

Crook County Journal.

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NO. 24

The Bee Hive

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THE DALLES JEWELER

Watches Sent in by mail will be promptly attended to and returned to responsible parties.

LEEVE BREAKS AT SILVER LAKE

Water Rushes Over Hayes Bros. Ranch Causing Heavy Loss.

Last Friday night the levee around the Hayes Bros. ranch gave away and by Saturday morning their entire meadows were completely under water and will remain in this condition most of the summer. This will deprive them of about 200 tons of hay this year.

Last season the Hayes boys put up about 3000 tons of hay and it is said that they have the best quality of hay in this valley; they were getting their ranch in shape to put up more feed this year than ever before, but now their fine ranch is a total loss to them for this year as they will be unable to cut any hay and as long as the water remains on the meadows it will be unfit for pasture.

The Hayes Bros. have worked hard for the last ten years in fixing up their ranch and had several different kinds of grasses that were beginning to do nicely, but it will take several years to get the ranch back where it was before the levee broke, and it is estimated the loss will reach \$2000.—Silver Lake Oregonian.

TO BEGIN BORING FOR OIL

Pennsylvania Capitalist Take Hold of Malheur Properties to Start Development.

J. C. Blood, who is representing Pennsylvania capitalists with a view of boring for oil in this section between the Malheur and Nyssa, addressed a meeting here last week and stated just what his company expected from the land owners. Mr. Blood has been here for the past two months securing leases, and several of our farmers have not as yet signed the lease contract. The eastern company desire a block of 5000 acres, and if the same can be secured, the company agrees to begin operations. Mr. Blood, in his remarks stated that beyond a doubt both gas and oil could be found in the belt tributary to Ontario and that he and his company were willing to spend their money, without a cent of cost to the land owners, to bore for the same, says the Ontario Argus.

Chairman Metcalf appointed J. R. Blackaby, E. H. Test, and upon motion Mr. Metcalf was selected, and the three will interview all land owners who have not signed the lease and do all in their power to have them do so.

Mr. Blood's associates are now in Boise awaiting the final decision, returnable Thursday evening.

It is hoped the committee will have no difficulty in securing the necessary signatures, for the work contemplated means much for Ontario and this section.

FIGHT FOR PORTAGE ROAD

Open River Association at The Dalles Takes Active Steps Toward Constructing Line.

Eastern Oregon showed its disposition in the matter of constructing the portage road last week when members of the Open River association from all the counties on the Columbia and many from the interior counties met at The Dalles and took active steps toward building the line.

The sentiment favor of the portage road and that it should take precedent over the canal was universal. It was also made evident that if the appropriation of \$165,000 made by the Oregon legislature to construct and equip the portage should prove to be inadequate the deficiency would be sup-

plied by popular subscription raised among the farmers and shippers tributary to the Columbia in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Governor Chamberlain, who was present at the meeting, asked that a committee be appointed to confer with the state land board and discuss the question of building the portage.

After this conference there will be a better understanding between the state board and the people of the Inland Empire as to what course is most desirable to pursue. It is the impression that the government engineers will somewhat modify their demands of an uncompromised right of way for the canal, that is that they will consent to the construction of the portage along the canal route unless it should be shown that it would interfere with construction work, and it is believed that in this even the route of the portage can be so modified that the portage can be operated while canal construction is being prosecuted.

DIXIE MEADOWS RICH MINE

Grant County News Says Its Immense Ledges and Steady Values Are Wonderful.

Other mines have been richer and other ledges have born more free gold, but in width between the walls and steady values, there are but few, if any, of the great mines of the world that exceed the magnificent Dixie Meadows. The main lead extends northeasterly and southwesterly, and for many hundreds of feet, already explored and nobody knows how many of the unexplored, the immense fissure between the walls of slate and of porphyry, is filled with blue and white quartz, richly loaded with free gold, gold bearing sulphides and galena. Three cross cuts have been driven, and in all the three hundred feet between pierced by upraises and netted with drifts, still the same ore, bearing identically the same metals, only in different proportions, is encountered everywhere.

The Dixie Meadows is truly a wonderful property, and its value to the whole community and to the state is beyond computation.

It is the expectation of the management to install a cyanide plant this summer, and the nature of the dividends it will pay may be estimated from the fact that the whole cost of mining, milling and treatment is not above five dollars per ton.

There are other properties in the vicinity of this mine that show up as well, and will soon be on the producing list. There are many prospectors already at work in the surrounding hills, and from there to the Quartzburg district is the busiest section of the county.

At the latter place the mines are fully as promising and only time is needed to prove their great worth. The Standard is running a full crew as is also the Copperopolis. The Equity is mining and milling as fast as possible and surveys are being made for patents to the ground.

BUILDING AT PICKETT ISLE

Portland Capital Is Becoming Interested in the Proposed C&K Crossing on the Deschutes.

Pickett Island on the Deschutes river, which has long been looked upon as a very favorable site in the event of the C&E crossing the mountains, is quietly indulging in building operations. Portland people, among them W. A. Laidlaw, have erected a store building which carries a large stock and other improvements are promised. Most of the land surrounding has been taken by homesteaders and the district is in the midst of the sections to be irrigated and lies but a short distance west of the survey of the Columbia Southern. With both roads put through the point would undoubtedly become a junction town.

