely exploited in the annual report of Secretary Hitchcock, of the Interior Department, and held up as a forceful argument for the immediate revision of the timber laws. Although the Secretary cites facts and figures heretofore published in The Oregonian, he is gracious enough to omit from his official report the name of the state in which these frauds were discovered. His comments, nevertheless, are so pointed and so explicit that they cannot be mistaken. After seeing the phenomenal increase in Oregon under the Timber and Stone act, in the last quarter, over those of the preceding three months, the Secretary says:

"Should this rate continue during the entire year in that state, it would mean the acquisition in round numbers of 600,000 acres of timber lands under the Timber and Stone act, and if the same activity in that class of entries were extended to the other public land states, then before the expiration of two years practically every acre of unappropriated public timbered lands would have been absorbed and the successful operation of the Reclamation act of June 17 last rendered doubtful, if its failure be not absolutely assured, for the reservation of public timbered lands that must of necessity be made to assist in conserving the waters to be impounded by the irrigation system to be established under that act will be defeated or made so expensive by the purchaser of said lands from private owners as to greatly delay the completion of the irrigation systems contemplated by that act.

"The reports of the special agents of this department in the field show that, at some of the local offices' carloads of entrymen arrive at a time, every one of whom makes entry under the Timber and Stone act. The cost of 160 acres of land under that act, and the accompanying commission, is \$415. As many as five members of a family who, it can be readily shown, never had \$2075 in their lives, walk up cheerfully and pay the price of the land and the commissions. Under such circumstances there is only one conclusion to be drawn, and that is where a whole carload of people make entry under that act, the unanimity of sentiment and the cash to exploit it must have originated in some other source than themselves.

"In all such cases a rigid inquiry will be instituted, to determine the bona fides of the entry, and if it be ascertained that the entry was not made in good faith, but in the interests of some person or persons other than the entrymen, the entry will be promptly cancelled and proper criminal proceedings instituted against the entrymen."

After explaining the other form of fraud discovered in Oregon, the location of so-called mining claims, under the placer mining laws, the Secretary says:

"If such an entry be made for speculative purposes only, and for the purpose of acquiring the timber within the limits of the location, the only way by which the Government can reach the locator will be by a careful investigation

of the character of the lands upon which the location is made, and if, after such investigation, it be determined that the land is not mineral in character, and that the location is made for speculative purposes, to arrest the locator as soon as he begins to cut the timber. The only defense he can make will be to show that the land is mineral in character, and that he is cutting the timber to develop his claim, as allowed by law. Should he fail in that, he will have to pay the penalty.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the duty of protecting the public domain from the inroads of those who seek to despoil it is an onerous one, and is a matter that should receive the early and careful consideration of the Congress."

The Secretary scathingly criticizes the "Leasing bill" now pending in Congress, which was made the subject of adverse departmental reports last spring.

"Should that bill become a law," said Secretary Hitchcock, "the public domain in the sixteen states and territories mentioned therein, aggregating an area of 525,000,000 acres practically all of the vacant public domain west of the Mississippi, would be subject to lease at 2 cents per acre for ten years, with a privilege of renewal for ten years more. During the last fiscal year there were made within that area 53,654 original homestead entries and 27,904 final homestead entries, embracing over 12,000,000 acres, and affecting 85,558 persons; and during the present fiscal year indications are that more entries will be made, affecting more people and embracing a greater acreage. It is needless to say that such a bill, if enacted into law, would place the last acre of desirable public land out of the reach of the homeseeker, and defeat the purpose of the Government to preserve the public domain for homes for actual settlers.

"It would also defeat the operations of the Reclamation act approved June 17 last, and make possible the formation of a land monopoly never contemplated by the public land system, but which, on the contrary, it is one of the purposes of that system to prevent.

The unlawful fencing of the public domain by stockmen is handled with equal severity. After showing that last year 153 cases of unlawful fencing of public lands, embracing nearly 4,000,000 acres, were reported to his department, he said:

"Pressure of all sorts has been brought to bear on this department to cause a cessation of the vigorous policy it has pursued against these unlawful occupants of the public domain. It has been frequently alleged by them that the department has been making war upon the cattle industry of the West, and they have written letters to different breeders of cattle in the Eastern and Middle Western states, and presented to them the argument that their occupation would suffer if the zeal of the Government was not abated; and these breeders have, in some instances, written to their Senators and Representatives in Congress, who have, in turn, written to this department.

"It is the duty of this department to enforce the laws relative to the public domain."

He adds that those laws which "forbid and prohibit" the unlawful occupancy or fencing of the public domain are being continuously and persistently violated. Under such circumstances a conscientious executive officer with a proper conception of the nature of his oath can pursue but one course.—Oregonian.

