

THE GRANT COUNTY NEWS.

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THE FOREST PROBLEM AND THE WATER SUPPLY

Hydrographer Newell, Chief of the Reclamation Service, Makes it a Feature in His First Annual Report.

One of the most interesting as well as most important features in the first annual report, just issued, of Hydrographer Newell, chief of the reclamation service, is the discussion of the forest problem in its relation to the conservation of the water supply of the west. Mr. Newell has always been an advocate of the forest reserve system, especially in places where water is scarce and mountain streams are doubly in need of protection. He has devoted much study to the subject and can speak authoritatively. Within the arid and semi-arid parts of the west, Mr. Newell says there are nearly 120,000,000 acres of woodland in which the trees, though scattered, are valuable for firewood and fencing purposes. In addition there are 75,000,000 acres of heavy forest having commercial value as timber.

The aggregate area of desert, woodland and fir is a little over half the area of the arid and semi-arid regions. The remainder is grazing land. Thus, so far as area is concerned, the grazing industry is now, and will probably remain, the principal pursuit of the westerner. So far as values go, however, the situation has a different look.

The open range of the arid region is generally thought to be capable of supporting one cow to every 20 or 30 acres of land. The same land, watered and sown to alfalfa, is capable of supporting 10 cows to every 20 acres. Or, in orchards at suitable altitudes, the twenty acre tract will support a family of from three to five persons.

The open range may have a value of 50 cents per acre while under irrigation the same tract will jump frequently to \$50, or, if in orchard, to \$500 per acre. The value of the lands is thus reversed by irrigation, the grazing land having the least value and greatest extent, and the irrigated lands the greatest value and least extent.

Mr. Newell maintains that the best development of the western country requires the conservation of the forests along the head waters of the principal streams. And in fact of all streams that can be utilized for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Newell believes in the proper regulation of cutting the timber, and would permit the removal of ripe trees. He believes further in encouraging a more general cutting of such than is now generally practiced. In some portions of the west he thinks that fully 40 per cent of the timber standing has passed its maturity and is either dead or dying.

The report states that from the commercial stand point the highest value is in the lumber products, and by good fortune the industry is not antagonistic to the proper regulation of the removal of the timber and preservation of the forests to conserve the water supply.

The first step in the preservation of the forests, the report continues, is to protect them from their greatest enemy, the forest fire. The next step is the judicious cutting of trees. This should be conducted on a business-like basis that should make the forests yield a revenue sufficient to pay the cost of patrolling and protecting them.

The report also embodies the suggestion that it ought to be, and doubtless is, easy to devise a plan of systematic supervision similar to

that practiced by the old world people, and one that will protect the headwaters of the streams without cost to the taxpayer.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Items of Interest Clipped From our Exchanges.

Ernest Durr, a naval cadet, is at home on a three weeks' vacation.

Major Delmar has lowered the world's trotting record for geldings to 2:02 1/4.

Active hostilities are now being carried on between Turkey and her Macedonian provinces.

It has been announced that Lieutenant Perry will make another attempt to reach the north pole.

An official of the state department says that the Columbian canal treaty will hardly be revived.

Jack Munroe and James J. Jeffries have signed to fight a 20 round contest at Los Angeles, October the 16th.

Sam Morris, the wonderful Nez Perce Indian pitcher, has gone to California to join the Portland Browns.

The governor of Colorado is being harshly criticized for sending state troops to quell the mining disturbances.

The United States cruisers that were sent to investigate the Turkish situation have arrived at the scene of the trouble.

The Baker police raided the city's opium joints last week and found six white men and a number of Chinamen fiends.

The Snake river mines are reported to be in a most prosperous condition and other enterprises correspondingly active.

The Baker City papers report heavy sheep sales from that section, made for the purpose of relieving the range situation.

By a recent order the consular service has been advanced to the merit system and hereafter the important positions will be filled by promotion.

