

The Gold Hill News

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT GOLD HILL, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, BY

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Entered at the Gold Hill postoffice for transmission through the mails as second-class matter

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1914

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE

WHO PAYS THE ROYALTY?

PLANs for the development of Alaska's enormous coal supply now being considered in Washington, and embodied in an administration measure which is almost surely destined to become law, evidence but a light regard for that sorriest individual in American economics—"the ultimate consumer."

While the acreage is limited to 2,560 acres of coal land, and other apparently proper measures are invoked against the possibility of monopolistic control, the feasibility of a binding "gentleman's agreement" of financiers in the leasing and operation of this great national fuel bunker is readily to be seen. To assume that private individuals and small corporations will lease the tract piece-meal, each according to the limitations of the proposed measure, and engage in a competition beneficial to the coal buying public and ruinous to themselves is to assume the ridiculous.

Even were the Alaskan fields successfully safeguarded from the form as well as the semblance of monopoly, the fact remains that they are an integral portion of the national wealth, and that the proposed measure is to permit the exploitation of the common property for the enrichment of individuals. The royalty charged by the government upon each ton of coal delivered from the mines of Alaska will be paid ostensibly by the operators, but in hard reality and harder cash by the consumer. So with the land rentals, and so with each insignificant item that adds to the pitiful total received by the nation from the private sale of a commodity which is indubitably the public's own.

With private ownership and operation will follow the influx of cheap labor, the strife of toil for living wages, and the hundred horrid possibilities of the coal mining game as capital regards it—necessities all to the system of competitive profits. Nor can any parental espionage of the government completely prevent or abate this certain situation.

With the construction of the governmental Alaskan railway, the northern territory will become the trial field for the first attempt at national ownership of a public utility. It cannot but be successful, despite the protesting cries of those who have enriched themselves by charging the public for that which was already its own. The Alaskan road has been decried as Socialistic in tendency and form—yet the public, long exorted and over patient, is looking hopefully toward it as an indication of better days ahead.

Would the operation of the Alaskan coal fields by the government, and for the people, employing labor at living wages and under humanitarian conditions, mean less to the nation? Could not the wonderful territory of the North be apportioned an equal or larger share of the proceeds for development, if the nation did its own delving? Do corporations make gifts of their resources to the people?—and, if not, why should the nation play Lady Bountiful?

With practically every acre of national coal land, outside of Alaska, already corralled by private interests, would the operation of the public coal fields for the employment of the jobless by the nation, be too extreme, too Socialistic? It is too late to hope—we are still a commonwealth of children and cowards, blindly led to our own undoing by the wise boys.

Brief News of the Week

The Ohio female labor law was declared constitutional by the federal supreme court.

The interstate commerce commission denied the application of railroads for permission to increase freight rates on flour from Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma to California from 65 cents to 75 cents.

The United States circuit court of appeals at San Francisco upheld the act of March 4, 1907, prohibiting the railroads from keeping their employees on duty more than 16 hours.

The sum of \$26,875,000 was realized from the viticulture products of California last year, \$15,000,000 being obtained from wineries and \$7,000,000 from table grapes.

The question of whether or not an auto is a common carrier in interstate trade, when not operating over a regular line, was raised in a white slave case at San Francisco.

Germany and France will submit to each other lists of persons who have been convicted of violating the automobile laws in the respective countries.

Requesting that all attempts to extradite Harry Thaw be dropped in order to save the state unnecessary expense, Assemblyman Golden of New York has introduced a resolution in the state legislature.

A special assistant has been named by the district attorney of New York, to prosecute loan sharks and protect persons who get into their clutches. Users will be sent to jail instead of fined, if possible.

A dray horse led federal sleuths to the seizure of a large quantity of colored oleomargarine and the arrest of a produce dealer at St. Louis. The dealer's animal, allowed free rein, pulled the wagon two miles and backed it up in front of the suspected man's place of business.

NEW YORKERS PAY MUCH

Income Tax Returns Reveal That New York's Are Largest.

New York.—Amazing figures testifying to the stupendous wealth of New York millionaires are contained in the income tax reports that are made to the collector of internal revenue in this city.

