

The Grant County News,

Saturday Morning, Dec. 6, 1879.

NOTICE.—Simple announcements of births, marriages and deaths, will be inserted without charge. Obituary notices will be charged for according to their length.

CANYON CITY LODGE, NO. 34, A. F. and A. M., holds its regular Communications on the Saturday evening of next preceding the full moon in each month, at seven and half o'clock P. M.

OBASH LODGE, No. 22, I. O. O. F., meets every Thursday evening at their Lodge Room in Canyon City. Visiting brothers are invited to attend. By Order of N. G.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE, No. 33, I. O. O. F., Prairie City, Oregon, meets every Saturday Evening. Members of the order are invited to attend. By order of the N. G.

COUNTY NEWS.

FACTORY MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the citizens of Grant County at the Grange Hall, at John Daytown, on next Wednesday, Dec. 10th, 1879, at one o'clock, for the purpose of getting the sentiments of the people in relation to the building of a Woolen Factory in this Valley and to affect a permanent organization for that purpose. Let every farmer in the valley be there, if possible. The citizens of towns should try and be on hand early. **MANY CITIZENS.**

JULES LE BRETTÉ has just received at his Store in Prairie City a full and well selected stock of Holiday Goods, consisting of Toys of all kinds and prices, Albums, Jewelry, Toilet Sets, in fact everything usually found at a "Santa Claus" Headquarters. Remember the little folks and likewise the large ones and make them happy by purchasing a nice present for them at the store of **JULES LE BRETTÉ.**

COMING.

J. D. TITUS, of the well known firm of Titus Bros., Jewelers, will arrive on the 10th of December, to remain till after the holidays with a large and well selected assortment of Ladies and Gents solid gold watches and chains, solid gold rings and jewelry of the latest styles. In fact a full assortment of everything pertaining to their line of trade. A rare chance to procure elegant Holiday presents at the lowest rates.

Although last Monday was a very disagreeable day we procured a horse and started for the "Jangle School House" determined to attend the Factory Meeting. On the way we overtook Mr. J. A. Laycock, and upon arriving at his ranch he very politely invited us to turn in and take dinner with him. As editors generally treat such invitations, so we treated his. While the pleasant ladies, Mrs. Laycock and Mrs. Wymer, were preparing dinner we took a walk over to see the new barn that "Johnny" is having erected. The barn is 40 x 48 feet, and when completed will be one of the largest and finest barns in the county. After partaking of an excellent dinner we proceeded on our way. The citizens in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon are in earnest in the matter and no doubt a thousand dollars will be subscribed in that neighborhood towards the erection of a woolen mill. As the day was so stormy and so few were in attendance that it was deemed advisable to omit organization until next Wednesday, at which time a meeting is called to meet at John Day. We have in our possession a communication from a mill man in the east, and any one can see from his letter that he means business.

H. STANISLAWSKY, Practical Watch-maker and Jeweler, is located at Canyon City, Oregon. Watches, Clocks and Jewelry repaired at short notice and warranted. n324f.

Mr. BONHAM had the misfortune of having his right shoulder dislocated by falling from a hay mow, in this city, on last night a week ago. Dr. Howard immediately reduced the dislocation and Mr. Bonham escaped a bed confinement.

BISHOP Seghers preached several very fine sermons while in our city, to large and intelligent congregations. On Sunday twenty-four persons were confirmed. We received a very pleasant call from the Bishop and found him to be an agreeable gentleman and visitor.

W. H. CLARK mounted McBean's stage last Monday and went to Fort Harney on business.

ONLY four fights have been indulged in during the week, and the results sum up as follows: Two sore heads, one fiddle a total wreck, one bone broken in a right arm.

MARRIED.—In this city, at the Catholic Church, on Sunday last, Mr. J. Oliver to Mrs. Lizzie Gregg. The happy pair has our best wish for a long and prosperous future.

