

Crook County Journal.

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NO. 5

OUR OIL FIELDS.

To Be Opened Up In The Near Future.

Machinery Purchased.

The Best Part of the Oil Fields in The County Have Been Relocated.

Last spring and summer there was considerable talk about oil in this section of the state, but aside from a large number of locations being made, there was little done towards development. There were several reasons for this state of affairs, but the principal one was the discovery of oil in the Malheur country, which attracted the bulk of the oil prospectors and investors at that time. However those interested in the oil lands in this vicinity were not idle, if they were silent. They organized a company and sold stock, and did a number of things necessary to perfect their organization and by the first of the year were in a fair condition for work.

A large amount of the good ground was located by persons who were desirous of selling out to some one with a little money and who were in no shape to go ahead and develop anything themselves, and so they were a detriment to those who had put money into the enterprise. A period of patient waiting was rewarded when the first of the year came around, and they did not do the necessary work to hold their claims, thus forfeiting their rights and leaving the claims open to location by any who so desired. Interest had died down and no rush was made to the oil regions when these claims became vacant.

About the first of January a representative of the Enterprise Crude Oil Company appeared in Prineville and without any ostentation proceeded to relocate all the best claims that had heretofore been taken. A large number of these claims lie adjacent to Prineville and are said to show up as well as any in the oil belts of the state. A ledge of carboniferous rock crops out a mile north of town, which has been tested and found to contain a large percentage of fixed carbon and the formation closely resembles that of the now famous coal belt near Heppner, so that if there is no oil struck, there is every likelihood of a good body of coal being uncovered which would be of immense value to the town and would make this a manufacturing center in the immediate future. The Enterprise people have money on hand to go ahead with the necessary work and will begin boring for oil in the near future and with fair prospects of success.

This means much for our fair city and if the prospecting is successful it means that Prineville will jump from a village to a city within a short period of time and that many of our citizens who have faith enough in the future of the oil business in this county to invest their money in it will become wealthy. But whether coal or oil is struck we may expect Prineville to become the center of an active community teeming with industries of many kinds, for the natural wealth is here and all that is necessary is to have the matter brought before the right class of people who have money to invest, and are not afraid to do so, and the rest will be a mere matter of future history.

Business Badly Managed.

Either the Interior Department is over-particular about Oregon "base" lands, or else the public

land business in this state has been wretchedly mismanaged by the State Land Agent and some local land officers. Large quantities of lieu lands, based on alleged mineral lands, have been sold by the state, but many of these mineral land selections are being held up by the Interior Department, and probably will be disallowed as mineral land "base" in which case the purchasers of the lieu lands will lose them, and will come back on the state for their money, which it will be morally bound to repay, or else to supply the purchasers with other lands, in many cases worth several times the amount received by the state for the lands sold. The whole business seems to have been very loosely managed, to use no stronger expression, and it will not be surprising if eventually the state is "out and injured" to the tune of anywhere from \$100,000 to \$250,000. It may be that Secretary Hitchcock, through his long-standing grudge against Commissioner Hermann, is prejudiced against the Oregon officials, and is inclined to disallow claims that should be allowed; but the practice of giving title to lands before the state has obtained title, and even before it knows whether it ever will get title, is certainly a very poor way of doing business—not to mention the strong suspicion of improper collusion between certain officials and landgrabbers.—Telegram.

At Washington.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The House committee on general public lands today directed Representative Moody, of Oregon, who was authorized some time ago to favorably report the bill providing for an exchange of railroad grant lands for lands of the public domain, to amend the bill before reporting it to the House, so as to make it apply to railroad grant lands as well as to railroad grant lands.

Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, informed the committee that he would prepare and introduce a bill embodying recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior relative to selling timber of the public lands. The committee will meet the Secretary of the Interior at the Interior at the Interior Department tonight, when a conference will be held on the Nebraska land grazing bill.

A Great Forward Movement.

Rev. Francis E. Clark, the founder of the Christian Endeavor movement, is sending circulars to the state officers asking them to take part in a great forward movement for 1903. An effort is to be made to increase the number of societies in the state by ten per cent., and to add ten per cent to the roll of each society. The state making the required increase will be presented with a banner at the International Convention in Denver, and the successful societies will be placed on the roll of honor.

