

Crook County Journal

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Homestead Bill May Not Pass

Friends of the Borah-Jones three year homestead bill are greatly alarmed over the delay of the conference committee in reaching an agreement, and are fearful that this long delay will make it possible for Mr. Fisher, the Secretary of the Interior, to defeat the measure in one way or another. This bill, after passing the Senate and then passing the House in an amended form, was referred to the conference committee on March 27, and since then no actual steps have been taken by this committee towards bringing in an agreement.

It was fully expected by friends of this bill that the conference committee, appointed to reconcile the differences between the Senate and House bills, could get together in a few days—a week at the outside—but seven weeks have elapsed, and the conference committee is no nearer an agreement than the day it was appointed. This situation is somewhat surprising, in view of the fact that every member of the conference committee voted for the bill and is supposed to favor reducing the homestead period from five years to three, and to favor giving homesteaders leave of absence of five months each year.

The failure of the conference committee to act has given Secretary Fisher and Gifford Pinchot ample time in which to formulate opposition to the bill, especially in the House, and it is the firm conviction of the known friends of the measure that Fisher and Pinchot have not been idle while the conference committee has remained inactive. On the other hand, there are convincing indications that whenever the bill reappears in the House, it will be made the object of organized attack, and the longer the delay in reporting the bill back to the House, the stronger will be this organization.

The fact that Secretary Fisher is opposed to every essential feature of the Borah-Jones bill, and in addition to that he is endeavoring to use this bill as a means of writing into the present homestead law certain conservation restrictions that do not now appear on the statute books, and that cannot be placed there as individual measures.

Information that reaches various Western Senators and Representatives is to the effect that Secretary Fisher is now using the vast machinery of the Interior Department to defeat this three-year homestead bill. Instructions have been sent out to special agents in the field to interview homesteaders and get from them statements which tend to show there is no demand for a reduced homestead period, and no occasion for granting leave of absence of five months each year. Letters received from many homesteaders say that these special agents are not making a fair canvas, but are getting the views of those homesteaders who have already complied with the law, and having nothing to gain through the passage of the pending bill. Those who are struggling under adverse conditions and who would welcome a shorter period and leave of absence are not being interviewed.

Had the conference committee done its work promptly, had it adjusted the differences between the original Senate and House bills and disregarded all ex-



News Snapshots Of the Week

Nearly 90,000 people were made homeless by the overflowing of the Mississippi river in Louisiana. The Pennsylvania state police and the striking miners met in a pitched battle in which one miner was killed and a score were wounded. John G. Hibben was inaugurated as president of Princeton university. Henry P. Brown started taking testimony in the government's suit to dissolve the so called steel trust. The testimony brought out in the judiciary committee's inquiry into the advisability of impeaching Judge Robert W. Archbald of the commerce court influenced the house to refuse to retain in the legislative, executive and judiciary appropriation bill a provision for the maintenance of the commerce court.

traneous matter—as is the custom with other conference committees the bill unquestionably would have passed finally, and there is little doubt that it would have been approved. In fact, President Taft has promised to sign the bill if it were sent to him. But by dilatory tactics, and failure to report an agreement, the conference committee has played into the hands of the enemy, and there is due cause for alarm on the part of those who want to see the homestead period shortened and five months' leave each year granted to settlers.

Giving Burns a Big Black Eye

Some of the neighboring towns are ungenerously endeavoring to give Burns a black eye with immigrants because of the reported existence of smallpox here. There is no reason for this or for any scare whatever. The smallpox was brought here from Vale, where it has been prevalent since last fall, but the few cases that developed from the exposure were so mild that the victims were scarcely sick; the quarantine has been so complete that there has been no spread of the disease and no new cases are showing themselves. Besides all this, practically every young person in the community has been vaccinated, one firm of physicians innoculating over 200. The disease has not been dangerous in Burns at any time and it is now wiped out, so the neighboring towns will please accept the assurance that all visitors are perfectly safe from infection or contagion.—Harney County News.

Settle Up.

As the following firms are out of business they wish to close accounts at once.
O'Neil Bros.
O'Neil Bros. Co.
Lone Pine Trading Co.
O'Neil, Larson & Co.
Settlement must be made by either cash or note with Walter O'Neil, Prineville, Ore., at the law office of George Bernier.

Tillman Reuter Talks in Portland

Tillman Reuter, who can raise better crops with eight inches of rainfall on the "arid" Eastern Oregon soil than many farmers can on the best bottom land with all the rainfall needed, came to Portland today to look over his dry-farming exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce, says the Telegram. This exhibit he arranged two years ago.

"I did not know it was so far behind the times," he said after inspecting it. "I see I will have to arrange an entirely new display this year. Why, we are so far ahead of that in what we are producing now by dry farming, that there is no comparison."