LADIES, the charts that Mrs. S. H. Shepherd has for sale have never before been offered for sale in this city or county by any other person. \$5 buys one, including instructions. No use to pay \$8, \$10, \$12, or \$15 for a complicated chart when you can purchase the latest, simplest and best chart out for \$5. **tt***

CORN.—Mr. Kimball brought some corn to our office this week which he raised on his ranch, near Dayville, and all doubts are now expelled from our mind as to whether corn will mature in Grant County. The ears are nine inches long and the grains are large and well filled, in fact the ears are as solid as any corn and Grant County can raise corn.

RAIN has visited this valley abundantly during the week.

We have received very interesting communications from three precincts in the county, and they will appear in the description of the county in due time. Let others write us the report of their section; no matter how poor the writing or spelling, as we'll fix 'em up; the facts are what we want, and those immediately.

MR. BARBER, of The Dalles, drove into town this week with a four-horse coach which he proposes to run once a week from here to The Dalles. It will make staging lively on this line if he continues to run, as we are of the opinion that Vaile & Co. will put on coaches next summer, and as Mr. Barber says he proposes "to stay with it" our readers may look out for fun.

SALLIE Wimmerueca is lecturing in San Francisco in opposition to the Malheur Reservation, Fort Harney and Maj. Binshart. She makes the Major out (if any one believes her) a "liar", a "thief", a "dupe" and the citizens of San Francisco, only know what else. The people of this county are perfectly well acquainted the Major and also with Sallie, so go in.

LIST of Letters remaining in the Post Office at Canyon City, Ogn., and not called for, December 1st:

Benton Bowers, John Bentel, J. W. Clark, Lewis Hagan, Richard Hill, W. Hyde, C. F. Hunter, W. G. Lang 6, George Meyer, Charley Russel 2, Mrs. L. Rapelle, Dr Stuard J. D. Stephenson, D. A. Vanpossen D. A. Van Fossen, Eva Williams, Geo. Wolcott, Bart White, W. A. White. E. HALL, P. M.

OUR "devil" has a full dozen lead pencils sharpened and in his pocket. We thought he had gone into the Chinese chop-stick business, but he says they are all pencils and he has more engaged. If some one isn't careful he will write them up.

THE Justice's Court in this city has been busy this week. Right.

THE case of the State vs V. Riley, with John Dusham, better known as "Ice cream Jonny" or "Coal-oil Tommy", as prosecuting witness was decided by a jury, verdict being for acquittal. Some one should be given the "grand B.

GRANT COUNTY, AS IT IS NOW, AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS.

It is the purpose in this article to furnish the readers of the News with a concise statement of what Grant County is, upon every material point, concerning which those who contemplate a removal westward usually seek to be informed. Details will be entered into fully than has been the case in any previous article of like character, and we ask a careful, candid, perusal of it, giving the reader assurance that every statement therein made is warranted by the facts and the public records. We shall at first consider the County as a whole, and follow with the historical and statistical information of each township separately.

GRANT COUNTY

is at present situated in Eastern Oregon or the "Bunch Grass Empire", and is bounded on the east by Baker County, west by Wasco and Lake, north by Umatilla and on the south by the state of Nevada. This county lies between the 42d and 45th parallels; is about 80 miles wide and about 300 long. As near as can be estimated contains 21000 square miles. It is a rolling mountainous country but has many fertile valleys; the principle ones being the Valley of the John Day river and Harney Valley which surrounds Harney Lake, a body of water many miles in circumference. The larger portion of this valley is very fertile and affords splendid pasturage for immense herds of horses and cattle. The John Day Valley is a narrow valley, well watered. The length of the valley in this county is about 75 miles, general direction north west.

THE SOIL

in all the valleys is a sandy black loam, and grows from 25 to 35 bushels of wheat to the acre—oats 50, barley 40, timothy and alfalfa hay 2 ton and natural grasses about 1 1/2 tons to the acre. All kinds of vegetables do exceedingly well here and are sold at a good price. Cabbage grow to weigh 34 pounds, turnips, 30 and potatoes two to five pounds each.

