

WAR ON SAGE RAT IN CROOK

Uncle Sam's Varmint Killer Promises to Come and Get Him Pretty Soon.

SWARMS OVER FIELDS AND LEAVES BUT RUIN

Fifty Feet Alive to Biologist Piper, Now Busy With Ground Squirrels in Washington, Who Will Mix Rat Medicine, Too.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Madras, Or., April 22.—That an effort to rid this part of Crook county of the sage rat pest will be made under government supervision seems probable. Correspondence is in progress between interested parties here and Stanley E. Piper, assistant in the United States biological survey, now at Pullman, Washington, where he is engaged in field work, inoculating the ground squirrels of eastern Washington with virus of a fatal contagious disease. This correspondence has brought out the fact that the department is anxious to test the virus on the sage rat, and in case the laboratory tests prove satisfactory, Mr. Piper promises to come to Madras and personally direct field work for the extermination of the rats in this section.

Fifty Sows to Try It On.
At his request 50 or more live sows will be expressed from this place to the Pullman experiment station in a few days to be subjected to the inoculation tests by Mr. Piper, who expresses the opinion that the virus will be of great assistance in combating the little pests.

The sage rats, have assumed considerable importance throughout this region as crop destroyers, not only to cereals, but also in the irrigated alfalfa fields, as the roots of the plant appear to be more to their liking than the stalks or seeds, while their burrowing also destroys many plants.

While it may not be possible for the government biologist to come to Madras this season for field work, he announces his intention of starting an early campaign on the sage rats in the spring of 1908.

Thousands Killed; None Missed.
The sage rat is a small, brown, gopher-like creature, which lives in burrows in the ground and multiplies rapidly. To inoculate the rats with the germs of a fatal and contagious disease and allow them to spread the disease among their neighbors by natural association seems to be the only practical way of destroying them.

Two farmers of this district last season kept count of the sage rats they killed in various ways and know that they destroyed over 2,000 of them along their fields, and yet, they assert, there were just as many rats remaining there as where none had been killed.

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CENTRAL OREGON TRANSPORTATION LANDS GO FAST ABOUT KLAMATH

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MONEY BEING RAISED TO CLEAR COURSE OF SNAGS

Klamath Lake Company Seizes Business Opportunity—Klamath Falls Car Lines to Be Operated by Horsepower at First.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Klamath Falls, Or., April 22.—To Fort Klamath by boat is now a demonstrated possibility. H. M. Wampler took a party of prominent citizens up Monday to his launch and the people there gave them a royal reception and generously subscribed toward a fund to be used in clearing the river of snags and bars so as to insure safe and speedy passage of a 50-foot boat which Peter Peterson will have constructed and by June 1 be ready to transport passengers to Crater lake and to Spring creek, the world-renowned trout streams. The interest taken in boats and launches and the number owned by citizens is one of the surprises often remarked by visitors and newcomers. Two boat-building firms are kept constantly busy. Mr. Peterson contemplates having barges built, as hay and other produce of the Wood river valley could be transported to this city and sold at great profit. The condition of the roads when such produce is most in demand makes their transportation in the old way next to impossible.

The Klamath Lake Transportation company has secured the strategic Tetler's landing. M. L. Burns secured possession of this tract, consisting of over 500 acres, when it was supposed that the new railroad would touch that point. Since the permanent survey indicates it he was ready to let it go. The transportation people have secured it, as it will be the shipping point from the terminus of the new railroad to this city, transfer being made from wagon to boat there. This will continue until the new road reaches Midland, the first station out from this city.

The street railway company is having its tracks ballasted and promises soon to have cars running. It is probable that horse cars will be run for a time and gasoline motors will likely be used later. There is much traffic between the lakes during the summer and the cars will be a great convenience.

WANT LORD KITCHENER TO RETURN TO ENGLAND

King Edward Wants Commander in Chief of India to Serve on Army Council.

(Journal Special Service.)
London, April 22.—At the Indian and Services clubs the name of Lord Kitchener has cropped up constantly of late. It is well known that the king has more than once expressed a wish that Lord Kitchener could come home and act on the army council, which is badly in need of a strong man and a great organizer, if any of Mr. Hall-dane's proposals are to be carried into effect. General Sir Ian Hamilton is again mentioned as the successor to Lord Kitchener in India if that empire can be prevailed upon to spare the commander-in-chief. There was never any thought of making the Duke of Connaught commander-in-chief in India, as his royal highness is anxious to retire shortly altogether from active service.

WHITE SALMON TO VOTE ON A WATER SYSTEM

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Hood River, Or., April 22.—A favorable report having been received from the engineer, citizens of White Salmon, Washington, will hold an election on May 15 to vote on the proposition of bonding for an irrigating system. According to the report, 600 cubic feet of water per second can be secured by diverting the water from Big Buck creek. The water will be conveyed in wooden pipes, except where it is necessary to cross the White Salmon river, where pipe of iron will be used. By employing pipes instead of an open ditch it is expected to provide a water system for the town of White Salmon as well as for irrigating purposes.

SOOTHING WEED LIDDED BUT NOT ICE CREAM

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Hillsboro, Or., April 22.—A result of an understanding had yesterday morning with Deputy Attorney Wall the ice cream parlors throughout Washington county were permitted to do business. Mr. Wall contracted the law, and the sale of ice cream is not prohibited, and as long as sales are confined to ice cream and soft drinks, there will be no objection to Sunday sale on the part of the prosecuting officer. The sale of tobacco and cigars has been prohibited, and the notice of the district attorney was generally complied with yesterday. A cigar could not be purchased anywhere in Hillsboro yesterday, and the same conditions were reported throughout the county.

HOOD RIVER COMMERCIAL CLUB'S THRIFTY BUY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Hood River, Or., April 22.—A number of business men here, among whom are Leslie Butler, J. H. Hellbroner, J. L. Henderson, A. A. Jayne, H. F. Davidson, G. D. Woodworth, F. S. Davidson and F. A. Cram, have purchased one of the best business corners in town for the purpose of providing a permanent home for the Hood River Commercial club. While the building may not be erected for some time, it was thought best to secure property now, as city lots are advancing rapidly in value.

BEGIN TRIAL OF MAIL CARRIER FOR MURDER

Springfield, Mo., April 22.—The case of Garland Moore, the young mail carrier who is charged with the murder of his sweetheart, Clara West, last December, was called for trial in the criminal court here today. The defendant is barely 21 years of age, while the girl he loved and killed because she would not marry him was 22. After three years' courting they had been engaged. During their last quarrel Moore stabbed her eight or ten times with a large butcher knife. The defense, it is announced, will be insanity.

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