

WEEKLY GAZETTE

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OFFICIAL

Heppner

WEEKLY



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WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON Feb. 9.—The delegation from Oregon in the 56th congress is certainly a hard working one and valuable results for the people of that state are being accomplished. It is too much to expect within the space of one brief let for even to outline what has already been accomplished at this session by the entire delegation and it will be necessary to devote at least one letter or more to each senator and member. The senior senator from Oregon, McBride, with his four years of experience, and the important committee positions which have come to him in the reorganization, and the work which he has accomplished, is easily entitled to first consideration. Most important has been his work in securing the passage of the bill repaying to settlers on forfeited land grants the excess of \$1 25 per acre which they were obliged to pay into the United States treasury for their homesteads. While the other public lands sold at \$1 25 per acre, all that included within the railroad land grants was placed at \$2 50 per acre, the theory being that the building of the railroad would double at least the value of such lands. But the railroads were never built and finally congress performed an act of equity and declared the grants forfeited wherever the railroad companies had not constructed lines as agreed upon. Ever since that time an effort has been made to get congress to authorize the repayment to settlers of the \$1 25 an acre taken from them really by false pretenses. The price of \$2 50 per acre was charged only for the reason that it was believed by the government and settler alike that land was worth twice that which was outside of the limits of the railroad grant. No railroad being built the settler within the railroad limits was no better off than the settler miles farther away. While it would seem that this is so plain as to need no arguing, the proposition to repay this money met with bitter opposition from the very first. At a social dinner the other evening a high official of the treasury department making a post prandial speech jokingly remarked that it was a rule of the treasury department to take in all money that was offered and pay nothing out if it could be possibly avoided. This may have been a joke, but some of the settlers out in Oregon on lands within the limits of land grants that have been forfeited, can hardly be blamed for believing it to be literally true. This strong opposition to what should have been done promptly as an act of justice Senator McBride found left to him as a legacy by his predecessor. Especially in the senate committee on public lands, through which this measure had to pass was found this opposition, the growth of years of discussion. In the 53rd congress the bill introduced by Senator Dolph went back to the senate with a strong unfavorable report from the minority of the committee. When Senator McBride took the matter up four years ago he succeeded in getting a majority of the senators on the committee to sign a favorable report but here still remained minority opposition. Perseverently and patiently he continued to work to remove this opposition until the last session of the 55th congress the bill took its place upon the calendar without any opposition from the committee reporting it but was not voted upon in the senate. The senator began work upon the measure early in the present congress and while there were some new men upon the committee to whom the merits of the measure had to explain, still the opposition was much less than it had been before and the bill was again reported favorably and finally passed the senate without a dissenting vote. The senator declares he won the support for his measure entirely upon its merits, but it might have had all the merit in the world and without his constant and persistent efforts to explain away all objection offered by senators who did not understand the situation, it would never have passed. While it is a meritorious measure, Uncle Sam has the settler's cash in his pockets, and it is no end of a hard job getting it out. Three private pension bills introduced by the senator have already been favorably reported and are now on the calendar. It is most important to secure favorable reports from committees and in order to do this no end of hard work is involved. The merits of the bill must be explained often to the individual members who do not always attend committee hearings. It is a laborious method but thoroughly successful. It keeps a man, however, working day and night, and there is no member of the United States senate more constant in his attendance upon the sessions of that body or more conscientious in his performance of committee work. It was undoubtedly the knowledge of this fact that caused Mr. McBride to receive unsought such important committee assignments as have been given to him in this congress.

