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Population, 3,000 The County Seat of Douglas County. Oregon Soldiers Home, U. S. Land Office and U. S. Weather Bureau are located here. It is situated in the beautiful and fertile valley of the Rogue River and is an excellent gateway to the Coast Range and Coquille country.

JUDGE BILLINGER WILL NOT RENDER DECISION UNTIL TUESDAY

Senator Mitchell's Plea of Abatement Is Being Thoroughly Sifted in Federal Courts. Heney Confident.

Portland, April 23.—A decision in the matter of the Senator Mitchell plea in abatement will not be rendered until Tuesday morning, Judge Billinger having so announced today. Owing to the multitude of authorities he has been obliged to consult, and the importance of the issues involved, the judge has found it impossible to reach a satisfactory conclusion before the time indicated.

District Attorney Heney feels the utmost confidence that the court will hold in favor of the Government's contention that the plea in abatement should be dismissed in accordance with the reasons set forth in his demurrer, and this also seems to be the general impression among the local legal fraternity, so that there is scarcely any doubt that Senator Mitchell and others will have to resort to some other method of avoiding an early trial.

admitting that everything contained therein is true, he claims that they do not set up sufficient grounds for attacking the validity of the indictments. He stated also that the question of Grand Juror Guinistin's citizenship—which he regards as the feature of their assumptions—was settled by the court that declared him entitled to citizenship papers, and the legality of such proceedings cannot be impaired by any such collateral assault, any more than the patent to a tract of Government land can be set aside by some tribunal without competent jurisdiction.

FOREST RESERVE BOUNDARY SURVEY

Medford, April 21.—S. C. Bartrum, forest supervisor, returned Wednesday from a trip to examination to the camp of the rangers who are surveying the western boundary of the Cascade forest reserve. During the two weeks they have been out the rangers, five in number, A. S. Ireland, of Olalla; Henry Ireland, Sam Swenning, Silas McKee, of Medford, and Will Nichols, of Central Point, have surveyed and marked eighteen miles of the boundary. Besides this they have cut out the brush along the line and posted notices at every place where the line crosses a mountain trail, so that anyone knows when he crosses the line of the reserve. Mr. Bartrum expresses himself as well pleased with the work done by the rangers. Mr. Bartrum informed the Mail that under a late ruling of the department forest rangers are now authorized to make arrests without warrants for violations of the rules and regulations of the reserve. This is an authority which should have been given the rangers before, as it has frequently happened that violators of the law have escaped on account of the rangers not having the power of summary arrest. In company with Ranger Henry Ireland, Mr. Bartrum left Thursday for Klamath county, to look after some extensive sales of government timber.

DAM HIGHER THAN NIAGARA

Portland, April 21.—The greatest dam in the world when we get through, said Attorney Frank Thrope, of Phoenix, Ariz., to a Buffalo Express representative "I mean the great Tonto dam on Salt River. It will do great things for the country, with all that power and water to use. To give you an idea of the immensity of the job, think over these figures, keeping in mind that Niagara Falls is only about 160 feet high. The height of the dam above bedrock will be 266 feet, and it will be 230 feet above low water mark. "As to the thickness of the dam it will be 158 feet at the base and 16 feet at the top, with a 12-foot driveway along the top. Though the dam will be only 210 feet long at the base, it will be 780 feet at the top. Over 76,000 cubic yards will have to be excavated for the foundation, and there will be over 300,000 square yards of masonry, just 150,000 barrels of cement being necessary. "There are 5,256 square miles in the drainage basin, while the area of the reservoir will be 14,000 acres. It is expected the power constantly developed will be 1,200 horsepower with a storage of 1,000,000 acre feet of water in the full reservoir to keep it up." The dam, which will be chiefly for irrigation and the reclamation of arid lands, is expected to cost about \$3,000,000.

HENEY TO RETURN TO SAN FRANCISCO

Portland, April 21.—All of the prominent men on the indictment roll, have appeared for arraignment. There are a few of the more unimportant defendants who have not as yet put in an appearance, but all of them have been notified and will be in court on Monday morning. Mr. Heney will soon leave for San Francisco and will remain there for several weeks, or until near the time when the first case is to be set for trial. This is supposed that the decision of Judge Billinger in regard to the Mitchell plea of abatement will be in favor of the government and against the quashing of the indictments. Should the decision of the court be for the defendants, however, it would complicate matters greatly and what would come next would be a hard thing to predict. If the court were to so decide it might be necessary for the facts alleged in the plea to be tried out before a jury and in this case even the preliminary steps in the trial could not be taken until after the jury has been drawn, which has not been done.

BROWNELL ENTERS HIS PLEA

Portland, April 21.—State Senator George C. Brownell and George Sorenson filed demurrers and pleas in abatement to the indictments charging subornation of perjury in connection with the land frauds in the federal district court today.

