

Madras Pioneer

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THURSDAY August 16, 1906

FOREST FIRES RAGING.

Forest fires have been raging in the Cascade reserve during the past two weeks, and towards the end of the past week the smoke became so dense in this locality as to almost obscure the sun, the effect being much like that of a cloudy day. On Sunday the smoke was especially dense here.

These forest fires result in most instances from the carelessness of campers, smouldering embers being left where they can catch the adjacent dead grass and underbrush, and the small flame being soon fanned into a fire that cannot be controlled. Thousands of dollars worth of fine timber is destroyed each year in this manner. The government maintains an army of forest rangers in the reserve, their chief duty being to guard against these fires. The number of these rangers has been greatly augmented during the present year and every precaution is being taken by the government to prevent the destructive forest fires.

STUART-YOUNG WEDDING

On last Wednesday evening at the Green Hotel in Madras, Oregon, Mr. Joseph H. Stuart and Miss Lulu E. Young were united in marriage, Rev. J. K. Craig pronouncing the marriage ceremony in the presence of relatives and friends of the contracting parties. After the ceremony an informal reception was held by the bride and groom while they received the good wishes and congratulations of the wedding guests.

The bride is the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Young, who were among the first settlers to make their homes in this new wheat section and who have resided at "Young's Flat" since first settling here. The groom is a well-known rancher living near Heister, where he has kept a bachelor ranch and raised driving horses for a number of years past. Joe, whose bachelor habits are pretty closely associated with the old horse ranch, has decided to give up stockraising upon becoming a benedict, and with this in view he has rented a tract of land near Madras, where he expects to devote his time to the pleasant pursuit of happiness and fortune in dry land farming.

Miss Marie Galloway returned home today from Wasco, where she has been employed in the O. T. Co. store.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Luedemann, Miss Mae Jackson and Don P. Rea made up a party which went to the Warm Springs reservation yesterday for a brief camping trip.

Threshing has commenced on Agency Plains and wheat on the Frank Elkins ranch yielded 15 bushels to the acre. It is said to be an excellent grade of grain.

Mrs. J. P. Hahn and little daughter, Leitha, are visiting relatives at Wasco this week. Mr. Hahn accompanied them to Shanks and arrived home this morning with a load of freight.

Frank Loveland and family have removed from Culver to Madras to reside and are occupying the John Isham house. Mr. Isham and family will live in the new Wayne cottage on the eastern limits of the township.

E. F. Cooper and M. M. Montieth were in town from Lamonia today. Mr. Montieth recently filed a contest against an entry made on land near Lamonia, but the entryman has since relinquished to him, and Mr. Montieth will at once file on the tract and become a settler.

The Fertility of the Soil

An interesting Address Printed as a Farmer's Bulletin by the
United States Department of Agriculture at Washington.

The bureau has done a great deal of work in this line of soil physics, especially on the reason for cultivation and the effect of cultivation. Aside from the question of aeration which I touched on a while ago, the effect of cultivation is, in the first place to improve the condition of the soil; particularly to render it more open and porous so that it can absorb more of the rainfall and permit the roots to grow with the least possible resistance. When you cultivate you increase the apparent volume of the soil; that is to say, if you dig a hole in the soil, as in preparing for a fence post, it is a very difficult matter to put back the soil that you take out. When you loosen the soil by plowing or harrowing you leave it in a much more bulky form and it absorbs much more of the rainfall, because of the grains of soil being pushed apart there is actually more surface to hold on to the water. The effect of subsequent cultivation is to dry out the surface so as to expose it to the air. We used to say that this was to break the capillary connection. You cannot thus break the capillary connection in the soil, for when you put the soil back you have re-established capillary connection; but this is what you do accomplish—you accomplish just the thing that I advised you to try in putting some moist soil in the bottom of your tumbler and covering it with dry soil. The moist soil so long as it is not actually wet, holds on to the moisture so tenaciously that it will not move up to any appreciable extent into the dry soil. You remember what I told you about the exceedingly slow rate of movement of water even in a moderately moist soil. If we have the surface soil dry, so that water will not come to the surface of the land, then the evaporation of water will be confined within the soil, and the vapor so formed will have to diffuse out through the dry layer, which is a slow process. The water will not be delivered at the surface of the soil, where evaporation is most rapid. The loss of water by evaporation within the soil at a depth of three or four inches is exceedingly slow.

Some years ago I saw some interesting soils in California. In some of the valleys they have soils that will produce a crop without any rainfall during the period of growth. At a point near Los Angeles which I visited one September, they had a tobacco field which had been planted in April or May and had produced a crop which had been harvested. A sucker crop had been allowed to grow; and in September they were cutting this sucker crop, which had made a fair growth and was then in a very flourishing condition. The tobacco had had no rain since it was planted, but had been cultivated throughout the season as we do our crops in the east. With my hands I could scrape off the surface and get down to moist soil. The wells of that district showed the water table was forty feet below the surface. Such an occurrence appears a very remarkable fact to us here in the east, where we suffer if a rain does not come within two or three weeks. In trying to find out a reason for those peculiar conditions in some of the western soils the fact presented itself that in those localities they have a very dry air, a very hot climate, and usually very strong winds that dry out the surface rapidly. They have about eighteen or twenty inches of rain during the winter. After the rains stop in April, if they immediately cultivate their surface soil and get it completely dried out, they thereby conserve the moisture, because any subsequent loss through evaporation will have to come from evaporation within the soil, and that is very slow, although slow evaporation does take place within a soil.