WATER COURSES.

The country is well watered by springs and mountain streams; the water is clear except where muddied by mining and the beds of the streams are of limestone formation. The John Day river is the largest stream, then comes South, Middle and North Forks of the John Day, Granite Creek, Bullrun, Indian Creek, Rock Creek, Burnt river, Malheur, Silvis river and numerous other streams, besides in the southern part of the county are several fine lakes. The main one, Warner Lake, is surrounded by a very fine valley that contains many thousand acres of fine farming land, but at present is under "shot gun" control of land sharks. The finest fish is caught in all of the above streams.

STOCK.

Grant County, laying aside its agricultural, mining and other advantages, is preeminently suited to the raising of stock—cattle, horses, sheep and hogs—and operations in this direction are continually growing in magnitude and importance. The never failing and limitless range of nutritious grasses offers a fine investment in stock husbandry. Cattle grow fat and sleek in the Summer on this free pasturage, and, as the winters are usually very mild and open, the cost and trouble to bring them safely through the cold season in fine condition is comparatively light. Grant County is not binding to a herd law. No better stock range in the world. Horses are more profitable than cattle. Horses are sold for from \$30 to \$150 per head; Indian ponies \$5 and upwards; stock cattle average \$10 per head; three year olds and beef cattle \$18 to \$20; sheep \$2 to \$3 per head; hogs \$5 per hundred. There are in Grant County now 148,101 cattle, 8,527 horses, 100,000 sheep, and 2,781 swine.

TIMBER.

The county is heavily timbered with pine, fir and tamarack; is easy of access and saw mills are situated conveniently in all parts of the county. Building lumber is worth from \$22.50 to 30 per thousand feet delivered; rails for fence

are worth \$20 per thousand; shingles \$5 and shakes \$12 per thousand. Wood is sold in the spring for \$3.50 per cord but as winter approaches the price advances and at this time of the year is sold for \$7 per cord.

STONE

is abundant in the county and works nicely. The building stone resembles granite and it dresses finely. Marble has been found within three miles of Canyon City and is of two or three varieties, some pure white, some resembles Italian and some darker.

HEALTH AND CLIMATE.

In this genial climate it could not well be otherwise than healthy. The air is remarkably pure and refreshing and this statement holds good even with the months of July and August. True this latitude has its heated term the same as elsewhere, but the system never suffers with that unpleasant lassitude and debility which is so universally complained of in other regions, during the summer season. Most of our sickness here is caused from accidents. One very remarkable, as well as agreeable, feature in our climate is the fact that the most sultry day of midsummer is invariably followed by a deliciously cool and invigorating night. A pair of blankets are generally not an unpleasant companion towards morning. In short it would be difficult to find the equal of this locality in point of healthfulness and comfort.

PRICE OF LAND.

Land may be purchased at figures ranging from the Government price of \$1.25 per acre up to \$50 per acre. Many farms could be bought at about from \$10 to \$25 per acre, which are susceptible of being improved to a high degree in a few years, and giving a handsome return for the investment. The better class of Government land is all taken, but what remains is especially adapted to stock raising. On the foot hills of the John Day you will find as good wheat land as there is in the county but it will need irrigating.

FRUIT.

Grant County boasts of the largest and finest orchard in Oregon, and perhaps on this coast. It contains 40 acres and the annual yield of fruit is about 15,000 bushels. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, cherry, in fact all kinds of fruit (except tropical) are grown profusely and arrive at the greatest perfection in this locality, and always sell at a good price.

POPULATION.

In 1878 the population of this county was about 2,000, of which nearly 1,000 were voters. Now the population is nearly 2,300.

SOCIETY.

