

# Crook County Journal.

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## WAR UPON SHEEP

### Grant County Settlers Urge Limit Law.

#### Would Prohibit Sheep

From Grazing Within Two Miles of Habitations—Fight Outside Sheep.

Grant and Baker county cattlemen and settlers are agitating for a two-mile limit law, similar to that in operation in Idaho and California, by which sheep ranging is not permitted within two miles of any settlers habitation.

This puts a new phase on the bitter and bloody range feud that exists in this county between home and foreign stockmen, for while the move in Grant county is apparently one of settlers against sheep owners, it is really a step against the invading hordes of Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Crook and other county sheep which pour in here annually for summer range. Simultaneously comes the tidings that Grant county stockmen are preparing for organization sufficiently strong to keep out these sheep and reserve next season's range for home stockmen. It makes the outlook for trouble in spring brighter than ever, though the brilliant outlook for range war in 1902 was more than fulfilled.

Active, organized resistance to the annual campaign of outside sheep against Grant county range, a campaign so successful that of late years the range has had no show at all, is precipitated this season by the general stirring up caused by the prospective establishment of the Blue and Strawberry mountain forest reserve, whose temporary lines embrace 3,200,000 acres of mainly summer range territory in Grant county and vicinity. The settlers of Grant look on the forest reserve proposition as a scheme to rob them. They regard it as "a colossal steal." The influence of big outside sheepmen who range here in summer was partly—probably unjustly blamed for inspiring the reserve. This was before the guilt in the eyes of Grant settlers was finally laid on school land grafters, but it served to make the stern prejudice against foreign sheepmen fiercer than ever and to rouse a sentiment whose result has been preparation for early and concerted opposition.

That the stockmen of the county intend to make a clean and thorough job is evidenced by the fact that they are getting ready to resist both through the state law and through themselves. If the Legislature this winter passes the two-mile law, as is hoped, it will be made very uncomfortable for visiting flocks, which would then have the law against them in addition to the menace of the settlers rifle. If the law does not pass, the settlers do not propose to let the summer season sheep get in at all, taking the question of keeping them out in their own hands. Last year they were all let in, but the intermittent spit of the long Missouri rifles served as a partial deterrent for the alleged range destroyers.

There will be some internal dissension regarding the agitation for the two-mile law. Cattlemen are a unit in its favor, because it insures the absence of sheep from the doorsteps of the home residents, and hence undisturbed grass for local cattle in all the settled districts. Sheepmen look askance on it for obvious reasons. They claim in addition that it will permit underhand work by cattlemen who

could throw up numerous settlers' shacks over the range country, occupy them and force sheep back into the remotest hills. One shack would command an area of four miles range each way.

It is necessary to glance at the resident conditions of Grant to clearly understand the unique and complicated situation. In this rugged mountain county, a land of ranges and rocks covered deep with snow in winter, and the best of sheep and cattle range in summer, small but fertile valley settlements are scattered all through along the creek and river bottoms. Samples are Fly Valley, the Bully creek country, Austin's Settlement, the Long creek valley, Indian creek, Bear valley and the bottoms of the John Day. Here settlers have taken up their claims and made their small improvements, their main holdings consisting of little bunches of cattle, because there are no transportation facilities for grain, even if they had the land to raise it. The small herds of cattle are fed on the claims in winter on alfalfa, while in summer they are ranged in the valleys and the adjacent foothills.

A large portion of the shooting affrays of Grant are caused by the transgression of sheep into the valley settlements and into the foothill range, which the settlers or small cattlemen claim for their very own. The two-mile limit law is designed to keep sheep off these settlements altogether. It would result in the preservation of foothill range for cattlemen also, as isolated cabins always are scattered back some distance from the bottom communities.

If the two-mile law fails to pass, it is not certain what steps will be taken by the cattlemen to keep out foreign sheep. Settlers and sheepmen are reported to be combining on this proposition, and to be ready to lay aside their own internal difficulties in the face of the greater trouble from abroad. The invasion sweeps across Grant county from the west and north, and extends clear into Baker and Union counties. Sheepshearing is earlier in Morrow and the Columbia river counties than in the higher, colder regions of Grant, and the flocks of the former are clipped, the wool sold and away onto Grant's summer range before the sheepmen of this county can get a start. Thus the spectacle is seen of the choicest locations and the earliest and best grass going to sheep outside the county. Home stockmen say this is not fair, when they pay the piper in the shape of taxes. As it has been demonstrated in years past to be impossible to drive the foreigners out, once they are in, an effort is to be made next season to keep them out in the first place.

This is bound to result seriously in the face of the varying attitudes of the home and foreign stockmen. The Grant people claim they have a right to first and best grass because they maintain the county. The invaders say any stockman has a divine right to summer range, no matter where he live. Both sides have shown a readiness to enforce alleged rights with the family rifle.—Eagle.

