

The Heppner Gazette.

Issued Every Thursday Morning

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WAITS FOR TITLE

The Government Will Dig Cello Canal.

Washington, March 23.—It developed today, upon inquiry at the war department, that the Government is not able to begin construction of the Dalles-Celilo canal because the State of Oregon has not yet conveyed to the Federal Government absolute title to the right of way for this waterway.

The original act of Congress authorizing the canal stipulated that no work should be done until the state had presented right of way to the Government free of cost. When this condition was imposed by Congress, steps were taken by the state looking to the purchase or condemnation of the necessary lands and Army engineers are advised that most, if not all, of the land necessary has been purchased or condemned. In fact last September Major Langfitt transmitted to the Chief of Engineers abstracts of title to this land. These abstracts were examined by the Attorney-General and approved as being sufficiently binding. The papers were then returned to Major Langfitt with the understanding that the state would make payments of the various parcels of land included in the right of way. Since that time nothing has been heard from Major Langfitt or from the state and, so far as the War Department is aware, this right of way has not been purchased.

Until the title is turned over to the Government, not one cent of the \$300,000 appropriated last session can be expended. Notwithstanding this situation, Major Langfitt will proceed with the preparation of the project for the expenditure of the money and work will begin in accordance with his plan just as soon as title to the right of way rests in the Government.

The recent action of the State Portage Railway Commission in effecting a compromise with I. H. Taffe completed the title to the right of way demanded by the Government and the abstractors are now preparing the final abstract for the approval of the Government. The abstract will be forwarded to Washington within a few days at the latest and, after examination and approval by the United States Attorney-General, the Judge will be executed by the state and passed to the Government.

When the former abstract was submitted to the Government, it was found that an additional piece of property was necessary to be secured from Mr. Taffe and that there were several minor de-

fects to be cleared in other titles. The deeds recently given the state by Mr. Taffe gave full title to the state of all property necessary and the flaws have been corrected under the direction of the State Attorney-General.

Governor Chamberlain anticipates the receipt of the complete abstract from The Dalles within a day or two and is certain that it will prove acceptable in every way to the Government. It is not felt that there will be the slightest delay on account of title now, since the state is in position to meet all the requirements of the Government.

IN THE HEART OF AN OAK.

Treasure Box Containing Diamonds, Deed and Old Will Found.

New York, March 22.—A deed transferring twelve acres of land within the bounds of New York city, a mortgage and a will, both dated December 12, 1789, and other business papers running down to 1835, together with a silver tea service, knives, forks and spoons, six finger rings, a pair of diamond earrings and a pearl brooch, all incased in a stout iron box, were found in the heart of an old oak tree yesterday by one of a gang of woodsmen cutting timber north of Lincoln Park, N. J.

Carl Gilkerson is the finder. He was splitting open this heart of oak when out tumbled the tin box. The rusted lock fell apart, the top fell off and the papers and valuables dropped out. Gilkerson placed the treasure in the hands of Paterson lawyers to hold for him. In case a legal claimant turns up he will surrender the papers, but he believes that the silver and jewelry are his by finder's right.

The will is the last testament of Matthew Weatherby, and by it he transfers on his death to his two sons, Charles and Andrew, \$12,000 in money and property and twelve acres of land on the island of Manhattan.

The deed, dated the same as the will, proves the clear title of the land, and that Weatherby secured it by purchase from Charles Grosvenor. There is a mortgage paper for \$300 and many receipts for taxes, interest payments and the like, the latest date being July 16, 1835. The interior of the tree was perfectly dry, and with the exception of mildew the papers are perfectly preserved. Squirrels have made the tree their home, and the cavity in which the box rested was covered to the depth of several feet with nuts and bark.

No one in the neighborhood remembers the Weatherby family or their descendants. Charles Dale, of New York City, owns the property on which stood the tree. An old stone house on the land is now used as a tenement. A family named Harris was the last regular tenant the neighborhood can remember.

Centennial Notes.