By far the greater portion of the citizens of the county are refined, intelligent people. They are usually well informed on the questions of the day, as well as noted for their hospitality and sociability. We have the American, English, German, Irish, French, Scotch, Portuguese, Swedish, Jew, Canadian, Spanish, Mexican, Chinese, African, and Norwegian people as residents of Grant County.

CHURCH PRIVILEGES.

We have one Methodist, one Catholic and one Episcopal Church in the county, but services are held in the different school houses in the county.

SOCIETIES.

There are four Benevolent Societies in this county. One Masonic and one Odd Fellows Lodge are instituted at Prairie City and two Odd Fellows and one Masonic Lodge at Canyon City. There are several Trampers in the county, as also Good Templar Lodges.

MAIL ROUTES.

Our mail routes one year ago were only once a week service; now we have a daily line of stages from the Dalles, via Camp Watson, Dayville, Mt. Vernon and John Day, to Canyon City, and a daily line from Canyon City, via John Day and Prairie City, to Baker City. A tri-weekly from Canyon City, via Fort Harney, Alvord, Camp McDermitt, to Winnemucca, and a weekly mail from Prairie City, via Robinsonville and Granite to Pilot Rock, and a four horse opposition coach line from The Dalles to Canyon City that runs, or proposes to run, once a week between the two places.

A preliminary survey for an extension of the U. P. R. R. has been made through the county and another line is being agitated from the C. P. R. R. to through this county; but whether or no these roads, or either of them, will be built remains to be decided. But whether they do or not our mail service will be increased ere another year to daily on one more route at least is our prediction, and not too soon for the necessity demands it. The mails that arrive and are distributed in Grant County are beyond the anticipation of the outside world. Our people take an allwise interest in papers and periodicals of all kinds, besides, they write many letters, as we have no telegraph communication, hence the magnitude of the mails that come to our county.

SCHOOLS.

In the county are 27 Districts numbered and last year 937, scholars were enrolled. The apportionment of school money was \$2,111.82. The best of teachers are employed and the wages paid are from \$40 and board, per month to \$100 per month. Private schools are also taught, and music is receiving attention both in the school and by private teachers. As there has never been any diphtheria here children can attend school regularly without fear. [To be continued.]

PRAIRIE CITY, OGN., Nov. 30th 79.

EDITOR NEWS:—Dear sir, please inform the people through your columns that the new school books, readers and spellers, can be obtained of Prof. W. H. McFarland, John Day City; G. M. Howe, Spanish Gulch; C. S. Dustin, Long Creek; and of the undersigned at Prairie City. Exchange must be effected prior to 8th January next, as after that date the new books cannot be obtained in exchange for old ones, nor at introductory prices. Persons will please apply to the nearest agent.

J. W. MACK,
COUNTY SCHOOL Supt.

A. G. Menocal in New York last night read a paper taking ground: First, a canal on the ocean level cannot be made practical or profitable. Second, a canal with locks is certainly practicable, and would without doubt be profitable to the commerce of America and of the world. Third, the Panama and Nicaragua routes are the only ones to be thought of, and of these two the latter offers the best and the one most advantageous to the United States.

Heer Von Schilling, Under Secretary of the Prussian Ministry of Justice, has been appointed Imperial Secretary of the Department of Justice.

The Merchant's Association of Boston has appointed a committee to cooperate with other organizations in an effort to secure the enactment of a national bankrupt law.

There is no reason to believe Russia has recommended the Sultan to introduce the reforms stipulated by the Berlin treaty without delay, and thus avoid European complications.

The Enterprise says: Soon after the first of December it is expected that the daily amount of iron made at the Oswego Iron Works will be twenty tons.

The Mountaineer learns that the O. S. N. Co. will soon commence the building at this place of two barges—one of 1,200 tons and the other of 500 or 800 tons. Also a large steamboat to be used in towing these barges.

The Corvallis Gazett says that Capt. Wood's recent survey of Yaquina Bay proves that it is only a sand bar and easily improved and much better than its most sanguine friends anticipated.