The people at Newsom creek enjoyed a well arranged Christmas tree at the new schoolhouse. The program consisted of recitations and dialogues by the school and was well rendered. The tree was well laden with presents for the little folks and a real good time was enjoyed by all present.

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## THE COUNTY NEWS.

### Letters From Our Correspondents.

#### Interesting Letters.

From Our Corps of County Writers

Lower Crooked River to The Front.

Crooked River Happenings.

We understand that Mr. Forest has sold his beef cattle.

School is again progressing nicely after holidays.

Montgomery brothers are hauling straw from Mr. Harris place.

Mr. McDowell killed his hogs last Friday.

The West brothers were present at the social. They are hauling hay to their home at Lower bridge.

Mrs. F. Forest, and children and Miss Eman were guests of Mrs. Montgomery last Sunday.

Welcome to the New Year may each one be happier this year than the one just gone.

Mr. Ben Jones was down in this neighborhood on business last Friday and Saturday.

Messrs. Brown, Frank Taylor and Jesse Tetherow were bidders at the social.

The holidays are now over and every one has turned over the New Leaf, and gone to work in earnest.

Mrs. Johnnie Tetherow, son and daughter were over from the Deschutes bridge to witness the coming of the New Year.

Mr. B. F. Wilhoit, wife and daughter went to the city on business Saturday and returned Sunday evening.

Frank Arnold, of Sisters, came over to Crooked river valley Tuesday on business. He visited his aunt, uncle and cousins while here and returned home Wednesday.

If enough are interested in singing, a singing school will be started with Mr. S. E. West as teacher. Come and help the good thing along.

Misses Etta and Clara Montgomery were down from Prineville visiting their parents. They attended the social with a pretty basket, and returned to their work in the city Friday.

Mr. Butler, wife and children came over from Haystack and spent New Years Day with relatives. Mrs. Butler is a sister of Mrs. Forest and Mrs. Merrill of this place.

The question for debate Friday Jan. 9th is—Resolved: "That the Introduction of Machinery has been beneficial to Mankind?" Leaders are Walter Messinger and Oliver McDowell.

The business meeting of The Young People's Society Friday was very interesting although only a few were present. All play and no work makes Jack a dull boy. We hope the next meeting of this kind will be well attended.

Mrs. Joe Claypool and son Guy accompanied by Mrs. Wood were visitors of the Wilboits last Monday evening. They were on their way home from Prineville where they had been to take the four little children of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lister. Mrs. Claypool has been caring for them while their mother was away.

The basket social on last Wednesday evening was a great success. The house was filled and the entertainment good. Mr. Mc-

Conigal was selected auctioneer, and by his jokes and many remarks kept the boys bidding, and the audience laughing. Twenty-one baskets, filled to the brim with good things to eat, were sold and the proceeds, which were \$22.65, will go to The Young People's Library Society to purchase books for the library. After the contents of those pretty baskets were disposed of the young people enjoyed themselves by spelling and playing games until they bid farewell to the old year and welcomed the new.

XAX.

Ashwood Items.

E. G. Graves, of Antelope, was in town the first of the week in the interest of Stockman County.

Wm Loftin will leave the Morning Star mine soon for McKay Creek to assist his brother in the saw-mill.

Mr. Ed Marshall, of Pendleton, was in town Monday, looking after mining interests. Mr. Marshall informs us the Roy Company contemplate doing extensive development work in the near future.

Messrs. Larry Maloney and Jack Brogan have rented the new hotel from D. S. and Chas. Hamilton, and will take charge January 1st. They will put a bar in the room now used as a sample room.

We are informed that Lot Shreve the genial manager of Irvine & Hamilton's store, has tired of single life and will soon join the ranks of the henpecked. We only hope he will remain in Ashwood, not that we want to witness his misery but we hate to lose a good man.

With the departure of 1902, Ashwood passes another mile stone in her march to the destination of being known as one of the producing camps in the United States, and if present indications count for anything, New Year's day 1904 will see us with the journey in a fair way of completion.

With the opening of spring permanent work will be commenced on several properties, and that under headway now will be continued and the year of 1903 will see much more work done that we have been waiting for since 1900.

Ashwood has never had a boom and does not want one. The most of the work so far has been done by home capital which has established a confidence with all who have investigated the mines. And now that we have passed the stage of uncertainty, outside capital has begun to seek us again, and ere long—possibly before we see another New Year—Ashwood will surprise the mining world.

A little over five years ago the first claims were staked out and within a year from that time every available piece of land that showed any sign of mineral whatever had on it a mining notice, everything pointed to a speedy development of the camp. Outside capital had begun to look toward us for investment, and every indication pointed to a steady and healthful growth.—then came the litigation over the Oregon King mine that for a time retarded development on many other properties, as the owners did not want to expend any more money than necessary until such time as they could procure a patent for their claims and thus eliminate the possibility of some "knocker" causing them trouble as in the King case. The past year has seen more real development work done than any time since the opening of the first prospect hole, and in every case the work has shown the prospects to be far in advance of the owners' expectations.