MUCH LAND IS TIED UP

Vancouver, Wash., April 21.—An order has been issued by the Commissioner of the General Land Office which promises to be serious and far-reaching in its effects. Holders of many acres of valuable lands in this county will be among the sufferers, and it is said by those in a position to know, that the holders of more than 100,000 acres of land in the States of Washington, Oregon and California may lose their possessions. Information of the action of the Commissioner comes through a notice issued by the Register and Receiver of the Vancouver Land Office to Louis Nicolai, of Portland. Nicolai is a prominent sawmill man, and is the owner of a large tract of timber in the Vancouver district. In August, 1900, he filed with the local Land Office a lien land selection covering the north half of section 9, township 11 north, range 5 east. This was taken in lieu of lands in the Butte forest reserve, which had been surrendered and which he had obtained by purchase from the original holder long after the patent had been issued. In the notice of suspension issued from the Land Office, the reason given for the action is that the selection was made in lieu of school lands in the state of Oregon and that investigation is now to be made of the manner in which these lands were disposed of in the States of California and Oregon. The order is said to affect all lien land selections of which the base was school lands, in which is included sections 16 and 36 of each of the townships in the Oregon districts. It is known that in the past many holders of school selections where the lands have been included in the limits of forest reserves have taken advantage of the opportunity to exchange them for lien scrip and thus secure valuable timber lands in other sections.

RUSSIAN FLEET SAILS NORTH FROM KAMRANK

Terrible Naval Battle Daily Expected—Authorities Differ on Probable Outcome—Relative Strength of Fleets.

Paris, April 22.—The Foreign office has received advices from the Admiral in command of the French squadron in French Cochin China, stating that Rojestvensky's Baltic Fleet sailed north from Kamranh Bay on Saturday. This information was received by the French with a show of greatest pleasure, as there is no feeling here to countenance any disregard of neutrality by France.

It is believed in Paris that the promised naval encounter between the fleets cannot much longer be delayed. French naval experts who have followed the situation profess to believe that the outcome will be a demolishing of the Japanese fleet, to be followed by the ravaging of the coast of Japan by the Russians. Inasmuch as the advices relative to the announced departure of the Russian fleet come from Foreign Minister Delcasse, they are believed to be worthy of credence.

Strength of Fleets in Guns
Washington, April 22.—In a compilation of figures on comparative strength of the Russian and Japanese fleets, made by naval authorities here, the balance of gun power is greatly in favor of the Japanese. In big guns and small the Russians are generally outnumbered, and though the Russians have the greater number of battleships the Japanese have two or three times as many armored and protected cruisers as the Russian fleet.

Few officers of the Navy Department care to predict what the outcome of the apparently imminent battle will be. They seem to think that Rojestvensky will fight and that he is now prepared to meet Togo. The following table of the number of guns in each fleet has been compiled by the Navy Department:

Russia
12.6-inch..... 3
10-inch..... 20
8-inch..... 5
6-inch..... 34
4.7-inch..... 196
4-inch..... 230
3.9-inch..... 46
3.1-inch..... 159
Japan
12-inch..... 3
10-inch..... 20
8-inch..... 5
6-inch..... 34
4.7-inch..... 196
4-inch..... 230
3.9-inch..... 46
3.1-inch..... 159

FILIPINO ADVANCE GUARD ARRIVES AT PORTLAND

Two dog-eating, head-hunting Igorrote chieftains have arrived at Portland from the Philippines. The Oregonian printed their pictures as they were seen in Portland arrayed in only their girdles and offers the apology that "The chiefs were having their suits pressed when they were photographed," but states in conclusion, "The Igorrottes wear the original peek-a-boo costume." In the present troupe of Dog Eaters there are 53. The remainder are at Seattle, where they will remain until a concession has been arranged at the Lewis and Clark Exposition grounds. Twenty-three women are in the troupe. Old Palao, the medicine man of the troupe, is in a hospital at Seattle. He is very old and tired out with the sea trip. He was seasick coming over, it is supposed. Chiefs Fomeleoy and Democet were taken on the roof of the Oregonian building to be photographed. The "big house" astonished them. They crept to the edge and looked down. "Ugh," said they. It was the biggest house they had ever been on. And then said Chief Fomeleoy with a wave of his hand and a broad grin and in his native tongue: "Americans all rich; no use talking look at the houses."

GUARDS PLOT TO KILL THE CZAR

St. Petersburg, April 23.—A plot to kill the Czar, it is alleged, has been discovered among the troops of the imperial guard. Many officers are said to be involved, the very men whom the imperial family depends upon for protection. Governor-General Trepoff's secret agents unearthed the plot, and assert that several of the conspirators of noble birth were in possession of large quantities of dynamite. The discovery has unnerved the Czar at Tsarskoe-Selo, who, it is reported, constantly exclaims: "Whom can I trust?" The conspirators bound by oaths, remain silent even under direct threats, and Bruce Vastiev has been unable to force a single soldier to confess his participation in the plot.