Gen. E. Tracy, the assistant post master at Baker City, is so seriously ill that a Huntington man has been temporarily installed in his position.

Severe storms have done vast damage to life and property in the New England states and the tobacco crop entirely ruined by a recent cloudburst.

The coroner's jury in the Martin Bowers poisoning case returned a verdict charging the wife of the deceased and her sister, Mrs. Sutton, with poisoning him.

The Pendleton butchers have determined to experiment with the cold storage plant for preservation of meat instead of feeding cattle the high priced feed.

Eastern Oregon mines have employed double the number of men of any previous season. They have also shipped in more than double the amount of machinery and supplies.

A number of troops comprising the legation guard at Pekin were wounded in a quarrel with French soldiers. Although the American troops carry no arms when off duty the French soldiers do, and were the aggressors. The American offi-

cers have demanded the punishment of the offenders.

Henry Weilbrunner, a half demented young farmer, was recently hauled out over the wheels of a buggy and relieved of a pistol with which he had attempted the life of President Roosevelt.

The wheat crop of the northwest is estimated at 45,750,000 bushels for the season of 1903. This is a shortage of 7,000,000 compared with the previous year of 1902, and of 12,000 compared with 1901.

Chas. F. Murphy, a Seattle bookkeeper, drowned himself in Lake Washington because his accounts were short. He said he would make the shortage good and did so by this strenuous method of maturing a \$2000 insurance policy.

Secretary of State Hay has been threatened with assassination by a crank with a claim against Germany and who had written over 100 threatening letters to the secretary. The fellow was badly demented and has been placed in confinement.

After January 1st no return tickets will be issued to stockmen who ship their stock to eastern markets over the transcontinental lines. A meeting of railway officials has been held and this policy adopted as a means of circumventing the ticket scalpers who found profitable traffic in the return tickets of the stockmen.

DEATH OF BAKER CITIZEN.

Body of Harry Lockwood Found in Powder River.

Harry Lockwood, a well known resident of Baker City, was found dead in Powder river last Friday afternoon. The body was only half under water and the gruesome spectacle was discovered by a small boy, Paul Correll, as he was on his rounds delivering newspapers. It was thought that either murder or suicide stood back of the sad and untimely end, but a coroner's jury did not so find.

The latest theory advanced to account for the death is that of an epileptic stroke, to which it is said the unfortunate man was subject.

Mr. Lockwood was a representative of the American Homesteaders' association. He was also a prominent lodge man and carried heavy old line policies as well. His entire insurance is said to be about \$10,000.

BUTTER CREEK STOCK.

Feed Scarce and the Outlook is Gloomy.

The feed and the cattle situation of the Butter Creek district is bad. The country is overstocked with cattle and there is not enough feed to carry them through the winter. Some of the farmers who had a good supply of hay on hand have disposed of what they did not need and this has left the other farmers without any chance to buy.

Cattle are being brought in and they are in poor condition, the range being particularly short this year. Cattle prices are low, \$20 being offered for an animal. In some cases cattle are not in a condition to be placed on the market.

THE OLD RELIABLE

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
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THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

LAKEVIEW LAND OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED DOWN

Unless the Oregon Delegation Trot Out a Candidate to Succeed Register Brittain and Receiver Bailey.

It is currently rumored that President Roosevelt is displeased with the failure of the Oregon delegation to name successors to Brittain and Bailey, and that he ordered the present incumbents removed summarily, with temporarily appointed officials to carry on the work of the office while the delegation is getting together on good men to fill the positions of register and receiver regularly. But the president was informed by Secretary Hitchcock that this could not be done and that the office would have to be closed if the present officials were dismissed before new ones were appointed in their stead. Because of the vast amount of business transacted at the Lakeview office that plan was not deemed advisable, and the secretary of the interior was asked to name the men for the place in case the delegation continues to sulk.

