

The Heppner Gazette.

Issued Every Thursday Morning

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VANGUARD IS HERE.

First of Advancing Army of Settlers Come to Oregon.

Trains on the Northern Pacific and O. R. & roads which arrived Friday brought the first flock of settlers who are taking advantage of the reduced rates from Chicago, Missouri River points and St. Paul common points to come West to the land where the blizzards and sunstroke are unknown and where the soil answers a tickle with a bumper crop, says the Oregonian.

The trains arriving in Portland Friday came in two sections on both roads, not only one train on each road, but all of them being thus doubled. They not only filled the extra sections, but overflowed into the first section, and there is such a swarm in prospect that it is expected that three sections will sometimes be needed.

The people who are coming West, at this time are not merely homeseekers who come to look around and then go back to deliberate for a whole year upon selling out their farms in the East and investing the proceeds in a larger farm in the West. They are the actual settlers who result from such excursions made last year and in prior years. They bring their wives and families, their goods and chattels, money with which to stock their farms and furnish their new homes. They have come to stay and thereby to swell Oregon's population and wealth. The great majority had bought tickets through to the coast, and all these had their new homes already selected and have come to take possession.

These new settlers have been dropping off the trains of the three Northern roads all the way through Idaho, Oregon and Washington, so that their numbers are greatly reduced by the time the trains reach Portland. About 60 of those who came in were transferred to the Southern Pacific, being bound for points in the Willamette Valley and other parts of Western Oregon. They are only the advance guard of a steady daily stream which will pour out from the Middle West for the next two months. As the settlers' rates only went into effect on March 1, the trains which left Missouri River points on that day and arrived in Portland Friday were the first on which these tickets were good. By the end of next week the westward tide should have gained its full strength and the migration should add tens of thousands to the population of the Pacific Northwest.

The return tide from this movement will be small, if any, for the rates only apply west bound and for the single trip. The rate is \$33 from Chicago and St. Louis and \$25 from St. Paul and Missouri River points from March 1 to May 1, but, if the people who come West at these rates wish to return, they will have to pay the full regular fare.

There is great suffering among Manitoba Indians from lack of food, and smallpox.

NATIONAL IRRIGATION.

Two and a Quarter Millions to Build Dam and Canals.

Washington, D. C., March 5.—The wild and wonderful topography of northwestern Wyoming is to be the scene of great engineering activity. A recent action of the Irrigation Reclamation Service in setting aside two and a quarter million dollars for the construction of a huge dam and irrigation works on the Shoshone River in Wyoming lends interest to some little known investigations which have been made in this uninhabited wilderness. A brief discussion of the work of the government engineers during the past year in this region will be found in the forthcoming second annual report of the Reclamation Service, but the explorations and surveys of the government date back almost to the Civil War.

The Shoshone project has great possibilities and when completely worked out will probably irrigate fully 500,000 acres of waste lands, parched, but holding in their dry embrace enduring fertility.

Rising near the boundary of the Yellowstone National Park in northwestern Wyoming, that nature's wonderland, the Shoshone River, flowing eastward, rushes into a canyon cut down through solid granite. The flow of the Shoshone named by the Indians "Stinking Water" because of its sulphurous origin among the Yellowstone springs, is highly variable, in time of flood 8,000 or 10,000 cubic feet per second, and again as low as 250 feet. The possibilities of this project therefore lie in the storage of the floods. Joining the walls of this granite canyon, the government will build a cement and stone dam, as immovable as the everlasting rocks themselves, and rising 170 feet above the river level, forming a great lake covering 3,300 acres and with a storage capacity of 7,000,000,000 cubic feet. The canyon at the dam site is but 75 feet wide at the river level, and at the curb of the proposed dam 140 feet wide, thus forming an acute inverted triangle with the point disappearing into the river. The stored snow water will be lead from the reservoir onto the agricultural lands through a system of tunnels and canals about four miles in length.

DRIVEN BY GALE.

Lives and Property Destroyed in Oklahoma by Fire.

Lawton, Okla., March 3.—Driven by a terrific gale from the north, which at times reached the velocity of 90 miles an hour, a prairie fire swept over thousands upon thousands of acres of Kiowa and Comanche Counties last night, destroying hundreds of farm buildings and much livestock, made 1000 persons homeless, caused the death of several persons, threatened a number of towns and swept away scores of buildings in the outskirts of towns.

The country was very dry, no rain having fallen for months. Grass and stubble fires set by farmers, as is customary at this season of the year, were soon driven beyond control by the gale, which rose suddenly.

All estimates of the loss exceed \$20,000. At Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa County, the fire destroyed numerous outlying buildings. The 75,000 acres of Government military and timber and Indian reserve near Hobart were swept, with loss of buildings and cattle.

Death of William Michell.

The Dalles, Or., March 3.—William Michell, one of the pioneer residents of this city, died at his residence on Fourth street early this morning, after a prolonged illness, of heart disease. He had been ill about four months.

Mr. Michell was a native of England, where he was born August 29, 1838, and came to America while a boy, settling at Dodgeville, Wis. On May 30, 1861, he was married to Miss Sarah Wells, of Mineral Point, Wis., and with her came to Oregon in 1863, taking up his residence at The Dalles, where he had since resided. Mr. Michell was a conspicuous member of the community, and held

positions of trust for many years, serving Wasco County as Treasurer for two successive terms. For 40 years he had been a prominent worker in the First Methodist Church of this city as deacon and elder. Besides a widow Mr. Michell left four daughters. The funeral was held on Sunday at 2 p. m.

In the Hands of His Party.

Washington, March 4.—The Star tonight says:

Senator Fairbanks will not resist a movement to make him the Vice-Presidential nominee of the Republican party. If the convention nominates him he will accept. More than that, he will not attempt to discourage efforts looking to his nomination.

"It is only fair to say that no explicit declaration by Senator Fairbanks to that effect has been made. The Indiana delegation in Chicago was convinced today that Senator Fairbanks yielded to the solicitation of men high in the councils outside of Indiana to take second place on the National ticket.

"Almost without exception his closest political friends have advised him, in his own interest, against accepting the Vice-Presidency. Influential Republicans in the Senate, such men as Spooner, Allison and Platt, have urged him to take it on the ground that he would strengthen the Republican ticket, especially in financial circles, and that his first duty is to his party rather than to his own political future."

Russia Now Feels Secure.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—There exists high authority for the statement that Russia now has reason to feel more tranquil regarding the attitude of Great Britain. The real reason of the visit to St. Petersburg of Count Beneckendorff, Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, while ostensibly to see his son off to the Far East, was personally to assure his government of his belief that the suspicions concerning Japan's ally were all founded, and that Great Britain, although standing by the obligations of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, would not move unless compelled to do so by the entrance into affairs of the Far East of a third power.

Count Beneckendorff had a long interview with the Czar and Foreign Minister Lamsdorff and the Associated Press learns that he convinced the authorities that Great Britain was acting in good faith. He conveyed also Great Britain's assurance that the Anglo-Japanese treaty contained no secret clauses, and that it was not directed especially against Russia, its sole purpose being, according to British authorities, the preservation of the balance of power in the Far East, which might be threatened by another coalition such as followed the Chinese Japanese War, and which resulted in the exclusion of Great Britain from fur-

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ther international settlement of Far Eastern questions.

The Associated Press is also credibly informed that the British and French governments have reached a thorough understanding by which they have pledged noninterference. Russia now feels much more secure against European complications. The more moderate tone of the English and the Russian press during the past few days is regarded as additional evidence of a better understanding between the two governments.

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