

**BRIEF RECORD OF COUNTY EVENTS**

Special Correspondence

**ECHO NEWS NOTES HELIX HAPPENINGS**

**INCREASING THE FORCE ON RECLAMATION PROJECT.**

**Crowding Work in Every Department—New Blacksmith Shop Opened—Spring Seeding Will Begin Soon—Mayor Esteb Is Recovering—River Bridge Will Be Repaired Soon—Ditches Belonging to the Helix Project Will Be Extended.**

Echo, Feb. 21.—Since the weather has grown warmer considerable more activity is being seen along the line of the government project. More ditch work is going on and more men are constantly being put to work. J. T. Whistler was up from Hermiston yesterday, and he stated that the preliminary work on the reservoir site is being arranged as rapidly as men and teams can do the work. New-comers have been put to work on different parts of the project, and the work is going on in all directions with all possible speed. Echo is showing an interest in the gathering of data, views, etc., regarding the project to be sent to the Jamestown exposition.

Mayor A. L. Esteb is much improved in health after being confined to his home for some weeks on account of ill health.

Considerable damage was done by the flood Tuesday at Prospect ranch and at places on Butter creek, where the land was low. Most of it was done to roads, in low places, however, and the damage will soon be repaired.

A concert will be given at the city hall tonight by a male quartet which comes highly recommended.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Newport were up from Echo the first of the week on a short business trip.

**New Fire Bell.**  
The fire department at this place has been reorganized, and it is reported that a fire bell will shortly be installed and many improvements made in the department, which will be appreciated by the community at large.

**New Blacksmith Shop.**  
Perry Whitworth has erected a new blacksmith shop 30x40 on the corner of Bonanza and Buckley streets.

James Hoskins has purchased the Barrymore residence, and his father's family has moved into it.

**Seeding Coming On.**  
A number of the ranchers are beginning to arrange for spring seeding. C. C. Cameron will shortly seed 1750 acres to wheat on the Prospect ranch. Plowing will soon go on and winter wheat is looking fine. Prospects are very favorable for an excellent wheat season.

**A Trip East.**  
Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Gillett expect to leave today for the east where they will spend several weeks. They will go to Kansas, Illinois and to other states where they will visit relatives and friends.

**Band Serenaded.**  
The members of the Echo band serenaded H. T. McClennan and wife, who were recently married, Tuesday evening. Mr. McClennan recently married Mrs. Annie Allison, and they expect to make this their home.

**County Commissioners.**  
County commissioners were here Tuesday evening viewing the damage done to the bridge crossing the Umatilla at this place. The span that was taken out during the last flood will be repaired in a very short time, and it is now believed that Umatilla will be safe from floods for the remainder of the season at least.

**Fuel Situation.**  
The coal question has been dropped, and the three fellows who sold the stolen fuel are now languishing in the county jail. It is not believed that O. R. & N. coal will be sold here at an early date, however, even if the shortage became serious.

**Extended Ditches.**  
The contract for the extension of the ditches of the Hinkle Ditch company's project is about to be let, which means that several thousand acres adjacent to Echo will be put into cultivation, much of which will soon be placed on the market. This means much to this section of the country. Messrs. Teal, Hinkle and others interested in this project expect to expend a large amount in this direction and it is understood that H. G. Newport is the contractor.

**EXCITEMENT IN ENGLAND.**  
Caused by Predictions of Earthquakes by Hugh Clements.

London, Feb. 21.—Owing to the prophecies of Hugh Clements, the meteorologist, to the effect that there would be earth tremors in the eastern counties of England and along the Anglo-Scottish border today, great excitement prevails all over the country. Many persons have left their houses and have taken to the hills. In Durham and Cumberland all work in the coal mines is suspended and the city of Berwick is practically deserted. Clements states that the tremors would spring from solar and lunar effects exactly like those which caused the devastating volcanic eruptions in the island of Krakatoa in August, 1883.

After carefully studying Clements' calculations and investigations some time ago Lord Kelvin, Professor Milne and Dr. Lockyer expressed opinions that terrestrial disturbances were not at all improbable today.

A 4-year-old oyster is the best for eating purposes.

**GREAT INCONVENIENCE BECAUSE OF THE FLOODS.**

**Which Delayed Mails and Supplies—Citizens Took Turns Bringing in the Mails—Successful Revival at the Baptist Church—Masquerade Ball a Great Success—Dr. L'euallen Sold Out and Has Removed to Portland to Practice Medicine.**

Helix, Feb. 21.—Helix is still suffering from the flood in the way of mails and supplies. It looked bright for a time when another flood came, resulting from the sudden melting of the remaining snow. The different citizens have made trips to Pendleton, bringing in mail which would last until another was made desperate enough to make the drive. Slow trains are better than none, and the W. & C. R. trains will look good to all in this section.

Revival meetings are being conducted at the Baptist church by Rev. Owens of Texas. The attendance is very good, and the meetings are successful.

