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THURSDAY March 21, 1907

ABANDON RIVER SURVEYS

Because the national Congress did not co-operate with the state legislature in appropriating more money for the work of the State Geological Survey...

The rain in this locality, which fell almost without interruption from Saturday evening until Wednesday morning, was unusual in its extent...

During the five months preceding March 1st, there had been, according to the report of the Warm Springs weather station, about seven and three-quarter inches of rainfall.

Bartlett Richards and W. G. Comstock, owners of one of the largest cattle ranches in the United States, have been convicted of conspiracy to defraud the government out of large tracts of public land...

About a year ago these same defendants were convicted of fencing the public domain, and were fined \$300 each and sentenced to six hours confinement

in the custody of the United States Marshal. Because of their prominence they were turned over to their attorney by the Marshal, and served out their six hours sentence in the billiard room of an Omaha club.

At a recent meeting of the Red Rock Literary Society near Haystack, one of the subjects proposed for debate was the merit of the Campbell system of dry-land farming as applied to this locality...

Some weeks ago the Pioneer charged that the opposition of Williamson and the Prineville delegation to the private irrigation projects on the Deschutes near Bend, at the inception of those enterprises, was in the interest of certain Prineville stockmen who had been using that land as range.

The new pension act recently passed by Congress provides that persons who served ninety days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil War, or sixty days in the war with Mexico, shall receive pensions at the rate of \$12 per month for those over 62 years of age...

The act also provides that "such pensions shall commence from the date of the filing of the application in the bureau of pensions after the passage and approval of this act."

A petition will be presented to the county court at the May term, asking for a county road between this place and Haycreek, over practically a new route between these points. The new road will leave Madras at the end of B Street, near the Is-ham well, extending East along the section line for about two miles, then in a southeasterly direction to the northern line of the homestead of Mrs. Parsley.

The Madras school closes a week from tomorrow, provision having only been made for a seven months term. The length of the term could have been increased two months by a very small tax-levy in this district, and this should have been done at the last annual meeting of the school district...

Van Tassel & Davis, real estate agents at this place, are having prepared an eight-page folder containing a general descriptive write-up of this section of Central Oregon, five thousand of which they will have printed for distribution.

According to experiments and investigations conducted by the government at the Utah experiment station, it requires fifty tons of water to mature one bushel of wheat. This appears to be an enormous amount, but when it is known that one acre inch of rain-fall is equivalent to 113 tons of water, it doesn't seem so large after all.

The Prineville Review accuses this paper of trying to work up sectional feeling against Prineville. In answer, this paper will state that it has not found it necessary to attempt anything of the kind.

COMPLETE EXTENSIONS

Retrenchment Order Does Not Affect Railroad Work in Oregon

Construction of the various lines now under way by the Harriman interests in this state will not be noticeably effected by the general order of retrenchment lately issued by the heads of the Harriman system.

This means the Wallowa extension from Elgin will go ahead, and the Snake River line will be completed, the Central Oregon line will be built, the Coos Bay extension, or Oregon Western, and the Klamath roads will be constructed along lines already mapped out.

BRISTOL STILL HOLDS

William C. Bristol received his commission as United States Attorney for Oregon for the recess term beginning with the adjournment of the last and lasting until the adjournment of the next Congress.

Jim Read was in town from Culver last Tuesday.

Mrs. Abbie Woodard is in town today from Culver.

G. I. Patterson, a Haystack rancher, was in town last Saturday.

T. C. Tucker and wife are in town today from their home on the river.

Jack Clingan left today for Bend with a load of Madras flour for Bend merchants.

Cap Healy and Misses Clara Healy and Grace Merrill of Lamonta are in town today.

Mayor Goodwillie of Bend passed through town last Tuesday, enroute to Portland.

Last Sunday was St. Patrick's Day, and was observed by "the wearing of the green" in honor of Ireland's patron saint.

Van Tassel & Davis are the hustling real estate agents at Madras. List your property with them. They will find you a buyer.

J. C. Robinson and wife returned this morning from Antelope, where they have been visiting Mrs. Robinson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brogan.

Henry Hevel of Fremont, Michigan, was in Madras this morning. He has recently bought the improvements on the John Whiteman ranch near Round Butte.

The Grizzly Lake Lumber Company announces that its mill is now in operation and that they will soon be able to fill all orders for rough and dressed lumber and other building materials.

Don Rea, who has been spending the Winter in Portland, expects to return to Madras some time next month for a short visit.

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SCIENTIFIC FARMING

Points about conserving moisture in the soil, the most essential point in successful crop raising in districts where rainfall is light.

One of the main points brought out by the various speakers at the Dry Farming Congress in Denver, was the necessity of educating the dry farmers. This does not mean educating them in literature, sciences or the arts, but in dry farming.

There is no doubt but education is necessary. It is necessary that those who come from the rain belts should thoroughly understand the Campbell and other systems of scientific soil culture. It should be borne in mind that farming in the semi-arid districts and in the rain belt districts are as widely different as night and day.

There is no doubt but the Campbell system is a success, but it must be understood. It must be religiously followed. The method of cultivating the semi-arid lands must be thoroughly understood by the farmer. There is certain to be a backset. The history of all new agricultural districts is replete with failures, and the semi arid districts must not and cannot hope to escape.

These are significant facts. It is a knowledge that this will be true that should spur every advocate of scientific soil culture to renewed endeavors to educate the farmers—those now in the regions and those that come. It is this knowledge that makes it imperative that the government distribute literature bearing on the subject and that the federal and state governments establish experimental farms that will aid in the education of the farmers.

Prof. Campbell himself is one of the strongest advocates of this education. He realizes perhaps more than any of us that education is necessary and that without a thorough understanding of the system there are bound to be many failures that will be reactionary and the semi-arid region will be set back years in development, but that the more education that is drilled into the farmers, the less will be the dire results when the dry year comes.

We do not wish to pose as alarmists. We simply wish to state facts and to warn the farmers that they must understand the systems of soil culture in the semi-arid districts so that they may guard themselves against a future failure.—Raymond A. Eaton, in Scientific Farmer.

Ground Crusted in the Spring The following question addressed to the Washington State College has been answered by Prof. E. E. Elliott: Quincy, Wash.—My wheat ground sown to fall wheat is crusted over every Spring so that the wheat will not grow well.

Each sack of seed should then be as seed grain accompanied by a guarantee certificate and a transfer receipt. It would thus be guaranteed as to grade and would bring better than market price. That such a plan as this will work has been clearly demonstrated by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, which has pedigreed seed for a number of years and has accomplished a great deal in improving grade of seed grain used in the growing regions of Canada.

Importance of Good Seed One of the most important factors with which the dry farmer has to reckon, is selection of seed. The seed may be well prepared, the conditions may be ideal for an abundant harvest, but if poor seed is there is no assurance that there will be any harvest at all.