

FRENCH-GLENN RANCH BOUGHT

Christian Federation Gets It For Colonization Purposes.

The day of the cattle King has passed, and the largest stock ranch in Oregon, and one of the largest in the United States, where 20,000 head of cattle and 1000 head of horses have been handled annually for years, will be converted into homes for 10,000 people, if the plans of the Co-Operative Christian Federation are carried to success.

Contracts were signed in Portland last night for the sale of the French-GleNN ranch of Harney county, comprising 164,000 acres, to the Federation. C. F. Lusk, of San Francisco, attorney and general manager of the company, approved the contract for the company, and the local executive board members—J. Frank Watson, Samuel Connell, N. J. Blagan, R. L. Durham, L. O. Ralston, C. E. S. Wood, Wallis Nash and H. S. Wallace—signed for the Federation, agreeing to pay \$1,800,000, the first installment of which must be forthcoming within 30 days. The property is 60 miles in length, 25 miles wide, has more than 500 miles of fencing, and the price for the land is \$10 an acre, with \$400,000 for personal property, and is considered a low valuation. Of the real estate, it is stated that fully 100,000 acres can be irrigated without storage other than a series of low dams along the Blitzen river, more than 50 miles of which is absolutely controlled, together with numerous tributary streams between the Stein Mountains and Malheur Lake.

HISTORY OF RANCH.

Peter French and his partner were pioneers in Eastern Oregon, realizing the opportunity there presented for one of the greatest stock ranches in America. As early as 1872 they started acquisition of lands, first claiming springs and streams and running a small herd of cattle. Additional acreage was procured from time to time, the number of livestock multiplied until the standing number of the herd has been for years kept at about 20,000 cattle, with a very great number of horses and some other stock. Small stockmen came into the region later and the range was that called for human sacrifice on the altar of greed centered at this vast estate. Peter French was killed in one of the conflicts by being shot, and the death of Glenn followed a few years later from natural causes. Then the heirs organized a California corporation that has since operated the property.

When the founders acquired the land it was with due regard for the physical features that enabled building of fences on their own property along both sides of the Blitzen river, up to the mountains at the north, thereby enclosing between their successive lines of ranches an area several times greater than the deeded acreage, larger than many counties of Eastern states and without violation of the rulings of the Interior Department prohibiting fencing of public lands.

FIRST TO BE CUT UP.

This will be the first of the big ranches to be cut up for homes of settlers in the Northwest. Its desirability has long been realized by persons seeking large holdings and the Mormon Church has been one of the recent prospective purchasers making investigations, while agents of an Eastern syndicate were also after it. The directors of the Co-Operative Federation therefore lost no time in bringing negotiations to a close after receiving reports. The time before the first payment falls due will be consumed in obtaining an expert examination and report upon the property, and it is the purpose to have the property ready for colonization at an early date.

According to the reports submitted, the ranch comprises 45,000 acres of meadow, 45,000 acres of sagebrush and bench land, 14,000 acres of upland and hill, 45,000 acres of tule swamp lands, and 16,000 acres of other grazing lands. The meadow land may be adapted to

almost any desired agricultural purpose and the bench and sagebrush land is of the same character of the richest and most productive wheat lands of the Inland Empire of the Northwest. It has been well demonstrated that all kinds of grain crops may be grown with success.

Ditch Contract Let.

The last week has witnessed important progress in two projects. The Echo ditch of the Inland Irrigation Company, commonly called the Furnish ditch, after the president and manager, W. I. Furnish, which will irrigate 10,000 acres in Umatilla County, is now, it is stated, placed under contract, the excavation work to be completed by January 15, 1906. The water is to be taken from the north side of the Umatilla river above Echo. Thirty miles of ditch will be constructed, the main canal being ten feet wide on the bottom and four feet deep.

An interesting feature of this system in operation will be the use of Winter irrigation. This method requires a subsoil that will retain much of the water.

In Central Oregon, the enlargement of the Pilot Butte flume by an additional ten feet wide to the existing flume is to be completed by August 10, if no untoward accident intervenes. The two canals to be supplied from the enlarged flume are expected to irrigate about 60,000 acres.