There are no restrictions: Members may be active, associate or honorary; and the societies, senior, intermediate or junior. Each district will be assigned its share of the work.

The plan, as announced, is to make the last week of January "Increase Week," when the strongest effort is to be made. The first Sunday in February, "Endeavor's Birthday," will be "Decision Day," a day for adding new members.

With a definite object, a ten per cent increase, and a definite time, from January first to the Denver Convention in June, Oregon will doubtless claim a banner for state work, and many societies be on the roll of honor.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

What Jefferson Did for Posterity.

Better Than He Knew.

He Was An Expansionist of the Most Rabid Kind And Bought Land.

Just 100 years ago this month President Jefferson and the Congress of the United States were filled with anxiety regarding the ultimate fate of the Spanish Province of Louisiana, then about to be transferred to France. Withdrawal by Spain of the privilege which it formerly granted to the United States of depositing goods on Spanish territory at the mouth of the Mississippi had brought home to the Government at Washington a sharp realization of the necessity for American control of an outlet to the Gulf. The desire "to obtain the territory on the left bank of the Mississippi, and eastward of that, if practicable," as Jefferson expressed it in his message to Congress on January 11, 1803, led to the dispatch of envoys to Paris and Madrid to conduct negotiations looking to that end. Napoleon, then First Consul, foreseeing war with England, surprised and delighted the Americans by selling not only the present State of Louisiana, embracing the mouths of the Mississippi, but also all the French possessions west of that river, now embracing many great and prosperous states, for the bagatelle of \$15,000,000. This was for two reasons; the minor one was, Napoleon needed money; the major one was, he desired to cripple England on this continent. It was not that he loved the Americans—he loved nobody—but that he hated England, always his foe, and his only invincible foe. This magnificent purchase relieved Jefferson of another anxiety which in that message of 100 years ago he had confided to Congress. He felt the need of possessing a "respectable breadth of country" along the east bank of the Mississippi, "so that we may present as firm a front there as on our eastern border. We possess what is below the Yazoo, and can probably acquire a certain breadth from the Illinois and Wabash to the Ohio; but between the Ohio and the Yazoo all the country belongs to the Chickasaws." With all his prescience, and in spite of the range of his vision to Oregon, Jefferson did not foresee the expansion and development of a century. Yet he builded wisely and well, even better than he knew. He was the original great expansionist. He expected that on reasonable terms this great territory east of the Mississippi between the Ohio and the Yazoo could be acquired from the Chickasaws, as it was, thus making a solid territorial possession from the Atlantic to and beyond the Mississippi. In his annual message in October, 1803, President Jefferson announced the acquisition of territory of magnificent proportions, including the cession by the Kaskaskia Indians of much of the present state of Illinois.

Then, 100 years ago, we were having an easy war with Tripoli. The annual revenues had risen to the then vast sum of \$12,000,000. The young nation had a population of 5,300,000. The wars of European nations had redounded in various ways to the benefit of the young republic. By these purchases it became secure in its position and rounded out and squared up its territory "in good shape."

And, as we know, Jefferson did not stop there. He sent Lewis and Clark to Oregon. He did not foresee the War with Mexico and the acquisition of a great area of Pacific Coast territory in consequence, but he had his eye on the vast country "where rolls the Oregon." Jefferson was an insatiable landgrabber, of contiguous continental territory, for the benefit of the republic and its future generations.—Telegram.

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Callings From Our Exchanges—News Notes of the Week—Timely Topics.

The population of Siberia has doubled during the past twenty years, but not of its own accord.

99.58 of the children of Oregon between 10 and 14 can read and write. Only two states exceed it by a very small fraction.

Booker T. Washington is now on the Pacific coast. At Ontario, Cal., Sunday he addressed the largest meeting ever held in the city.

Sealed bids for 300 cavalry horses for the ninth regiment (colored) at Fort Walla Walla, are now being received by the officers in charge.

Another Frenchman has been scratched in a duel. The French duel may yet become deadly. There is always the possibility of blood poisoning.