CAPE NOMA MINES. Gold Belt Has an Area of 8,000 or 10,000 Square Miles. Several members of the United States geological survey made a brief reconnaissance of the Cape Noma country in the latter part of September and early in October, 1899. They were on their way back to the United States from the Yakon region, and while waiting for a steamer, collected such a geologic and topographic data as time, circumstances and climate would permit. The topography was in charge of T. G. Gardiner, D. C. Witherspoon, and the geology and topography were done by Misses Brooks and Schrader. The latter, with sleeping bags and provisions, made a several days' trip into the mountains and gulches to examine the formations and diggings. On account of the snow, cold weather and freezing up of the creeks, most of the gold claims had been closed down early in October, and the operators had departed. F. C. Schrader writes of the work of the party in the National Geographic Magazine for January. He says, among other things: The Cape Noma district is situated on the northwest coast of Alaska, on the northern arm of Behring sea, at the entrance of Norton sound. It is the southern promontory of a large peninsula, extending westward toward Siberia between Kotzebue and Norton sounds, and largely separates Behring sea from the Arctic ocean. Westward this peninsula terminates at the 138th meridian in Cape Prince of Wales, the most western extension of the American continent, which is here separated from Asia by Behring strait, about 60 miles in width. The promontory on which the Cape Noma district is situated has long been known on nearly all Alaska maps by the name of Cape Noma. The district lies about 100 miles northward of St. Michael, and just outside of the fort St. Michael military reservation. By ocean steamer route it is nearly 2700 miles northwest of Seattle, and about 750 miles from Dutch Harbor, Unalaska. The Cape Noma region, as known at present, extends from Cape Noma, the apex of the promontory, some 30 miles or more northward along the coast, and about 20 miles inland to the north. In the middle of this shore line, at the mouth of the Snake river, the thriving city of Nome is situated. From Cape Noma for 30 miles or more westward to Shyrock, the shore line is comparatively straight and smooth, but lying back of the shore line, between it and the base of the mountains, occurs the well known tundra. This consists of a strip of tundra, now covered with ice, forming a coastal shelf, which, along the beach, is about 30 feet above sea level. From here it slopes gently upward until at the base of the mountains, some four or five miles from the beach, it attains an elevation of 150 or 200 feet. During the summer it is usually wet, soft and boggy, and is dotted here and there by a few ponds, and is traversed by the Snake, Noma and Cripple rivers and other smaller streams, which carry out the drainage from the mountains.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES. By Orville A. Jones. The literary and musical program rendered by company A, of the high school, was a decided success, considering the time they had in which to prepare it. There were 27 vociferous present including company A's mascot, Prof. Sibney, junior. The program rendered was as follows: Opening address... Prof. W. W. Sibney. Opening song, "Alpine Horn"... School Recitations... Fannie Woodward, Eliza Sutton. Select reading... Millie Reed. Song, "Star Spangled Banner"... School Biography, William Pitt... One Girl's Quotations... Ida Howard, Sadie McCarty, Ruth Blake and Fericie Hughes. Quartette... Elsie Bartholomew, Willie Dutton, Edna Van Duzyn and Grace Hager. Select Reading... Bessie Sutton. Comic Story... George Hamilton. Recitation... Grace Mallory. Composition... Elsie Driskell. Song, "Forever and Forever"... School Biography, Napoleon... Mathew Hughes. Recitation, "Little Cochran"... Frank Hamilton. Solo, "My Hannah Lady"... Elsie Bartholomew. Song, "Bill May"... Superintendent Shipley. Closing address... Judge Bartholomew. Prof. Sibney inaugurated the "Thinking Club," which lasted until time to dismiss. The medals for the best speaking were awarded to Louis Biber and Jack Mathews. Company B will come on with their first program Friday afternoon, February 23. It will appear in next week's Gazette.

A Great Government. Uncle Sam's system in connection with the army often leads to amazing mishaps. Soldiers may have to go cold, wet and hungry and have to grin and bear it. Contracts requiring millions may be consummated and the money paid out as though the woods were full of it. But often some little technicality causes lots of trouble. At Fort Sill, Oklahoma, recently the quartermaster advertised for 6,005 brick to build a bakery. While the government mules were hauling them, a soldier driver who was mad at being thus detailed, threw one of the bricks at a yellow dog, so that afterward, when the brick were officially counted, there were only 6,004. The government has been roaring around about this one brick ever since. A court martial has been held and suspensions are looked for, and it may be impossible to avert civil war. The government says it is going to have that brick if it kills it. And while it has been fooling around about it half a dozen contractors on public works have swindled \$25,000 apiece, and soldiers have had to eat tons of mouldy hard-bread. But it is pretty hard to get ahead of the government—when it comes to one red brick. All delinquent in subscription to the Gazette are requested to come in and settle.

