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 THURSDAY..... APRIL 18, 1905

March weather encroached somewhat on April last Sunday, judging from the little bluster which visited this vicinity. There were a few patches of snow on the foothills, though it lay only a few hours, and all is now lovely.

The patrons of the public schools of New York City are making a "howl" because their children are not taught the "rule of three" in arithmetic, cannot "spell to 'asperity' in Webster's blue back spelling book," nor can hardly write their names; therefore are not fitted for industrial and commercial pursuits in that busy city. But are given objects lessons in animal study, practical cooking and laundry work—all well enough in their way, but not sufficient to fit a child for a business life.

The proximity of the Japanese and Russian war squadrons is causing much interest and speculation as to the outcome of the battle which is expected to occur between them. The unparalleled success of the Japs in this war makes it difficult to believe that they will not come off victorious in this sea fight. The Russian fleet consists of a ponderance of large battleships, while the Japs have principally cruisers and torpedo boats, easily handled and quick firing. It will be remembered that in the battle of Santiago, between Spain and the United States, it was found that the four, six and eight-inch guns did the most execution on the Spanish vessels. For this reason it will be seen that the Japanese have a great advantage over the Russians.

Methodist Hill and Vicinity.
 M. Braun has been breaking sod for Theo Rieger.
 Joe Marnach is suffering from an attack of the grip.
 Bart Tscherner is building a neat cottage for W. M. Gritton.
 William Gomer has his entire homestead in wheat and oats this year.
 Frank Rodman will have a 200 acre crop to harvest for himself next fall.
 Edward Plog is a new arrival from Hood River and is now in the employ of his friend, Emil Zenke.
 Frank A. Smith has seeded fifty acres for Dr. Snook and also planted about 100 fruit trees on his own place.
 Daniel Arensmeir has acquired a fine taste for names recently. He is said to be especially fond of "Bertha."
 A. J. Hennemann has had 80 acres broken on his sister's place, three and half miles south west of town, which he is now seeding.
 Chas Wawriofsky, after spending a month on his homestead, has returned to resume his work at the Morrow & Keenan ranch.
 Miss Rose Danzer, who has been suffering severely from appendicitis, is improving rapidly under the medical aid of the Rev. Mr. Triglio.

Frog Spring Notes.
 Pete Vibbert has sowed about

60 acres, and is still grubbing and plowing.

Geo. Monner is busy grubbing and plowing, and making things very homelike.

A. Monner is very busy seeding. He is making a big improvement on his farm.

Lars Larson has finished sowing 15 acres, which is good showing in the big sage.

Louis Larson has just completed seeding about 30 acres, and is still grubbing and plowing.

Jake Peterson, who has been helping Louis Larson grub sage brush, is now grubbing for himself, and has made arrangements to have his ground seeded and plowed.

Nelson Grewell is about through with his spring work and is helping his brother, Stanley, put in his oats and barley.

Perry Monroe, supervisor of the Trout Creek road district, last week was looking over the proposed grade off the Big Plain and the survey to Lyle's gap, and with the aid of Pete Vibbert and William Brownhill found all the stakes. Mr. Monroe is pleased with the proposed grade and says it is much easier constructed than he at first supposed. Work will commence on the grade next Monday.

OPAL PRAIRIE NOTES.

On Friday April 7th, Mr. J. W. Cowherd of the Little Plain received quite a surprise from about thirty of his relatives. It being his fifty sixth birthday. Among the number present were Mrs. S. E. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Tucker, Mrs. Lee Peck and Mrs. John Peck of Opal Prairie, Mr. and Mrs. John Bullard and son, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Spicer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Wilkins, and Mr. and Mrs. James Smith and family, of Madras, also Mrs. Mortimore and family of the Little Plain. They arrived at Mr. Cowherd's about 11 o'clock with dinner baskets well filled with very elaborate cakes, pies and other goodies of many kinds. When the tables were spread, we truly beheld a feast. After dinner Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Spicer and Mrs. Wilkins gave the crowd a treat, in the way of instrumental music. Toward evening all joined in singing "Arkansaw" and the visitors dispersed to their homes, all wishing Mr. Cowherd a long and happy life and more surprises of the same kind.

Work commenced Monday on the saloon building of Cramer & Stephens, with James Magness as head carpenter.

J. G. Fisch, of The Dalles, is one of our new residents, having arrived last week. He is living with his son, F F Fisch, at Opal Prairie

Miss Lena M Lamb and Miss May Jackson drove to Shaniko Wednesday, enroute to Portland. J. A. Hoffmann is filling vacancy in the store

W. M. Musgrove, who has been at work on the Bend ditch with a large number of team, passed through Madras today. He is on his way to Hood River, where he will work on the new Hood River-Mt Hood railroad grade.

Don P Rea, accompanied by Archie Mason, who constructed the automobile road between Madras and Bead, departed Monday morning to inspect the auto road between here and there. They are expected to return today. The big auto started from Shaniko last week but a slight defect in the gearing caused the machine to be returned to Shaniko. We understand the auto is possibly already repaired and may be in Madras this week

Sam Compton, Grizzily saw mill man, was in town today. He says he has replaced his recently burned mill, with a much better one, and will resume sawing next week.

Horseman Take Notice.
 I will be at Hahn's stable with my Percheron Stallion, Prince Corbet, Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
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