Mr. Reuter and his brother have 200 acres in grains and potatoes this year near Madras in Crook County.

Earth Sinks Near Summer Lake

Summer Lake, Or.—Antics of the earth's crust have caused John Partin and L. L. Hale to abandon their efforts to sink an artesian well on the Partin ranch at the north end of Summer Lake. Mr. Partin believed that the ranch was trying to bury itself. Mr. Hale was in fear that his drilling machinery might sink with the earth.

Work was started on the well several weeks ago and soon after the earth began to crumble and sink around the casing. Then the whole surface sagged two feet for several rods in all directions from the drill. Partin and Hale became frightened, pulled up the casing and withdrew.

There are more than 30 artesian wells in the Summer Lake district and each hole shows a different earth formation or a different flow.

On the ranch of L. Klippel holes were bored for three artesian wells.

A strong flow of good water was found in one, a flow equally as strong, but of different kind of water was struck in the second and the drillers encountered gas in the third well.

Summer Lake is at the foot of a towering rimrock. It is so pregnated with mineral, soda and salts that fish cannot live in the water. Geologists say that the lake and surrounding valley at one time were on a level with the top of the rimrock, but gradually sunk away and are still sinking at the rate of an inch each year. The experience at the Partin ranch seems to corroborate the theory.

Now, ranchers are asking whether their artesian wells should not be tapped when not needed for irrigation as they believe the crust of the earth covering the artesian pocket is so thin that it may crumble when the water is exhausted. At one place the artesian water is so close to the surface that a flowing well was struck at 36 feet. Scientists hold that the present generation of Summer Lake is out of danger. With one well on every ten acres of land in the valley, according to the scientific estimate it would be something like 5000 years before the water is exhausted. Besides, it is argued, the water continually is replenishing itself.

Teacher's Examinations

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Crook County will hold the regular examination for applicants for state and county papers at the court house, Prineville, as follows:

For State Papers—Commencing Wednesday, June 19, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, June 22, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday forenoon—Writing, U. S. History, Physiology.

Wednesday afternoon—Physical Geography, Reading, Composition, Methods in Reading, Methods in Arithmetic.

Thursday forenoon—Arithmetic, Civil Government, History of Education, Psychology, Methods in Geography.

Thursday afternoon—Grammar, Geography, American Literature, Physics, Methods in Language, Thesis for Primary Certificate.

Friday forenoon—Theory and Practice, Orthography, English Literature.

Friday afternoon—School Law, Botany Algebra.

Saturday forenoon—Geometry, Geology.

Saturday afternoon—General History, Bookkeeping.

R. A. FORD, County Sup't.

Christian Endeavorers Go to Terrebonne

The Christian Endeavorers of Prineville are planning to take Terrebonne by storm next Sunday. Twenty-five or thirty will go over and take part in the following program:

Saturday evening, 8 p. m.—Reception of delegates.

Sunday, 7 a. m.—Morning Watch, Miss Ethel Klann.

10 a. m.—Sunday School.

11 a. m.—Song service, Cecil Hall.

Address of Welcome by Terrebonne.

Response, "Benefit of Endeavor Pledge," with discussion—Prineville.

President's report.

President's conference.

Sunday, 1:30—Song service.

Discussion of localities to be benefited.

C. E. and the Church—C. E. Baughn.

Christianity for the Youth.

Standards of Efficiency.

Unveiling of county banners.

Efficiency tests.

Awarding of county banner for quarter.

3 p. m.—Regular afternoon service.

Address by Mrs. Silbaugh, president W. C. T. U.

4:30—Executive committee business session. All endeavorers requested to be present. Business for quarter to be attended to.

7 p. m.—C. E. led by Prineville endeavorers.

8 p. m.—Address by Rev. Horie or Gregg.

Special Prizes for Industrial Exhibits

County Superintendent Ford is making special efforts to get up prizes for school exhibits that will prove strong incentives for good work among the children. He is grouping districts so that the prizes will be larger and the interest more keen among competitors. This week the superintendent announces a prize of \$20 cash for the best industrial exhibit made by any school in a group composed of the Mill Creek school, Johnson Creek and Slayton schools. George Russell and Ed Slayton each contributed \$10 to this end.

Horses for Sale.

On the old C. Sam Smith ranch, near Prineville, sold in any number at reasonable prices. For further information address G. H. Russell, Prineville, Oregon. 12-16-tf

For Sale.

Complete sawmill, 15 M capacity, ten miles from town; for sale or trade. See COLLINS W. ELKINS.

Turkey Eggs.