CAPE NOMA MINES.

Several members of the United States geological survey made a brief reconnaissance of the Cape Noma country in the latter part of September and early in October, 1899. They were on their way back to the United States from the Yakon region, and while waiting for a steamer, collected such a geologic and topographic data as time, circumstances and climate would permit. The topography was in charge of T. G. Gardiner, D. C. Witherspoon, and the geology and topography were done by Misses Brooks and Schrader. The latter, with sleeping bags and provisions, made a several days' trip into the mountains and gulches to examine the formations and diggings. On account of the snow, cold weather and freezing up of the creeks, most of the gold claims had been closed down early in October, and the operators had departed. F. C. Schrader writes of the work of the party in the National Geographic Magazine for January. He says, among other things: The Cape Noma district is situated on the northwest coast of Alaska, on the northern arm of Behring sea, at the entrance of Norton sound. It is the southern promontory of a large peninsula, extending westward toward Siberia between Kotzebue and Norton sounds, and largely separates Behring sea from the Arctic ocean. Westward this peninsula terminates at the 138th meridian in Cape Prince of Wales, the most western extension of the American continent, which is here separated from Asia by Behring strait, about 60 miles in width. The promontory on which the Cape Noma district is situated has long been known on nearly all Alaska maps by the name of Cape Noma. The district lies about 100 miles northward of St. Michael, and just outside of the fort St. Michael military reservation. By ocean steamer route it is nearly 2700 miles northwest of Seattle, and about 750 miles from Dutch Harbor, Unalaska. The Cape Noma region, as known at present, extends from Cape Noma, the apex of the promontory, some 30 miles or more northward along the coast, and about 20 miles inland to the north. In the middle of this shore line, at the mouth of the Snake river, the thriving city of Nome is situated. From Cape Noma for 30 miles or more westward to Shyrock, the shore line is comparatively straight and smooth, but lying back of the shore line, between it and the base of the mountains, occurs the well known tundra. This consists of a strip of tundra, now covered with ice, forming a coastal shelf, which, along the beach, is about 30 feet above sea level. From here it slopes gently upward until at the base of the mountains, some four or five miles from the beach, it attains an elevation of 150 or 200 feet. During the summer it is usually wet, soft and boggy, and is dotted here and there by a few ponds, and is traversed by the Snake, Noma and Cripple rivers and other smaller streams, which carry out the drainage from the mountains.