A NEW REBEKAH LODGE AT GLENDALE

Last Thursday evening a new Rebekah lodge was organized at Glendale with over 30 charter members. Mrs. Mary Smith, of Grants Pass, the Special Deputy President appointed for that purpose, was the instituting officer. She was ably assisted by Mrs. C. Clevenger of Grants Pass, past president of the Oregon Rebekah Assembly. The Degree Staff of Grants Pass was present and did the floor work in a manner pleasing to the new members and creditable to themselves. This team is under the captaincy of Mrs. Clevenger and its work shows the result of the careful training of so competent and loyal a member. The officers of the new lodge are as follows:

Mrs. Mattie Howard, N. G.; Mrs. F. C. Loid, V. C.; Miss Myra Montgomery, Rec. Sec.; Mrs. J. C. Freeman, Fin. Sec.; Mrs. Lillian McCann, Chap. After the work was done speeches were made by several members and at 1:30 a. m. good night was said and all went home pleased with the work and wishing the new lodge a pleasant and successful career. A most excellent lunch was served at midnight at the McGregor restaurant.

PRESIDENT PROUD OF HIS BIG GAME

Glenwood Springs, Colo., April 21.—Secretary Loeble said he found the president in fine fettle and delighted at having killed his bear. He is proud of a second shot which broke the bear's backbone, and put an end to its killing the dogs. The camp has been moved to Gregor ranch, on the west divide. The third camp will be made near Red Stone. The President will return here May 14th, remain over night, and on the following day start for Denver.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN A CONVENT

Montreal, April 21.—A disastrous fire broke out at an early hour today and reduced to ashes the convent in the little village of St. Genieve. One nun, eight children and four aged women lost their lives. Bucket brigades were hurriedly formed by the villagers, but the fire had gained such headway that it was soon apparent that there was no chance to save the building from destruction. Sister Ragetter, in her efforts to save the lives of the children in her charge, succumbed to the smoke and flames. The pupils who perished were in a portion of the building where the fire had obtained too much headway before the alarm was given to enable those who responded to effect the rescue. An effort was made to get Point Claire by telephone so that assistance could be had from Montreal, but for some reason no response was received from Point Claire. The fire started about midnight in the old ladies' hospital, and the smoke was so thick that the children on the floor above were unable to get down. The convent was called St. Anne's, and was a branch of the convent of the Sisters of St. Anne's of Lachine. The building was a gray stone structure handsome in appearance, massive in character, and with the church it formed a central feature of the pretty little village.

ANOTHER SLAUGHTER OF SHEEP ON THE RANGE

Raid Made By Masked Men in Klamath County--The Herder Found Bound and Gaged.

Klamath Falls, Or., April 23.—News comes from Lorella, in the southeastern part of Klamath County, of another slaughter of sheep and outrage upon the herder committed by a band of masked men, supposed to be working in the interest of the cattle-owners.

On the 13th of the month nine men, with their faces effectually concealed by masks, rode up to the sheep camp of Klum & McKendree and covered the lone herder with their rifles. The man was trussed up so he could not move, his head covered with a sack, and then the slaughter of the sheep began.

deal of excitement among sheepowners who have heard of it, and fear is expressed that this marks the beginning of another season of terror in Central Oregon. Already further north a band of sheep was destroyed some weeks ago, but it was hoped that this was only a case of spite, and not part of an organized effort to drive the sheep from the range. Great Loss Last Year. It will be remembered that last year one man, Creed Conn, was killed and 6000 head of sheep, valued at \$20,000, were shot down or scattered in the mountains beyond redemption by band of sheepshooters. The counties of Crook, Lake, Grant and Klamath were last year evidently in the hands of an organization that had planned a campaign of terror and destruction.

MORE WATER FOR COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove, April 20.—From present indications it looks as though Cottage Grove's water supply will be increased. The city council has taken up the question in a manner that looks like business. The proposed improvements will cost about \$20,000. A ten-inch main will be laid and a reservoir holding 1,500,000 gallons of water built, if a majority of citizens favor the improvements. The matter will be submitted to the people for a vote. It is thought that the most of the citizens wish this improvement.

CALIFORNIA'S PRUNE CROP IS RUINED

San Francisco, April 20.—The prune crop of California in all the principal districts, will range from only one-quarter to one-half of the California season output. Ten days ago the outlook was good for a record-breaking prune-producing season. The trees were bearing enough small prunes to give basis for high hope in this direction. Suddenly a great change has come. A very large percentage of the prunes have fallen from the trees, after the fruit had attained about the size of peaches.

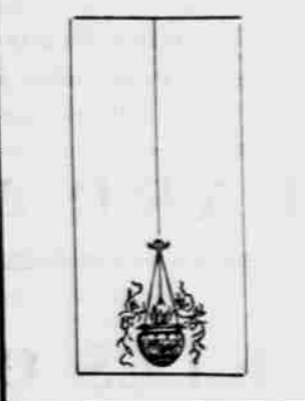
LAST SURVIVOR OF WAR OF 1812

Utica, N. Y., April 23.—Hiram Cronk, of the town of Avon, the only survivor of the war of 1812, will celebrate his 106th birthday Wednesday next. The aged veteran lives with his daughter on a farm near Avon. He enjoys splendid health for a man of such years, and his faculties are as keen as those of many persons half his age.

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