The masquerade dance given at this place a short time ago was a very enjoyable affair. Mrs. A. R. Montgomery won first prize and Dr. F. A. L'euallen received the gentleman's prize.

Dr. L'euallen, who recently sold his drug business at this place, has gone to Portland, where he expects to practice. He has the best wishes of many friends in this location.

**FLOODS ALONG THE C. S. ROAD.**

**Every Depression Carries a Ragging, Dangerous Torrent.**

Troubles are multiplying along the Columbia Southern and instead of getting the track clear in a day or so, it will be at least a week before trains will be running into Sherman county, says The Dalles Chronicle of February 19.

Four days' work had been done on the line between Biggs and Wasco and a train was started out yesterday; but when they reach Dry gulch, four miles the other side of Wasco, they found from eight to 10 feet of water in the ditch and started back just in time to avoid trouble further this side.

A heavy chinook blew up Sunday night and turned every ditch, dry or wet into a raging torrent, washing out bridges and track which had been replaced between Biggs and Wasco and causing renewed damage.

As it will be over a week before trains will be running it has been decided to take steps to move the stock which has been held since the tie-up by driving them to The Dalles. At Grass valley there are 15 carloads and at Shaniko 26. Though when trains stopped running it was said any amount of hay could be bought for from \$5 to \$10, owners now claim they are compelled to pay \$20, which makes it decidedly expensive for the company.

**OREGON POTATOES PAY.**

**Profitable Crop Raised in Willamette Valley.**

Those who think growing potatoes in the Santiam bottom land a small and unprofitable business, should take note that Sol Lindley last Saturday sold 1000 bushels of his last season's crop for the snug sum of \$1000 net, the crop to be aboard the cars at Lebanon, says a Lebanon paper.

When it is recalled that Mr. Lindley raised 3500 bushels from 13 acres and about 2000 bushels of these will go on the market as the highest quality of the product, one can have some idea of the profits in small farming in an up-to-date and a progressive way. Potato growing is a minor part of the farming on the Lindley farm.

This is only one of the numerous farmers along the Santiam river who are doing that kind of farming. Clem Brothers had a considerable better crop than did Mr. Lindley. At that price the Clem boys realized better than \$200 to the acre, they raising 2800 bushels from eight acres which turned out about 2000 bushels of top marketable potatoes.

**THE GOVERNOR'S REASONS.**

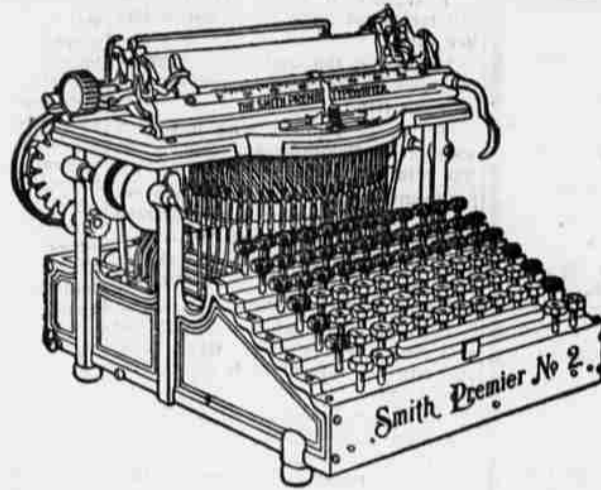
**Caustic Message to the Legislature on Normal School Bill.**

Governor Chamberlain in vetoing the Smith normal school bill, sent the following caustic message to the legislature:

In my opinion the bill would not be sustained by the courts if it should become a law, and the board therein designated should attempt to choose two normal schools from those now in existence. The power of making this selection is one delegated by the constitution to the legislature, and that body, under a well-established principle of law, cannot delegate their power to any man or set of men.

There is no reason why the legislature should not itself abolish two of the normal schools instead of undertaking to shirk its duty and so avoid a responsibility which devolves upon it.

Apparently Hood River's hopes of a new county and of being the county seat thereof are squelched for this session, as the bill providing therefor has been indefinitely postponed.



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**GREAT SPELLING REFORMER.**

**Brander Matthews, Born in New Orleans, is 55 Years Old.**

James Brander Matthews, the distinguished author and one of the pioneer advocates of the system of simplified spelling, was born in New Orleans, February 21, 1852. He was graduated from Columbia college in 1871 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He soon abandoned the legal profession for literature, in which he has made a name for himself that is familiar throughout the English-speaking world.

For the past 15 years Dr. Matthews has been professor of dramatic literature at Columbia college. During the same period his pen has produced a large number of essays and books on literature. In recognition of his services to literature in connection with the French drama France has recently conferred upon him the decoration of the Legion of Honor.

**Auction Sale.**  
One o'clock p. m. Saturday, March 23, at the Alta House, all of the stock, horses and cattle and farm and dairy implements now on the Frank B. Clopton ranch, will be sold at public auction.

The Idaho house of representatives by a vote of 32 to 7 adopted a resolution condemning the government forest reserve policy.

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