

The Madras Pioneer

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

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THURSDAY - FEB. 25, 1909

A CROOK COUNTY EXHIBIT

Elsewhere mention is made of a movement under way to secure an exhibit of Crook county products at the Seattle exposition. This is a move in the right direction, as a good exhibit of all the products of this section would unquestionably attract much attention from visitors to the fair and the county would get an immense amount of advertising. The exhibit, however, should be prepared with care, and should contain specimens of every agricultural product of the county, both under irrigation and dry-farming. In addition to this, literature descriptive of the country and showing the price of lands in this county, should be provided for distribution to all who visit the exhibit. This would augment what is being done in that direction by the big irrigation company operating in this county, and would help Crook county to get its share of the home-seekers coming to the Northwest.

The amount which is to be asked from the County Court is a very small one, considering the benefits to be derived, and it is more than probable that the request for an appropriation will meet with favorable consideration. And, an appropriation of \$500 from the county would, with a similar amount raised by private subscription, be ample to make a creditable exhibit.

AN ANXIOUS PERIOD

Now that Mr. Harriman has made a decision in favor of the Deschutes line, and has given orders for the construction of the Central Oregon railroad by that route, there will be a period of anxious waiting in this section of the country until the actual commencement of work. There is a disposition to believe that the announcement means what it says, and that the road will be built as soon as right-of-way matters can be settled, but there is a growing distrust of these delays which will make Central Oregon uneasy until it sees "dirt fly" on the promised railroad.

A GENEROUS SCHOOL TAX

Speaking of school tax levies while here, County School Superintendent Ford stated that one school district in this county, the Paulina district, levied a tax of 44 mills for school purposes alone last year. Compared with that levy, the levy of 15 mills in the Madras district looks like parsimony.

320-Acre Homestead Law To Encourage Dry-Farming.

Oregonian

The reason why the Mondell bill, now before congress, allows 320 acres for a homestead in the semi arid region is because smaller tracts cannot be made to pay by the process of "dry-farming." Where irrigation is possible a farm of 320 acres is an absurdity, but dry-farming is something altogether different, although it is not less scientific than irrigation. The charge has been made by the opponents of the Mondell bill

that the theory of dry-farming is false and the process a failure, but that is a great mistake. The theory rests upon the simple principle that a mulch of loose soil on the surface of the ground prevents evaporation and causes moisture to accumulate where it is available for plant food. Before planting any crop the earth is diligently tilled for one or even two seasons, keeping the surface loose. During that time most of the moisture that is precipitated sinks into the ground and is here retained as it would be in a huge sponge. The stratum immediately beneath the surface becomes a reservoir of moisture almost completely protected from the action of the sun and drying winds.

When preparation is complete the crops are planted and they are fairly certain to mature whether rains fall or not, being supplied with the moisture they need from below. Then the soil is again covered with the surface mulch and the next winter usually furnishes enough snow and rain to raise another crop. Thus agriculture in the semi-arid region, even where irrigation cannot be practiced, becomes a safe process. Crops are almost as certain as the alternation of the season.

HEAVY RAINS UN-EARTH OLD TRAGEDY

Skeleton Of Man Found At Foot Of Grey Butte.

An old tragedy, and what may possibly have been a crime committed years ago, has been unearthed at the foot of Grey Butte on the West side. The skeleton of a man has been washed out of a shallow grave, and the Crook county authorities have gathered together these grewsome relics and will make some investigation into the mystery surrounding them.

The skeleton was partly washed out by the rains last August, but at that time it was believed to be the remains of some Indian buried years ago. Quite recently other portions of the skeleton have been dug out and the discovery that it is the skeleton of a white man has aroused interest in the mystery surrounding its presence in that isolated locality. The first of the week a careful investigation was made of the skeleton and the grave in which it had been buried, and the following facts are established: That it is the skeleton of a white man, of middle age, and standing about five feet and six inches in height; that the body had been buried many, probably 10 or 20, years ago, and that the body had been buried in a shallow grave, not over two feet deep, as though hastily buried. The skull and lower jaw with a portion of the teeth were taken over to Prineville, to be examined by the county physician, with a view to identification.

In connection with the discovery of this skeleton, the mysterious disappearance ten years ago of Shorty Davis is recalled, and the report has gained circulation that the skeleton just unearthed is that of Davis. Davis was a man of small stature, and this fact with certain peculiar fillings in his teeth would lessen the difficulties of identification. The result of the investigations of the county physician have not yet been learned, however, so it is not known whether there is any fact upon which to base the rumor.

NO MONEY FOR OREGON NORMAL SCHOOLS

Fight On State Normal Grant Defeats Appropriations For All.

State Capitol, Salem, Feb. 20.—A deadlock between the Senate and House tonight over the normal schools ended in final adjournment of the legislature without any appropriations for maintaining the three state normal schools at Ashland, Monmouth and Weston. Normal traders in the house succeeded in defeating all bills appropriating money for the schools and foes of the normals in the senate defeated all normal appropriations as fast as they appeared in that body.

The schools made a last stand in the senate tonight to win \$10,000 each to keep up their work until the end of the present school year in June. For this purpose they rushed a bill of Representative McCue through three readings in the house. For a time it seemed likely to win in the senate, but on passage there it failed to pass with only 15 votes.

The opposing argument was that if the schools had valid claim for funds to carry out contracts for the rest of the school year, the next legislature could appropriate to meet it, but that to appropriate now would only keep the schools alive. Abraham of Douglas said that he would be willing to appropriate money then for legitimate funeral expenses for the normals.

Bowerman declared that the state is under no legal or moral obligation to pay the debts of the schools, since the law of 1907 specifically declares that no obligations shall be incurred beyond the money appropriated by the legislature.

This morning the house put a \$65,000 amendment for Monmouth on Senator Smith's bill, which provided for one normal at or near the center of population, but the senate refused to concur and indefinitely postponed the bill. Later the house defeated F. J. Miller's bill passed by the senate last night, repealing all the trade normal legislation of preceding legislatures. Tonight Representative McCue's bill appropriating \$10,000 each for the three schools to continue their work until next June made a big fight in the Senate. Preceding its failure to pass, Bowerman moved indefinite postponement which failed by a vote of 9 to 15.

At Bailey's instance the bill was amended so as to abolish all the schools and declare that they should have no further claim against the state.

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Madras, Oregon

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Public Sale

PUBLIC SALE—Having decided to quit farming, I will sell at public sale at my ranch 5 miles East of Madras, on Haycreek road, on

Thursday, March 4, 1909,

commencing at 10 o'clock sharp, the following property, to-wit:

HORSES, COWS, Etc.—3 head of horses, 2 geldings, weight about 1300 each, 1 mare, weight about 1250; 2 milch cows; 2 heifers, 8 and 18 months old; 1 yearling bull; 2 sows with pigs; 4 dozen chickens.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS—1 set heavy work harness; 1 chain harness; 1 buggy, good running order; 3-inch Harrison wagon; 16-inch walking plow; 2-section harrow; mower; McCormick binder, used one season.

MISCELLANEOUS—Wheelbarrow, several barrels, well rope 75 feet long, 2 drills, 1 drilling hammer, 30 bushels potatoes, household goods and other tools and articles too numerous to mention. Machinery and tools all in good condition.

TERMS OF SALE—Horses, one-half cash, balance 3 months time. Other property on time, purchaser giving note with approved security. Sums under \$10, Cash.

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