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 most expensive book in the world has lately been given by the ameer of Afghanistan to the shah. It is a copy of the Koran, bound in solid gold and set with pearls, rubies and diamonds. It cost \$400,000.

During the season just closed the sugar factory at La Grande has turned out 45,600 sacks of sugar weighing 100 pounds each. The factory during the past year has distributed among employes and farmers \$160,000.

A new road has been surveyed by Supt Arant, from the Ashland, Klamath road to Crater Lake, giving a good uniform, easy grade. This new road will probably open to travel next season and will make this new National Park even a more popular resort.

The total delinquent tax list of Benton county contains only 35 names. One of them is a millionaire, another a government official, and another the great Oregon and California Railroad, which owes \$1.20. The showing is really a remarkable one.

Word comes from the Meadows on Mill creek, about 25 miles from The Dalles, that a lot of cattle are benumbed in by snow, and will starve if they are not brought out. The cattle are owned principally by parties residing about Dufur.

Lieutenant Peary, in a lecture to the National Geological Society says the north pole can be won. Why not swipe it and stop the "eternal blazon" (as Shakespear says) about it.

An editor who run a notes and query column received the following: "What ails my hens? Every morning I find two or three lying on their backs, toes curled up, never to rise again." The editor replied as follows: "Your hens are dead."

This time it is a goose, and it was killed in Baker City. But if the reports are to be credited, there is so much gold in and around that town that it is no wonder that a goose should scoop up \$5 worth almost any day.

Co-ed students at Northwestern University are prohibited from using the exclamation "Good heavens." Would the professor have them say "Bad heavens," or "Good hades?"

Senator Hill of New York, now 52 years old, has been in politics 35 years, held office more than half that time, has never taken a drink, smoked a cigar or kissed a woman. And yet he has presidential aspirations.

"What did Rainier, a foreigner, ever do for Puget Sound?" asks the Tacoma News. Not a thing, and what did Hood do for Portland, Astoria or the Columbia river? And who were the Three Sisters, anyway, and what was their reputation?

Well, Russia has to pay for the smart Aleck trick in seizing American sealing ships about ten years ago. Professor Assan of The Hague, who acted as judge between the United States and Russia has awarded the shipowners over \$100,000 and interest at the rate of 6 per cent.

His Naughtiness the Prince Royal of Siam, snubbed the civil and military sycophants of the Columbia river city, but he played smash with the hearts of the ballet girls in the Gold Mine performance at Baker's theater the same afternoon.

Poor old Oom Paul Kruger has petitioned the British Home Government to be permitted to go to the Transvaal country to die and be buried beside the body of his wife. We hope his desire will be gratified. He was and is a great man although he was at the head of a lost cause.

An "old subscriber" tells the Portland Journal it is no wonder gambling is the chief industry of that city. He relates how the town was named through a gamble. Two land proprietors, one originally from Boston, the other from Portland, Maine, each contended for a name for the embryo city in honor of his own town. They flipped a coin and Portland won.

An unusual case is reported from The Dalles. Hugh Hagan, a young man of a pioneer family of that city, robbed a nickle-in-the-slot machine of nearly a hundred dollars in a cigar store about a month ago. On indictment and trial in the circuit court Judge Bradshaw instructed the jury that as the money was confessedly deposited in a gambling device the jury must find that it was in possession of the reputed owner before they could convict. The jury failed to agree. The defense held that it was not unlawful to rob a gambling machine.

The deal which involved \$175,000 reported to have been made a week ago, whereby John Garretson and Gus Lafontine were to become the owners of the entire holdings of Chas. Cunningham, has been called off. The transaction was considered closed until Monday afternoon when Mr. Cunningham called the whole transaction off. The deal was to include 19,000 head of sheep and more than 20,000 acres of land in Umatilla and Morrow counties and was considered one of the largest transactions ever made in Umatilla county.—East Oregonian.

R. M. Hall, advertising agent for the O. R. & N. Co. while in Baker City the other day, made this statement: "The O. R. & N. proposes to carry on next year, if any thing, a mere extended and systematic plan of exploiting the resources of Oregon and Washington than we have yet pursued. This year we have spent some \$10,000 in telling the people of the east what there is in the Pacific Northwest for home building and investments. Oregon and Washington offer unrivaled opportunities for the homeseekers who would find an agreeable climate and sure crops, or a place to establish manufactories and business enterprises with certain returns upon the capital invested."

Mr. M. S. Dudley of Portland has been making a thorough investigation of the various properties of this camp during the past week, but he has not given out a great amount of information as to what his observations are. He is a miner of wide experience, and it is but reasonable to hope that great good will result to the camp should the result of his thorough inspection of the camp be satisfactory to those in whose interests it is made. Other mining experts who have visited the camp have not hesitated to say that they believed the camp is one of the richest in the West, but that it would require deep mining, and a great deal of capital to place it on a producing basis.—Ashwood Prospector.