STOCKMEN FAIL TO AGREE

Boundary Lines in the Blue Mountains Have not Been Fixed.

The committee of sheepmen, consisting of Murdo Finlayson, John McLennan and Pat Radigan, of Antelope and vicinity, which went to the Blue Mountain region last week to confer with cattlemen from the southern part of the county regarding the establishment of range lines for the summer, has returned home having failed to make any satisfactory arrangement.

The sheepmen were met by a committee of cattlemen and the matter of fixing permanent range lines thoroughly discussed, but no conclusive action taken, the sheepmen claiming that the cattle owners demanded more than the sheepmen could concede. No other date was set for a future meeting to adjust matters and the herds of both cattle and sheep will be ranged this summer in the disputed territory. Whether any trouble will arise from the failure to make permanent boundary lines within which the sheepmen and cattlemen would be compelled to range their stock is a question which the coming summer will answer. Present indications point toward disturbances which will result in serious losses before fall has come. The Antelope Herald in speaking of the meeting held last week says:

"It is not known what steps will be taken by the sheepmen to protect their right to a participation in the range privilege in the Blue mountains, but it is to be hoped that some amicable adjustment of the matter can be arranged. In Lake county, where a bitter range war is in progress, 4000 sheep have been killed in the past few months, and such a condition of affairs is to be avoided, if possible, in this county. The organizations seem anxious to find a way for the amicable solution of the question."

SCOURING MILLS AT WORK

First Wool Clips of the Season Are Being Run Through the Mill in Operation at The Dalles.

The scouring mill at The Dalles is now running a double crew of sorters daily, and the mill night and day, turning out 8000 pounds of scoured product every 24 hours. The wool purchases so far have been from stations along the line of the Northern Pacific in the Yakima country, and at the Columbia river points, such as The Dalles, Arlington and Echo, where the sealed bid plan was inaugurated in the state three years ago does not obtain. The first clips shorn are nearly all from the warm Columbia river ranges, which wools are more or less earthy and are sought only by dealers in the scoured product.

The wools bought up have been by representatives of Connecticut, Massachusetts and California firms. The prices paid for this class of wool varies according to the amount of sand it carries.

Some very shrunky clips have been bought for 10 cents at a railroad station, while others in the scouring class, lighter in shrinkage brought 13 cents. These prices are fully up to those paid last year for similar wools.

There seems to be no disposition on the part of the growers to hold this class of wool, and buyers are apparently glad to take them, as they are being absorbed by the dealers as fast as they are offered.

BUILD INTO COAL REGION

Oregon & Nevada Short Line Railroad Incorporated and Will Tap John Day Coal Fields.

Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Oregon & Idaho Shortline Railway Company, with R. W. Baxter, F. S. Stanley and H. T. Hendryx, incorporators.

The objects of this company are to construct and operate a railroad from a point on the Columbia accessible to river steamboats, through the lower John Day coal district, via Condon, Fossil and the great wheat belt bordering the Blue Mountain range, and ultimately connecting with the Oregon Short Line at or near Nampa, Idaho, says the Sumpter American.

This project offers needed transportation for the coal interests mentioned so frequently of late on the lower John Day. When carried through to its ultimate destination the fertile and isolated section of north central Oregon is opened to the world. It also is a very feasible and short route for the O. R. & N. to reach the Columbia river after leaving the Snake, without crossing any drainage system, as the line would follow the basin of the John Day to a low gap opening into the Burnt river basin, thus practically circumventing the Blue mountains and raising the three high divides now passed over by the O. R. & N. at Meacham, Telocasset and Pleasant Valley.

Mr. Hendryx stated when he returned to this city the present week that he and his associates in this work were acting for Eastern capital, which had expressed the willingness to produce the funds necessary for construction if Mr. Baxter reported favorably, which he had done. The enterprise has taken such favorable form that work is to be pressed on the coal deposits.

"We are arranging to have the coal lands thoroughly prospected with a drill," said Mr. Hendryx yesterday. "Other preliminaries will be attended to, and we expect to have considerable work in progress at the coal properties. This will be done for the benefit of the railway enterprise, although there is enough in sight otherwise to induce the gentlemen interested to proceed with construction of the line."

RANGE WAR IS ON AGAIN

Sheep Owners Near Mitchell Lose Heavily Monday by Slaughter of Their Herds.

A dispatch to the Oregonian from Fossil, dated the 23rd, conveys the news of a sheep slaughter near Mitchell the first of this week. The article says:

The war on the sheep that has resulted in the killing of many head recently was opened again last night near Mitchell and 175 sheep were shot by unknown parties. Some time during the night a raid was made on a band of sheep belonging to Butler Bros. of Richmond, which had driven on to property rented by Butler Bros. from Eugene Looney, County Commissioner of Wheeler county. The location of the land was about six miles from Mitchell on The Dalles and Canyon City road.

The herder was asleep in a cabin when he was awakened by shooting. He quickly realized that his sheep were being killed by well-armed men, but being unarmed himself, he was powerless to interfere. When daylight came he found that 75 sheep had been killed outright and 100 others were so badly wounded that they soon died. The cartridges used by the slaughterers were found strewn on the ground around the herd.

A party of cattlemen was seen in the vicinity of the herd yesterday, but aside from suspicions there was nothing to indicate the identity of the marauders.