Notwithstanding the strict injunction to secrecy imposed by the commissioner of internal revenue, it was learned that 29 residents of New York city will pay approximately \$8,330,000 in taxes. This is about 8 per cent of the total of \$115,000,000 which the government expected would be raised from the personal income tax. It is estimated that New York city's contribution to the government will be between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

The people of Oregon will be given opportunity to recover, by vote at the election next November, the use of tidelands in the Portland harbor. An initiative measure revoking the tide land franchise of 1862 will be prepared within the month by Frederick W. Mulkey, chairman of the public dock commission. This franchise gave up land owners of waterfront right to use tidelands for dock construction.

Overdrafts (Secured & Unsecured)

B. H. L.

The Neighbor's Girl

She never said nuthin' to me, I never said nuthin' to her—just the flash of an eye as we both sidled by, on the path where the violets were. In the lane where the violets were, by the trail that leads down to the town—there I noticed the hue of the very same blue in her eyes 'fore the lashes bent down. A robin hopped out of the brush and flew to the laurel tree, and he sang a sweet song in the hush—but she never said nuthin' to me!

I never said nuthin' to her, she never said nuthin' to me—but she giggled, I'll swear, as I stared at her there on the path where the violets were. The trail turns down to the spring, then over the hill. I know that I noted the robin's full-throated song at the close of day. I know that her eyes are flowers, the color that violets be—and, gee! but I'm counting the hours till she shall say somethin' to me!

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BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Attorney-General Crawford has rendered an opinion that Lake county could initiate a law placing a bounty on jackrabbits.

Representative Sinnott has enlisted the aid of the department of agriculture in plans to exterminate the jackrabbits that infest central and eastern Oregon, and the department will soon issue instructions on the subject.

A big red fir tree with a heart of charcoal was cut down on E. B. Wallace's farm, eight miles from Albany. The tree had a diameter of about six feet and its age is estimated as 109 years.

Dr. Rufus Hagood, of Pendleton, who recently passed an examination for the United States army medical corps, has been commissioned first lieutenant and ordered to Vancouver barracks.

W. F. Hale, superintendent of the state training school for boys, says experiments show that nitrate of silver is a sure cure for the cigarette habit. The desire for the weed is said to vanish after a number of treatments.

In his declaration as a candidate for the republican nomination for governor, filed with the secretary of state, T. T. Geer, ex-governor, announces that he is for national and state-wide prohibition.

Under circumstances indicating that he had been slain, the dead and partially buried body of Otto Raen, aged 53, of Portland, was found on an isolated mountain ranch near Cape Horn in Skamania county, Washington.

Ernest and Richard Minty, brothers, presented themselves for admittance to the reform school at Salem. One of the boys had been released from the school on parole, but he decided to return, and bring his brother, after an absence of six months.

United States immigration authorities have ordered deported Mrs. Sado McDaniels, wife of an American physician living in the orient. The woman arrived in this country and was stopped while on her way to Independence, Or.

Additional time has been given delinquents in which to pay for reclamation work in the Klamath district. There are 40 delinquents, some of whom claim exemption because their lands are not fit for farming on account of poor drainage.

One of the largest reclamation projects in northern Lake county is under way with the draining of Summer lake and utilizing the flow of Ana river, which maintains the body of water at a general level by turning the stream flow into irrigation canals to supply the land on the east side of the valley.

Reports having been made that a number of druggists in the state are "bootlegging," Governor West states that he has called a meeting of the state board of pharmacy for April 1 to provide rules for revoking the license of any druggist found guilty of violating the liquor laws.

Governor West has appointed Joseph N. Teal to intervene for the state of Oregon in the case of the federal government to dissolve the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads. The appointment carries no salary and was made upon request of the transportation committee of the Portland chamber of commerce.

Representative Lafferty has introduced a bill making it unlawful for any senator or representative to ac-

cept any compensation other than the salary and allowances he receives from the government. Each must file once a year a sworn statement of the things of value donated to or received by him during the year.