When we dry out the surface and maintain a dry earth mulch we force the place of evaporation down into the soil itself and the water then has to evaporate within the soil and push its way up through these narrow spaces. Such diffusion is exceedingly slow. To test this idea of the cause of the peculiar conditions in the western soils I had a laboratory experiment tried on a small scale. Taking two cylinders six feet long we filled them with soil and placed the lower end of each in water. Over the surface of one tube we blew a current of air at the ordinary temperature and over the other we blew the same amount of air at a higher temperature, thus slightly heating the surface soil, creating conditions that favored evaporation. This forced the evaporation of the second soil, and for a short time it lost more than the other, but after the surface had dried out the evaporation from the tube was checked. During the twelve months the experiment was running the loss from the heated surface soil over which the dry air was blowing was very much less than from the other soil.

The trouble with our soils in the east seems to be that we have rain on an average every three days in the year. About one-third of our days are rainy days, according to weather bureau reports. Of course we do not have rain every third day, but the average is that. The temperature is moderately warm, but the atmosphere is also quite humid as compared with the western climate. The evaporation from the surface of the soil is relatively slow; as fast as moisture is evaporated from the surface, water comes up by capillary action from below to take its place and is in turn evaporated. In the long run you will get a greater loss of water where the evaporation is slower than you will where the evaporation is more rapid.

Mr. Walker. During the period of our dry spells, in the case of corn for example, would we get that result by continued cultivation or should we let the soil be? I mean under our conditions here, where we go down forty-five feet for well water.

Professor Whitney. Conditions here are rather unfavorable for the control of moisture, because of our frequent rains. Strange as it may seem, while we suffer if we do not get rains, we should actually be better off, as they are in the arid regions of the west, if we did not have any rain during the growing season and had a means of providing water when we wanted it. There is no question that the arid conditions of agriculture with water for irrigation permit the most perfect system of cultivation. Such a system is much more efficient and crops are under much better control if the conditions are handled intelligently than they are in the east. The trouble with us is that we cannot maintain this dry mulch. After a rain we plow or cultivate just as soon as we can and we get the surface moderately dry; then another rain comes on and if we think we can afford it we cultivate again; then still another rain comes and we try again to get the surface dry. If you cultivate your soil after a rain just in the right time, you catch the moisture in the soil, then if you have a drought cultivate by all means; keep cultivating and you will do much toward saving your crop. The secretary of agriculture has told of a very disastrous drought while he was professor of agriculture in Iowa, when he saved his corn crop and got a normal yield by constant cultivation during the dry season, while his neighbors had almost a complete failure.

As I told you it depends upon the skill, the judgment, and the chance which lead you to begin operations at the right time. If you knew what was coming you could save your crop during any ordinary period of drought.

Mr. Jefferson. Would you advocate deep plowing and shallow cultivation?

Professor Whitney. Deep plowing certainly, and shallow cultivation. I am glad to see the tendency is to increase materially the depth of plowing in this neighborhood. A depth of six or seven inches is an admirable preparation for a seed bed, but after that cultivation should be shallow.

Town Lots for Sale.

Lots 7 and 8 in Blk. 21, Madras Township. Inquire Nelson Grewell, Young's post office.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

(Isolated Tract)
Public Land Sale.
U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Or., August 11, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of the act of Congress approved June 27, 1906, Public No. 305, we will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, at 11 o'clock a. m. on the 21st day of September next, at this office, the following tract of land, to-wit:

The SE quarter NW quarter of sec 8, tp 13 s, r 13 e, w. m.

Any persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are advised to file their claims, or objections, on or before the day above designated for sale.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

For Sale.

Two Jersey heifers. For particulars apply to J. H. Horney, Madras, Or. a2 30

For Sale.

One grain drill, one sulky plow, one pair bob-sleds, one 3 1/2 wide tire wagon with hayrack, two two-year-old mare colts (on range), one Durham cow, one Jersey cow. For particulars address or call on F. J. Brooks, Madras, my agent. J. A. Messinger.

For Rent.