Noah, Columbus and J. Pierpont Morgan have been referred to as three great masters of the sea. Why should Noah and Columbus be mentioned?

The Baker City Democrat is informed that there is an abundance of snow in the Blue mountains which insures sufficient water to operate the placer mines next season.

North Yakima is suffering from a coal famine. A wreck on the Northern Pacific delayed a small shipment, from Roslyn, but when it arrives it will not meet one-fourth the demand.

There is something about the name of that boy burglar—Pawpawlicki—recently taken in charge by the Chicago police, which suggests a paternal duty that may have been neglected at home.

There are times, after all, when divorces are justifiable. A man has secured one because his wife smoked cigarettes. How many women are there entitled to divorce for bad habits of man?

"And do you understand?" asked the Sunday School teacher, "why you pray for your 'daily bread'?" "Oh, yes," replied little Elsie, "that's so we'll be sure to have it fresh."

The Oregon Mining Journal, published at Grant's Pass, and the American Mining Journal, of San Francisco, have been consolidated, and will hereafter be issued from Grant's Pass under the name of the Oregon Mining Journal.

Idaho sheepmen are shipping corn from eastern states to feed to their flocks. Ranges are said to be badly crowded, owing partly to the presence of Montana and Utah herds. A good snowfall this winter promises well for range and crop conditions this year.

The State of Idaho has, through its State Engineer, completed a detailed statement of all the arid lands within that state, of both public and private ownership. The information has been forwarded to the General Government and is to be acted upon in the near future.

The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company will take an active part in the irrigation schemes now under way in Eastern Oregon. The Harriman system proposes this season to put more people in to Oregon and Washington than

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have ever come here at any one time in the history of the states.

Sumpter has nearly doubled in building accommodations since the boom of 1899-1900, and yet it is difficult for those now arriving to secure business and dwelling rooms. Rents are more reasonable to tenants than in the boom times, and there are a large number of buildings as well as tenants to fill them.—Reporter.

It is currently reported that a bill will be introduced in the legislature to increase the salary of County Clerk Fields, of Multnomah, from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per annum, and also to increase the pay of the chief deputies from \$100 to \$150 per month, and the wages of the under-deputies, who now receive \$75 per month, says the Oregonian.

The present volume of immigration mostly from the countries of eastern Europe, should receive the consideration of Congress at the coming short session. It is not what a man eats but what he digests that makes him strong. So it is with nations? Can the United States assimilate into its political system the tribes that are now contributing three-quarters of a million a year to the population.

Money of untimely redemption is based upon gold and silver. Were it not for a steady flow of these metals from the mines of the west to the commercial centers of the east, the whole country would be swamped in a panic. Theorists who depreciate mining and attack the legitimacy of the industry, do not stop to consider this fact; but, good financiers do, and they are alive to the fact that disaster would follow the suspension of mining, and more, they know that mining would not be carried on with greater activity and energy year after year if it were not profitable, and a good thoroughfare for lucrative investments.—Salt Lake City Mining Review.

Man is a Great Thing.

Here is what one of our exchanges says of man: "Man that is born of his parents is of few days and full of bacilli. As a bald-headed infant he lieth in his cradle and kicketh up his heels with colic and much squawk. He goeth to school when a youngster and getteth the seat of his pants hammered for something he did not do, until he is sick at heart and unable to sit down. He groweth up like a weed in the front yard and soon reaches the age when he is composed largely of feet, freckles and an appetite for pie. About the time he gets too long for short pants and not long enough for long ones, he goeth away to college and learneth to monkey with a three dollar mandolin and tear off big words. He marryeth a sweet young thing whose papa is supposed to be president of the first national bank, but whom he after ascertaineth couldn't buy a prize rooster at a country fair. He worrieth along from year to year, gradually acquiring off-spring until his family begins to resemble a Sunday school class the week before Christmas. About the time he has acquired enough collateral to make life seem sweet he is hurried away with rheumatism; his children have a knock down and carry out over the terms of his will. His sons blow in his estate on bad whiskey and plug hats; his wife puts on the finishing touches to his career by marrying the hired man."

Oregon Press Society
City Hall