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East Oregonian

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1902.

GETTING ON THE PROPER BASIS

News comes from the different seats of "war" that the trouble between the sheepmen and cattlemen is gradually subsiding. While there have been some ugly fights, yet they have been exaggerated to some extent and it has never been so bad as pictured; but it has been carried too far and nothing has been accomplished by the harsh proceedings, except to stir up strife and prejudice against those engaged in the fight. While some maintain that the trouble has only subsided until spring or fall when sheepmen begin to remove their sheep, yet others maintain that the recent trouble has put people thinking and that the strife has practically ended in this country.

Good men often violate the law under the heat of passion and do things while in this condition that they would not think of doing in their cooler moments; but they do not repeat them after they have had time for reflection. They see what they have done and shudder at the thought of having done it.

Masquerading and destruction of property is never right under any provocation. Crime is always inexcusable. There is always an adequate remedy at law. The delays of the law are often irksome, and this causes good citizens to do that which they would not do if the law could be promptly enforced, but in the end it is always best to resort to the law even if one suffers through its delay.

In the late "unpleasantness" many have consulted the officers and it has had a good effect. They have been informed that the law is plain and there is a remedy for all of the evils on both sides. The United States district attorney for this district has given his opinion and the United States authorities have become enlisted and there is no reason why the entire matter should not be settled before another season rolls around.

It is pointed out that every one has equal rights so far as passing over the public lands is concerned. The district attorney has announced the law to the disputants which is, "that any person who shall obstruct or prevent the free passage of stock over or through public lands, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year," and that any one "who by threats or force shall attempt to prevent the free passage of another over public lands is liable to arrest."

This announcement has put stockmen and their employees to thinking. The government authorities have announced their willingness to carry out the law. With the law made plain to the people and the notice given that it will be enforced, no law-abiding citizen will give further trouble. Of course, the law will be violated occasionally. There are always those who would violate the law under any conditions. This is the criminal class. They violate the law everywhere. But the stockmen as a class are a different set of men. They are as brave as lions, and in the heat of passion may do that which they would not otherwise do and afterwards regret it, but they will soon desist and resort to the law if necessary.

Where there are conflicting inter-

ests, it sometimes looks hard to stand by and see damage done one without fighting, even if one has not the legal right to fight, but in the end it is best to bear the loss. Safe redress cannot be obtained except through the law, and the stockmen know this as well as any one else.

Now that the law has been well defined to them they will observe it in the future in a majority of cases and it is the only proper basis upon which to stand.

South Carolina has passed a law requiring that no one shall carry a revolver less than twenty inches in length, nor weighing less than three pounds. This will put almost a stop to the practice of carrying concealed weapons there as such a "gun" will be hard to conceal and few people will care to carry their "fool brand" strapped to their waistband.

Another source of fake press correspondence is shut off. Tracy has been proved to have told the truth when he declared that he killed Merrill.

The finding of Merrill's body adds another black diamond to Convict Tracy's crown of crime.

WHO OWNS THE BABY?

Massachusetts women are rejoicing because the legislature has just passed a bill making mothers equal guardians of their minor children with the fathers. Under the old law, the husband had the sole control and disposal of the children.

This sometimes led to great hardship. In the legislative debate, Senator Jones told of a case where a Chinaman married a respectable Irishwoman. When their first baby was three days old, the husband gave it to his brother to be taken away to China and brought up there. The mother, through the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, appealed to the courts; but the judge promptly decided that the husband was within his rights. He was the sole legal owner of the baby; he had the sole right to say what should be done with it.

Lucy Stone began to ask for a change in this law as far back 1847. The Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association has petitioned for it again and again. Fresh attention was called last year to the need of a change in the statutes by the Naramore tragedy. A hard working and tender-hearted young mother killed her six children, in a fit of distraction caused by the determination of her shiftless and drunken husband to separate them from her and place them in the hands of strangers, as he had the legal right to do.

This year the equal guardianship bill was endorsed not only by the Suffrage Association, but by the Children's Friend Society, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the State W. C. T. U., the Woman's Relief Corps, and more than a hundred other societies, aggregating 34,000 women.

The only society of women that has ever ranged itself on the wrong side of this question, so far as known, is the "Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women." It has for years been circulating over its imprint a leaflet defending the old law which excluded the mother from any voice in the control and disposal of her children.

This bill was fought in the legislature with all the objections commonly urged against the ballot for women. Representative Leahy said there must be one head to the family and it should be the father. Representative Marshall said that the bill would "create strife, separation, and divorce," and that its advocates were "sentimentalists and woman suffragists." He added: "Those who appeared for it before the committee were practically the same crowd that appeared before the Committee on Constitutional Amendments for woman suffrage." Senator Barry did not think anybody except organ-

izations favoring equal rights for women and men cared anything about this measure." And Representative Sleeper exclaimed: "If you want to enact legislation which will disrupt the home, and under the tenderest and most sacred relations, pass this bill!" All the opponents declared that the mothers of Massachusetts were fully protected already and had all the rights they ought to want. But the House and Senate turned a deaf ear to these time-honored pleas, and passed the bill by a large majority.

It has taken Massachusetts women 55 years to secure this self-evidently just law, by the slow method of "indirect influence." In Colorado, after women were granted the ballot, the very next Legislature passed a bill giving mothers equal guardianship of their children.

Massachusetts is the twelfth State to enact such legislation. In 33 out of the 45 states of the Union, the husband still has the sole custody and guardianship of the children. Fortunately, in America most men are better than the law, and few husbands use the extreme and tyrannical power that the law gives them. —Progress.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS

If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're ill or will be. Keep your bowels open, and in good force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smooth, easy, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take



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