There is no legal obstacle to the county court calling the special election to vote upon the question of issuing \$850,000 bonds for building permanent roads at the time of the general primary election May 15, according to an opinion given by Attorney-General Crawford to County Clerk Max Gehlhard of Marion county.

Deer are more plentiful in the mountains of Umatilla county this year than for many years, according to District Warden E. F. Averill, who has just returned from a trip through the south end highlands. This may be ascribed to the game protection sentiment which has been aroused in this county. Until the past few years there was an open season the year round in the mountains of southern Umatilla county, so far as actual conditions were concerned.

More than 800 acres of unproductive Oregon land will be planted with trees within the next few weeks by the reforestation department of the government forestry bureau. Included in this work will be an experiment of covering the sand dunes along the beach in Lane and Coos counties with trees. For this purpose a consignment of 10,000 maritime pine plants are now on the way to Portland. These trees, it has been found, give best results in a soil of shifting sand. They are said to be splendid as a sand-binding agency. In addition to this work a denuded tract near Tillamook will be reforested with about 600,000 pine plants. Another allotment will be set out on the dry area near Burns, in Harney county.

GERMAN SAYS THAT DEWEY WAS READY

Berlin.—In a statement of 11,000 words, Admiral von Diederichs replied to Admiral Dewey's version of the international incidents in Manila bay in 1898. He says Admiral Dewey threatened the Germans with war if they did not cease interfering with blockade regulations.

Admiral Dewey is declared to have been laboring under great tension. British interests are accused of fanning the flame. Admiral Diederichs concludes with the startling statement:

"It was even related that Admiral Dewey had already worked out a plan for the destruction of the German ships."

The German admiral says that when Flag Lieutenant von Hintze visited Admiral Dewey, this happened:

"Admiral Dewey gradually talked himself into a passion. He said, 'Why, I shall stop every vessel, whatever may be her colors. And if she does not stop, I shall fire at her. And that means war, do you know, sir?'"

Admiral von Diederichs makes the comment that Admiral Dewey must have known a declaration of war did not depend on either admiral. He attributes Admiral Dewey's conduct to nervousness arising from the weight of responsibility resting on him.

TAX RECEIPT IS ORDERED

Court Rules on Uncontested Sums Due From Railways.

Olympia, Wash.—By order of the Thurston county court the 30 Washington counties in which the Northern Pacific and Great Northern operate must accept approximately \$2,500,000 in uncontested railroad taxes, leaving \$203,000 taxes to be contested.

The action of the court ends a situation that threatened to result in the financial embarrassment of the state and a majority of the counties through tying up all railroad taxes. The counties were unwilling to accept partial payment, fearing they might jeopardize their chances of collecting later the portion contested. At the court hearing the railroad representatives were placed in the position of asking the court to force the counties to accept \$2,500,000 railroad money, while the counties resisted. The terms of the order specify, however, that by accepting payment the counties lose no rights.

Big Celebration Planned.

The Dalles.—The Dalles Rodeo, the wild west show which was inaugurated here last fall with such great success, will be staged July 2, 3 and 4 this year, making it include a celebration of Independence day.

The Rodeo was held last year combined with the county fair. The farmers objected to the wild west show in connection with the fair, contending that it detracted from the exhibits and other features. So it has been decided to hold the county fair in the fall and the Rodeo in July.

A Patriotic Creed

WE BELIEVE in our country—The United States of America. We believe in her Constitution, her laws, her institutions, and the principles for which she stands. We believe in her future—the past is secure. We believe in her vast resources, her great possibilities—yes, more, her wonderful certainties.

WE BELIEVE in the American people, their genius, their brain, and their brawn. We believe in their honesty, their integrity and dependability. We believe that nothing can stand in the way of their commercial advancement and prosperity.

WE BELIEVE that what are termed "times of business depression" are but periods of preparation for greater and more pronounced commercial successes.

AND WE BELIEVE that in our country are being worked out great problems, the solution of which will be for the benefit of all mankind.

THE GOLD HILL BANK

D. H. MILLER

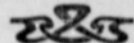
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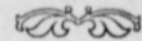
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