Three hundred and sixty acres, located 7 miles east of Madras; 135 acres under cultivation, 250 acres tillable. Will lease for a term of years, or by the year, on shares. Good comfortable house, six rooms, and stables, granary, etc. Good well. For particulars inquire at this office. j12tf

Desert Land, Final Proof

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office
The Dalles, Oregon,
July 18, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that Gotfried Kamper, of Shauko, Oregon, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 410, for the n. h. n. w. quarter, sec 10, tp 9 s, r 14 e, w. m., before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on the 31st day of August, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land:

Perry T. Monroe, C. M. McPherson, and A. Kamper, all of Shauko, Oregon, and C. Strasser, of Madras, Oregon.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

a2-a3

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
July 30, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that Daniel Swift of Culver, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final five-year proof in support of his claim, viz:

Homestead entry No 9145, made June 8, 1902, for the se quarter sec 18, tp 12 s, r 13 e, w. m.

And that said proof will be made before D. P. Rea, U. S. Commissioner, at his office in Madras, Oregon, on September 5, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land, viz:

Jesse D. Stearns, Fred W. Hull, Frank P. Fien, all of Culver, Oregon; and Frank M. Loveland, of Madras, Oregon.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

a2-30

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
July 18, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that Pearie W. Dean, of Haycreek, Ore., has filed notice of her intention to make final five-year proof in support of her claim, viz:

Homestead entry No. 8837 made December 28, 1900, for the se quarter n. w. quarter, sec 28, tp 10 s, r 14 e, w. m., and Lot 3, sec 2, tp 11 s, r 14 e, w. m.

And that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on August 27, 1906.

She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon and cultivation of the land, viz:

Harry Douthitt, of Shauko, Oregon, Ed. Kitcher, John Trullinger, and James McCoy, all of Haycreek, Oregon.

Michael T. Nolan,
Register.

j26-a23

Notice for Publication.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
July 30, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that Walter D. Walker, of Ashwood, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final five-year proof in support of his claim, viz:

Homestead entry No 8075 made March 26, 1900, for the Lot 3, se quarter n. w. quarter, sw quarter ne quarter and nw quarter se quarter sec 5, tp 11 s, r 17 e, w. m.

And that said proof will be made before D. P. Rea, U. S. Commissioner, at his office in Madras, Oregon, on September 4, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land, viz:

Edwin Elkins, Chester S. McCorkle, Knox D. Huston, and Robert F. Berryman, all of Ashwood, Oregon.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

a2-30

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Or.,
July 30, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that William S. Criswell, of Madras, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final five-year proof in support of his claim, viz:

Homestead entry No 7757, made November 28, 1899, for the se quarter sec 29, tp 10 s, r 14 e, w. m.

And that said proof will be made before D. P. Rea, U. S. Commissioner, at his office in Madras, Oregon, on September 6, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land, viz:

A. S. Phillips, W. H. Stonebocker, T. B. Tucker and J. E. Campbell, all of Madras, Oregon.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

a2 30

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Or.,
July 30, 1906.

Notice is hereby given that John P. Monner, of Madras, Oregon, has filed notice of his intention to make final commutation proof in support of his claim, viz:

Homestead Entry No. 13098 made December 5, 1902, for the nw quarter sec 35, tp 9 s, r 13 e, w. m.

And that said proof will be made before Don P. Rea, U. S. Commissioner, at his office in Madras, Oregon, on September 6, 1906.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of, the land, viz:

Charles F. Klann, William Brownhill, Bert Leomis, Frank Stangland, all of Madras, Oregon.

MICHAEL T. NOLAN,
Register.

a2-30

SOMETHING NEW

EILERS PIANO HOUSE RENTAL CONTRACT

Choice New Pianos At Wholesale
\$5 Down and \$5 a Month

Since we are to re-open our new retail store early next fall we do not want to drop out of the retail business meantime. In order that our large wholesale warehouse Thirteenth and Northrup Streets—which property we own—become filled up with pianos and organs, and in order to keep moving we are offering choice of any of these fine new pianos.

Wholesale and Less Than Wholesale Prices

In addition you can buy any of these beautiful pianos on rental payment contract, \$5 down and \$5 a month. Think of fine new pianos at the bare wholesale cost and at the small price of \$5 per month. Write today for catalogues, etc.

EILERS PIANO HOUSE
"The House of Highest Quality"

353-355 Washington
Portland, Ore.

THE HEADQUARTERS

Don't forget that we carry
a Complete line of clean
FRESH GROCERIES

Also have the celebrated
**UNIVERSAL COOKING
AND HEATING STOVES**

Agents for Van Brunt Seed Drill
Racine & Sattley Plows, Wagons
and Vehicles

M'TAGGART & BROS.
Madras, Oregon

**GREEN
HOTEL**

F. J. BROOKS, Proprietor

The most popular house in the town. This is the place to go if you want the best meals, the best beds and most courteous attention. Travelers' headquarters

**LIVERY & FEED
STABLE**

J. W. LIVINGSTON, Manager

in connection with hotel. First-class livery rigs on short notice. Transient stock well fed and cared for. Our rates very reasonable.

MADRAS, OREGON

The ELK DRUG STORE

Carries a nice, clean, fresh line of drugs, sundries and patent medicines. Prescription work a specialty. Mail orders given prompt attention. You can get your medicines at any hour of the day or night.

FRED J. DAMON, Madras, Ore.