Work on the California building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition is progressing rapidly, and the building will be completed by May 1.

A model postoffice will be installed at the Lewis and Clark Exposition. It will prove interesting as an exhibit, and useful in handling the immense amount of mail matter received at and sent out from Exposition headquarters.

An interesting display at the Lewis and Clark Exposition from the Navajo Indian Reservation will show Indian blanket weavers making the rugs that have made the Navajos famous.

Fruit raisers of Pierce county, Washington, will give away apples and strawberries at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in order to convince easterners that Pierce county is an unsurpassed locality for raising these products.

A \$150,000 exhibit of the products of the Philippine Islands will be an interesting feature of

the United States Government's magnificent participation in the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

The staff work on the beautiful Bridge of Nations at the Lewis and Clark Exposition is now completed. The bridge is almost half a mile long, and is built of wood and staff, in imitation of solid masonry. The bridge crosses Guild's Lake, the largest body of water ever enclosed within an exposition fence, and connects the mainland with the Government peninsula.

Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, author of "The Conquest," who has been busy for several months tracing descendants of the Lewis and Clark party other than leaders of that famous expedition, has located at Fowler, California, a son of the "Boy Shannon" frequently mentioned in the journals of the explorers. He is Judge J. B. Shannon, an aged and respected resident of Fowler for many years. Judge Shannon has accepted an invitation to be the guest of the Lewis and Clark Exposition which is to be held in celebration of the centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, on June 1, the opening day.

LEAGUE ORGANIZED.

Development of the Valley is its Object.

Salem, Or., March 23.—Permanent organization of the Willamette Valley Development League was effected here today by delegates gathered from all sections of Western Oregon. Railroad transportation, telephonic communi-

tion, trolley lines and development of water powers were among the principal subjects discussed, and a very profitable day's work was closed with an evening of enjoyment when the delegates gathered around the banquet tables in the Willamette Hotel, partook of tempting viands and listened to toasts in which humor was generously mingled with sober business thought.

The railroads came in for a large share of the attention of the convention though the discussion upon this subject was principally of a very general nature. The railroads were commended for the work they have done in bringing settlers to Oregon, but there was criticism of freight rates and lack of railway lines into parts of the state not now reached by railroads.

Following are the officers of the new league:

President, Colonel E. Hofer, of Salem. Secretary, Walter Lyon, of Independence.

Treasurer, Walter L. Tooze, Woodburn.

Committee on constitution and by-laws—Frank Davey, of Salem; J. C. Hayter, of Dallas; F. P. Nutting, of Albany; E. W. Haynes, of Forest Grove; G. A. Hurley, of Independence.

Real Estate Bargains.

240 acres good timber land, 30 acres in cultivation, 5 acres in timothy; plenty of running water; good 5-roomed house; good barn and other outbuildings; 1 1/2 miles from good school; one mile from good saw mill.

320 acres good timber land in the edge of the mountains. The very best of summer pasture; plenty water; good location for small saw mill or wood mill; good buildings. In Morrow county.

C. L. ASHBAUGH, Hardman, Ore.

Feb 9-May 9.

The news of both hemispheres—in The Weekly Oregonian.

Jules Verne, the very famous romancist of the semi-scientific school, is dying in Amiens, France, of diabetes and paralysis, aged 77 years.

It is now claimed that there is but one case of plague in Valparaiso, Chile, although some of the larger cities of that country are badly infested.

More Riots.

Disturbances of strikers are not nearly as grave as an individual disorder of the system. Overwork, loss of sleep, nervous tension will be followed by utter collapse, unless a reliable remedy is immediately employed. There's nothing so efficient to cure disorders of the Liver or Kidneys as Electric Bitters. It's a wonderful tonic, and effective nerve and the greatest all around medicine for run down systems. It dispels Nervousness, Rheumatism and Neuralgia and expels Malaria germs. Only 50c, and satisfaction guaranteed by Slocum Drug Co., Druggists.

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Heppner, - Oregon

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