

The Madras Pioneer

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THURSDAY - JAN. 14, 1908

NEEDS EXPERIMENT FARM

Some time ago the Pioneer spoke of the need for a dry farm experiment station for Crook county and mentioned that the Reclamation Service had offered to donate \$10,000 toward the establishment of such a station, provided the state legislature would appropriate \$5000 a year for two years for a like purpose. For some reason there was no response from the other members of the press of the county in regard to the need of such an institution in Crook county. Whether their silence was from mere indifference, or it was considered that such a station would be of no benefit to their immediate locality, is not known, but at any rate the matter was "passed up" by all of them. It is since learned that a legislator from another Eastern Oregon county has drafted a bill for the location of a dry farm experiment station in his county, and with no other county pressing claims for such an institution it is probable that it will go to the county that advocates the need of it.

It may be that Crook county's representatives to the legislature have seen the urgent need for such an institution and will press the claims and adaptability of this county for such an establishment. They have an opportunity of doing a great service to the county, and should they succeed in having such a station located in this county, it will greatly improve farming conditions throughout the district.

STORM DOES LITTLE DAMAGE

Notwithstanding the unprecedented weather which this section of the country has experienced the past week, very little loss has been reported. Stockmen generally had made preparation for a hard winter, and with plenty of hay on hand, and good "feeding weather" because of the covering of snow, stock has so far gotten through in good condition.

The present spell of weather recalls to the old timers the winter of 1884-5, when for six weeks the ground was covered with snow to a depth of several feet, accompanied by extremely cold weather. In the amount of stock lost, however, the present spell of weather is not comparable with that of 24 years ago. That year many of the large stockmen were completely ruined. Thousands of head of head of sheep and cattle perished in the blizzard.

The difference lies in the preparation made these days for wintering stock. The present winter is as severe if not more cold than that of 1885, but stockmen were prepared for it. Twenty-five years ago, before the "homesteader" came and when practically the entire country was open range for the stockman, little preparation was made for winter feeding. In more recent years, however, the open range has been reduced by the rapid settlement of the country, and the careful stockman never goes into a winter these days without a good supply of hay. It has increased the cost of running

stock, but it has saved the stock industry of Central and Eastern Oregon.

THE OREGON CLIMATE

The editor of this paper has frequently made reference to the wonderful possibilities of this section, although at that time we did not have in mind any thought of its possibilities as a summer resort. But think of being able to live in mild and temperate Oregon, and at the same time enjoy all the advantages of an arctic climate. It is wonderful, even if it occurs only once in a lifetime, and our boosters should make the most of it.

A TIMELY FROST

The weather man framed up a nice little spell of zero weather for Oregon's Republican legislature which convened last Monday, as a gentle but insistent reminder that Republican politics which elects only Democratic office holders is a "frost" of the frostiest kind. It was a nifty little joke, although a good many Republican members of the legislature will refuse to see it that way.

The occurrence of the fire last Sunday impresses the need of an organized fire department in Madras, because if the persons at the fire Sunday had worked with some system and had ladders and buckets or other equipment with which to fight the fire, it is very probable that the house would have been saved. The damage done Sunday night compared with what might occur should a fire become started in the business portion of the town, and with a wind favoring the flames there it is a question but that the entire business district would be swept clean. A move should be made toward this end before it is too late.

IMPORTANT WATER RIGHTS DECISION

Salem, Or., Jan. 7.—The decision of the Supreme Court in the Hough-Porter water right case from Lake county, will go far toward clearing the way for irrigation enterprises on the Deschutes river in Crook county. There has been more or less uncertainty concerning the irrigation work in the Deschutes country because riparian owners have asserted rights seriously conflicting with those of the reclamation companies which had diverted the water.

While there has been no litigation attacking the right of the irrigation company to take all the water it needed, there has been uncertainty because of the unsettled condition of the law as to riparian rights. But the decision of the Supreme Court assures the reclamation company and the settlers on its lands that the owners of riparian lands cannot cause trouble by insisting that the water be permitted to flow in the stream undiminished in quantity.

The Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company diverts water from the Deschutes river near Bend. Above that point there are a number of riparian owners who have never used the water. Below that point there are a number of riparian owners who have been holding their property with the expectation that sometime it would be valuable for power sites. These riparian owners have been of the opinion that they held rights in accordance with the old common law doctrine of riparian rights which authorized them to demand that the water be permitted to flow in its channel undiminished in quantity. If they find that right they could compel the irrigation company to close its head gates whenever they got ready to use the water for power.

But the Supreme Court has decided that the old common law right does not exist as to

lands disposed of by the Government since 1877, so that the owners of the power sites have only such water rights as they may obtain by appropriation to beneficial use, and their rights are subject to the rule of priority in time.

The decision is one of the of the most comprehensive ever handed down in this, or perhaps any state, in a water right case. Its broad scope was made necessary by the large number of parties with varied interests.

OLD PIONEER PASSES AWAY

William Kelsay, one of the pioneer settlers of this section, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D. A. Howell, at Shaniko, Sunday January 10, 1908, at the advanced age of 75 years. He had been in bad health for a number of years past, and his death was not unexpected by his friends.

Deceased was a native of Kentucky, but moved to California during the early gold rush. Later he moved to Oregon, settling first in the Willamette Valley and later moving to Wasco County of which he was a resident for 28 years. He is survived by several sons and daughters and a number of grandchildren, who with a host of his old friends will sincerely mourn his loss.

Interment was held at Shaniko yesterday the funeral services being in charge of the Antelope lodge of Masons, of which order Mr. Kelsay had for many years been a member. Mrs. G. R. Moorhead of Madras was a daughter of the deceased.

CATTLEMEN BUSY OVER ON TROUT CREEK

The big haystacks on the alfalfa ranches along Trout creek and Hay creek are disappearing very rapidly since the heavy snow-fall and the severe weather began, although the cattlemen along there have plenty of hay to run them through most any kind of a winter. Some idea of the quantity of hay consumed in that locality alone may be gained from the fact that Priddy & Co. alone are feeding 1200 head of cattle, including 350 head of beef cattle which they are feeding. It is a good big task to feed that many cattle and keep the creek open so that the cattle can get water, but it has to be done. Priddy & Company have suffered no loss so far, with the exception of a small number of calves that were born during the severe cold, and which froze to death. It is not believed that there will be any serious loss in that locality.

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We have arranged for a clubbing rate with the publishers of Campbell's Scientific Farmer and are able to offer it to our subscribers for only 50 cents in addition to the subscription price of the Pioneer. This offer applies to both new subscriptions and renewals of old subscriptions.

The Scientific Farmer is edited by Mr. H. W. Campbell, the originator of what is known as the "Campbell system" of dry farming. His magazine is filled with useful information for the farmer in sections where the rainfall is deficient or irregular, and every farmer in this section should be a subscriber. The regular subscription price is \$1 per year.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, Dec. 21, 1908.

Notice is hereby given that the State of Oregon has filed in this office its application, Serial No. 02063, to select under the provisions of the Act of Congress of August 14, 1898, and the Act supplementary thereto, the following sec 28, tp 10 N., r 14 E., W. M.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the lands described, or desiring to object because of the mineral character of the land, or for any other reason, to the disposal to applicant, should file their affidavits of protest in this office, on or before the 2nd day of February, 1909.

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