White Holland, 9 for \$2. Mrs. T. F. McCallister. 3-21

City Council Holds Meeting

At a recent meeting of the city council the following bills were ordered paid:

- C W Elkins, mdse & storage. \$ 8 75
- R L Brewster, surveying. 17 50
- P L & W Co, lights & water. 38 95
- T E J Duffy, legal services. 7 00
- Ed Roberts, labor. 31 25
- A D Wonderly, labor. 20 00
- Wade Huston, labor. 17 00
- J H Gray, labor. 1 75
- " " city park. 27 60
- I W Ward, labor. 5 00
- R S Price, labor and team. 20 00
- C E Smith, salary. 25 00
- " " cash paid for work. 40 00
- W F King Co, mdse. 2 75
- W H Keehn, labor. 22 50
- Shipp & Perry, lumber. 331 30
- A R Bowman, fees. 26 10
- T L Coon, salary. 75 00
- " " team hire. 55 00
- F A Rowell, salary. 75 00

Maps and blue print of obstructed portion of Third street, between M. Hodges plat of Prineville and Noble's addition, was submitted by City Engineer Brewster. It was moved and carried that the city, through its attorney and the proper legal channels, proceed at once to open up the west end of Third street as platted by M. Hodges, so far as decided. Further action to condemn the rest of the obstructed portion to be tabled pending the opening up of the street so far as decided.

The petition of F. N. Honsinger to be allowed to erect a tent on the vacant Masonic lot was referred to the mayor and fire and water committee for final action.

The question of the disposal of sewerage from hotels was ordered to be taken up with the city attorney to learn the legal status of the right way to dispose of same.

The marshal was instructed to put in crosswalk on Second and D streets. He was also instructed to drive loose stock out of the city.

On motion an ordinance amending the present one on poolrooms, allowing poolrooms to be open on Sunday, was ordered drawn by the city attorney. Council adjourned.

Locate Irrigation Project in Crook Co.

W. T. Lester and R. D. Cooper have just returned from surveying and locating an irrigation project just over the line in Crook county which has promising features and will bring some 3000 acres of fine land under water at a very reasonable cost, says the Burns Times Herald.

A reservoir site has been located and the necessary filings made to impound the waters of Swamp creek and Bulger creek which hold sufficient water to irrigate the large tracts of agricultural land lying immediately below.

This particular project was once a Carey act segregation but the parties let it go and Mr. Lester, with others took the matter up and Mr. Cooper, of the engineering firm of Cooper & Donge, was employed to work out the engineering features. This has been completed and a very feasible project of reasonable cost has been developed.

Some ditch work is now being done and it is expected to have the project completed in about three years. Mr. Lester has not stated the price per acre the water will cost but we are given to understand it will be reasonable.

Semi-Annual Statement of the Treasurer of Crook County, Oregon, From October 1, 1911, to April 1, 1912.

	RECEIPTS					DISBURSEMENTS				
	Balance	Clerks fees	Taxes	Fine & Mis	State	Transfer	TOTAL	Paid Out	Bal on H'd	TOTAL
Gross amount	19,977.70	2,572.64	127,040.92	3,706.42	5,128.38	10,208.39	179,012.09	67,481.39	102,530.70	170,017.06
General fund	9,979.84	2,572.64	61,651.77	1,742.65	903.50	77,507.40	29,489.40	48,021.00	77,507.40	77,507.40
School fund	6,196.60		37,294.16	470.73	1,502.02	25,483.53	9,017.89	16,465.64	25,483.53	25,483.53
Road fund	1,117.95		8,448.24	370.85	2,022.46	12,361.50	6,126.31	6,235.19	12,361.50	12,361.50
High School fund	108.02		6,733.44			6,841.46	2,960.07	4,349.39	6,841.46	6,841.46
Institute fund	49.87					49.87	44.48	5.39	49.87	49.87
Library fund	362.97		257.12			619.09	446.30	167.74	619.09	619.09
Survey Tax fund	37.40					37.40		37.40	37.40	37.40
Bequest fund	41.05		1,636.11			1,677.16	504.73	1,172.43	1,677.16	1,677.16
City of Prineville	89.50		829.93			919.43	228.87	690.56	919.43	919.43
City of Bend	53.06		348.56			401.62	349.27	52.35	401.62	401.62
City of Redmond	3.96		158.64			162.14	126.80	35.34	162.14	162.14
City of Madras	261.49					261.49	3,585.61	3,585.61	261.49	261.49
Reg. general fund	679.18			2.00		681.18	1,447.72	1,447.72	681.18	681.18
Scalp Bounty	16.38					16.38	656.21	656.21	16.38	16.38
Reg. Road Fund						5,779.81	5,779.81		5,779.81	5,779.81
Cruising fund			5,609.62			5,609.62		5,609.62		5,609.62