The Government supervising engineer, I. B. Lippincott, has advised the Water Users' Association that the reclamation will not be undertaken until the owners of the two tracts, known as the Kerns tract and the Miller tract, and aggregating 7200 acres, have joined the association and waived their riparian rights. This acreage, representing 10 per cent of the total area, or 23 per cent of the private holdings, the attitude of the Government engineer is explained. The cost of the reclamation is to be borne by the owners of the land in the association. But the lands of the nonassenting holders would share the benefit with the others.

Rockefeller Economises.

New York, July 29—John D. Rockefeller is cutting down his expenses. How many of his employees will be discharged, how many salaries will be cut before Mr. Rockefeller feels his existing financial strain is eased, are purely matters of speculation.

Like most good business men when they realize that they are living dangerously close to their income, Mr. Rockefeller has begun to cut down his luxuries. The first of Mr. Rockefeller's luxuries to fall afoot of his new policy of economy is his Lakewood estate. Notice has been served on the superintendent of the estate that his services will not be required after July 31, and all employees have been informed of a reduction in wages.

The reduction will be from 10 to 20 per cent. The superintendent's helpers who have been paid \$150 a day, will have to be content with \$125 hereafter. As there are five of these men employed in golf links and grounds, Mr. Rockefeller will achieve a saving of \$125 a day. This, in addition to the salary reductions among the rest of the force, will cut as much as \$2 a day out of Mr. Rockefeller's salary list. This will help to restore Mr. Rockefeller's income to its normal figure of \$100,000 a day.

A big saving will be made by the discharge of the superintendent. He was paid \$100 a month and was an expensive figurehead. Mr. Rockefeller thinks, as he intends in future to personally direct the care of his Lakewood estates.

Witte Has Full Powers.

London, July 31.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent on board the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, on which M. Witte, the Russian peace envoy, is a passenger, sends an interview which he has had with M. Witte, in which the latter said that if Russia and Japan had

agreed upon a common basis before appointing peace plenipotentiaries it would have been much better.

As it was M. Witte said he regarded himself rather as an imperial courier sent to ascertain the terms of Japan. He was prepared to make peace, nevertheless, he added, as his powers were very complete, and he would discuss the demands based on Japan's actual military and naval successes in a business like spirit of give and take.

"But I cannot and will not," continued M. Witte, "entertain demands based upon expected military successes in the future. I am conversant with the humane intentions of my imperial master, and I will do everything compatible with Russia's honor and dignity to establish that work of which I have been an unswerving advocate. My first task, however, in the New World will be to search for a basis for fruitful discussion."

On His Wedding Trip.

A feller what has a little sheep ranch out Ione way came into town last Saturday on his way to Portland to see the fair. He was takin' his weddin' trip, for it seems he just got married last Friday by a justice of the piece over at Ione. The feller looked kinder afflicted and I asked him what the matter was and he said he was worried and I asked him what the matter was and he said he was worried about havin' to take his weddin' trip alone, but they was pretty poor so his wife had to stay at home and herd the sheep. He seemed all broke up about it. He will stay about three weeks at the fair.—Rabbitville correspondence, Irrigon Irrigator.

Increased Corn Acreage.

Washington, D. C. July 28—While reports regarding the outlook for the wheat crop are considerably at variance the reports concerning the corn crop for 1905 are nearly all to the effect that the outlook is favorable for a large crop. The total estimated acreage of corn this year is 92,236,000 acres, an increase of 1,500,000 acres over last year. The condition of the crop the opening month was 88.4. The harvest will, of course, depend upon growing conditions the remainder of the season. Throughout the corn belt the crop has so far progressed nicely.

The oats crop gives every indication of being up to normal, under the slightly increased acreage. It seems safe to anticipate a yield aggregating in the neighborhood of 900,000,000 bushels, but this, of course, may have to be modified later. The rye and barley outlook is good.

Notice.

Dry, fine posts and cordwood at my place in Willow creek basin. Posts \$2.50 per hundred and wood \$1.50 per cord. W. H. HERREN.

A Touching Story.

is the saving from death, of the baby girl of Geo. A. Eyer, Cumberland, Md. He writes: "At the age of 11 months, our little girl was in declining health, with serious Throat Trouble, and two physicians gave her up. We were almost in despair, when we resolved to try Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. The first bottle gave relief; after taking four bottles she was cured, and is now in perfect health." Never fails to relieve and cure a cough or cold. At Slocum Drug Co.'s drug store; 50c and \$1 guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

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