The way in which the Knowles case was handled is said to indicate the future policy of the president in cleaning up the Oregon land business. That is, if thoroughly good men are recommended by the delegation or by any part of the delegation, they will be appointed to the place by the president; but if the delegation sulks and refuses to name a man, or if it insists on "standing by" any who is in any way noticeably unfit, the Oregon delegation will be ignored and the president will turn to Secretary Hitchcock, their arch enemy.

OREGON SLOW.

Centennial Promoters Have not Waked up.

The Baker City Democrat says that the Lewis and Clark Centennial is not known of in the east and that many of the prominent newspaper men have not even heard of such a project.

Quoting from a returned eastern visitor the article is as follows: "The managers of the Lewis and Clark Fair association claim to have already done a great deal of work in the way of advertising the 1905 fair throughout the United States. But while I was in the east I found that even leading newspaper men had never heard of the fair. A good many people living on the Atlantic seaboard don't even know where Oregon is or that Portland is the metropolis of the northwest. I talked with the editor of the Pittsburgh Dispatch and he was simply surprised to learn what we intend to do in 1905.

"The Philadelphia Enquirer man was in equal ignorance.

"In Washington, Buffalo, Philadelphia and Baltimore we could not find a single copy of an Oregon paper, except a few copies of the Oregonian of back dates. Even in the congressional library at Washington they told me that they do not receive the Oregonian regularly and that more than half of the time it is stolen.

"In Baltimore the great daily, the Sun, published a column and a half interview with us on Oregon. We advertised Eastern Oregon to beat the band and we had our own band to prove that Oregon is it. "If we are to have this 1905 fair advertised it is about time that the

newspapers of Oregon put some of the eastern papers on the exchange list and filed copies with some of the public libraries of the eastern centers.

"Too much importance cannot be attached to the advertising features of the duties of the fair board as the time is not long, and if this part of the work is not pushed immediately the eastern people will never know anything about the fair."

MANY AFFLICTIONS.

Latest Fatality in the Family of Mr. Puitt.

The family of W. H. Puitt, a well known resident of Prairie City, has been the victim of a long train of fatalities, and was recently called upon to mourn the death of one of its youngest and brightest members. And death came suddenly, too, as though in keeping with the unexpected, sometimes violent, taking off.

Early Tuesday morning, of last week, Hub Puitt was seized with an attack of typhoid and on the next day he died. Relatives were hastily summoned but before they arrived death had approached; they were four hours behind the dread messenger.

On July 4th a brother of the deceased was fatally shot in a row and a few days afterwards a sister suddenly expired.

The next serious misfortune was not fatal, although a half a dozen blasts were exploded within a few feet of the unprotected body of another brother, Willie Puitt, in the Dixie Meadows mine disaster. The fact that he was not instantly killed seems a miracle, and may be taken to mean that however harsh the fates may be there is yet a more potent and kinder power that still refuses to permit a condition so hopeless that it is ever possible to say "this is the worst."

DIED UNDER BLISTERING SUN.

With Leg and Shoulder Broken, no Help Comes.

A most painful and distressing death on the range is reported from the Owyhee country.

A Spaniard by the name of Domingo was driving through one of the most lonely stretches of road in that section when his horse evidently lurched and threw him out of the buckboard in which he was traveling. His leg was broken and his shoulder crushed in the fall, so that he could neither walk or crawl. In spite of his frightful predicament the Spaniard retained consciousness and tried to drag himself through the sage brush to find water.

In this effort, however, Domingo failed and after two days of untold agony in the blistering sun, died of his neglected wounds.

IN THREE STRAIGHT.

Is How America's Reliance Boat England's Shamrock.

The third and concluding race in the series for the famous yachting cup that carries the blue ribbon of the sea was won by the American boat, Reliance. The Shamrock got tangled up in the fog and did not cross the finish line.

This made it three straight for the cup-defender.

Only first class job printing at the News office.

Sept., 1903.

May, 1904.

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Classes will be sustained in both the 9th and 10th grades.

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