## 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 Crown Princess of Saxony who recently ran away, not without male company, says the Crown Prince is a "beast." Very likely, and she is a "beaut."

A New York millionaire has gone to live in the slums of that city for the purpose of reforming wicked people. But no philanthropic reformer tries to save the 400.

A Connecticut man has been selling crushed stone coated with tar for coal. He must be a lineal descendant of the Yankee who invented the wooden nutmeg.

A son of Sitting Bull is working as a grazer on a railroad track, and he can reflect that in these modern days of peace and industry the bright shovel is mightier than the rusted tomahawk.

The statement, emanating from Europe, that Venezuela has had 104 revolutions in 70 years, is believed to be a slander; it is doubtful if more than 99 really separate and distinct revolutions could be counted up. But perhaps nobody has kept count.

The Tingley believes in killing all love between little children and their mothers. The world will be better off when the Tingley's son shall follow the example, according to her notion, of the late W. P. Judge, and transfer itself to a dog—though it would be hard on the dog.

The supreme court has decided that the shade trees in front of a man's residence, although on public property, belong to him. The case in which the decision was rendered was one in which a property owner sued a telephone company for cutting off the limbs of his trees. The decision is of interest to all property owners and corporations.—Ex.

In the Argentine Republic bachelors are heavily taxed for the privilege of avoiding matrimony. Men are marriageable at 20, and from that age to 30 are taxed \$5 a month; between 30 and 35 the tax is \$10 a month; from 35 to 50 it is \$20 a month, and from 50 to 75 \$30 a month. But perhaps a good many bachelors manage to beat the tax collector.

The Oregon constitution prohibits negroes from voting in Oregon. The Supreme court has decided that the clause is null and void by reason of the national amendment affecting the status of negroes, yet nevertheless, our state constitution stands exactly as it did before—with an inhibition against the suffrage of the negro. Is that one of the sacred portions of the time-honored document?

It becoming apparent that a great many people were resorting to oil, as a partial substitute for coal, the oil trust thought it a nice time to raise the price of oil. Between the coal trust and the oil trust, the people of the Northeastern States are having another kind of warm time than they like.

A Shanico man was heard to make an ungallant remark the other day. In speaking of the expense of keeping a family he said: "I use my wife's temper for a furnace, her feet for a refrigerator, her

company manners for sugar and as we have tongue all the year around you see my expenses are not very high."

Chicago also has a centennial celebration due next year, for it was early in the year 1803 that General Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War, ordered a company of soldiers to the mouth of the Chicago River to build a fort. They arrived in July, and built the fort, which was named after the Secretary. That was the initial event in the history of Chicago, this fort then being the center of a vast country almost uninhabited by white people, and the event, some time during the coming year, will be duly celebrated by Chicago, assisted by the millions now inhabiting that region.

During the year ending June 30, 1902, there were 14,983 persons appointed to positions in the U. S. classified civil service, which was 4,692 more than were ever before appointed in a single year. If you wish information about positions of this kind you can obtain it free by writing for the civil service announcement of the Columbian Correspondence school, Washington, D. C. The civil service commission will hold examinations to secure young men and women for these places during March and April, at Pendleton and Portland. From 3,046 appointments during the first year of Mr. McKinley's administration, they have increased to nearly five times that number. President Roosevelt is a firm believer in the merit system, and as long as he is president these appointments will continue to increase.

Funny Fred's Fads.

Fred Dawson, one of Lincoln county's respectable and enterprising farmers, who also conducts a drug store and so forth at Albany, is out with a catalogue bearing the title, "Dawson's Traveling Clerk." At the bottom appears Fred's motto: "When business is good hustle. When it is dull bustle more." Therein is a pointer for every business man on earth.

Fred Dawson goes gunning for trade, and gets it. He is thoroughly next to the sensible idea of small profits and quick sales. A well known citizen of Toledo says Fred advertises his leading staple as follows: "Putrefied and petrified pills and pellets prepared, pickled, polished and packed at poor people's prices, provided purchasers pay prior to perishing." That is a little overdrawn, but it beats the old dry, common place style. The pamphlet is signed "Dawson, the Pill Autocrat."—Toledo Leader.

A Wet Day For Muskrats.

During the recent high water, E. F. Wilson, the popular young attorney of this city, telephoned to Dick Kiger for information regarding the wild duck situation in that neighborhood. Dick telephoned back that there were not many ducks, but that the muskrats were all treed and for Ed to hurry down.

Mr. Wilson provided himself with a 32 calibre rifle and plenty of ammunition and proceeded to Mr. Kiger's home. Ed was accompanied by a friend from this city and they secured a boat, and from all reports, such a muskrat hunt was never before recorded. On his return to this city it is told of Ed that he hired boys to skin his "rats" and that on one occasion if he had not been talking law, he could have sold his muskrat pelts for something like \$50.—Corvallis Gazette.