EVIL OF THE LEASE. Eastern Oregon Range Lands Must Not be Fenced—Country Would Get a Set-back. Morning Oregonian. Mr. Hahn, who is stirring Portland opposition to the leasing scheme, formerly lived at Prineville, Crook county, in the district which it is proposed to surround with barbed-wire fences. He knows the people and the evil that would come to them if the leasing project goes through. Speaking about the subject yesterday, he said: Having lived in Central Oregon, among the people affected by the proposed legislation, I appreciate the present situation. If the ranges are leased it will practically amount to building a barbed-wire fence around Eastern Oregon and stopping all development for years to come. Lands, except those bearing mineral, would be withdrawn from settlement, and the time would come when one or two men would own entire counties. Small stockowners would be crowded out by the large ones and a monopoly created which it would be difficult to get rid of. Harney valley and the Malheur country are already in the hands of large stockowners. The remainder of Eastern Oregon is free from this condition, but if leasing legislation is enacted the whole country will fall into the hands of the stockman. Commercially, we can not afford to permit Eastern Oregon to be fenced in and closed to settlement. All the industrial growth would then be thrown west of the Cascades, and the promising Eastern section, now making its first great forward strides, would be resolved in a vast pasture. This would be a tradeable condition of affairs from whatever point it may be viewed. It would retard the development of the entire state, and seriously effect Portland's trade, it would be slamming the door in the face of the settlers seeking homes in Eastern Oregon. Lease of the range lands would tie up vast areas that are susceptible to cultivation. It is a serious mistake to assume that because little is raised in a large section of Eastern Oregon, nothing can be raised. A great deal of the land is similar to that in the vicinity of Grass valley, Sherman county, where cultivation has made rapid strides in the past few years. Grass valley is probably 25 miles long and 10 or 15 miles wide. I will remember when it was a range, and was considered of no use for any other purpose. Now three quarters of it is being farmed, and the people are as contented and well to do as can be found in any part of Oregon. Between Baker and Sherar's bridge, on the Deschutes river, is a plateau 20 miles long, about 10 or 15 miles wide, and having an elevation of about 2400 feet. It is part of what people are pleased to call the "great American desert," which extends from Lake county northward, and until recently was considered valueless. Quite a section of the plateau is being farmed with good results, wheat, rye and barley being among the productions. Farming is successful in Grass valley and the day is not far distant when it will be counted among the most productive regions of productive Oregon. Middle Oregon is held back by the lack of transportation. If it had railroads it would have thousands of farms where it now has only a few, and those scattered. Just because the country lacks transportation is no reason for turning it over to the stock monopolist, and giving it a set-back from which it will not recover for a generation. Portland owes it to the entire state to enter a vigorous protest against the leasing system.

ARLINGTON. Record and Advocate. Sheepmen are all expecting wool to advance to 20 cents per pound. John Cunningham is building a large shed, 40x100 feet, and improving his large livery stable. The roads are getting in fine shape and wheat teams have put in their appearance on our streets once more. The traveling grain mill is grinding in the city and has rolled several hundred sacks of barley and wheat for the stables. W. H. Herrin, of Eight Mile, was in town this week. He reports his sheep in fine condition and the outlook for a crop excellent. Condon Globe: Several car loads of heavy horses have been shipped from here within the last few days for the Portland market. Horses are climbing up. When F. Strickland was yesterday from Rock creek he was offered \$300 for the team he was driving to the back. Jackson Bros. have purchased the old Kirby stable, which they have had rented for a year. They have proven themselves the best stage men that have ever had the line from here to Fossil. An agent was in our town a few days ago working up business for the Columbia River R. & Navigation Co. They propose to have boats on the river early in the spring. The transportation company considers Arlington quite an important shipping point and if the prospects for a crop of wheat materialize this will be a lively place for the next year. The crop prospects for Gilliam are the best in the history of the county.

Chance for an Argument. S. Friedman, a well-known pioneer merchant of Salem, writes to the Independent as follows: "I believe the boys should learn to play a good game of cards, then they wouldn't be losing. Good players seldom gamble, and like good judges of liquor seldom ever get drunk. I believe in men being temperate in all things, for their welfare and amusement, but not teetotalists, for it is the teetotalists that sometimes use either cards or liquor to excess. Therefore learn the boys all, so that they can avoid the danger." School Clerk's Salaries. State Superintendent Ackerman has rendered the following decision: "The directors of any school district may pay their clerk such compensation as is, in their judgment, necessary; provided such compensation is not paid out of the common school fund. "The law specifically mentions the purposes to which the common school fund may be applied, and the salary of the school clerk is not mentioned therein. The only reference to the clerk's salary is in connection with the collection of taxes, and it is evident that the intent of the law was to pay the clerk for his services for the money derived from the district tax and not from the common school fund." A Convincing Answer. "I hobbled to Mr. Blackmon's drug store one evening," said Wesley Nelson, of Hamilton, Ga., "and he asked me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism with which I had suffered for a long time. I told him I had no faith in any medicine as they all failed. He said: 'Well, if Chamberlain's Pain Balm don't you, you need not pay for it.' I took a bottle of it home and used it according to the directions and in one week I was cured, and have not since been troubled with rheumatism." Sold by Conner & Warren.