

# The Heppner Gazette

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ISSUED THURSDAY MORNING.

Fred Warnock

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THURSDAY, . . . . . March 21, 1907.

Talk about your fine March weather. The weather clerk has certainly been kind.

And now Lincoln Steffens is in Portland with his "muck-rake." It is a good thing to clean up the Essek yards once in awhile.

Including the recent withdrawals made by President Roosevelt, the total forest reserve area of Oregon is now 16,552,728 acres.

And now that Harriman is about to lose his iron grip on the railroads which he formerly controlled, Jim Hill and the rest of the boys will be greatly pleased.

It is too bad that the poor railroads have been asked to comply with the law. The fellow who has been getting more than he deserves always makes the biggest howl when justice is demanded.

The railroad magnates are now openly charging the people of this country with being fools. Yes, and the people are just beginning to find out that they have been fooled by allowing themselves to be robbed by the railroads.

The Oregon Land & Water Co. has just mailed 5,000 circulars to Eastern parties. Last week Umatilla county sent 5000 pamphlets to the Harriman Immigration Bureau, with headquarters at Omaha, for distribution. This is enterprise that will bring results.

The open river bill appropriating \$125,000 for the improvement of the Snake and Columbia rivers, passed the Washington legislature. One hundred thousand dollars will be used for the improvement of the Snake River below Riparia, and the balance of the appropriation will be used for improving the Columbia above Celilo. This is a good start and will be money well spent.

The Gazette has received the industrial edition of the Morning Register, of Eugene. The paper contains 60 pages, composed of well written articles and half tone illustrations, giving the reader a great amount of information about the busy city of Eugene and Lane county in general. The edition reflects great credit upon the enterprise of the Register.

The talk of panic by the railroad magnates is beginning to be looked upon lightly by the people. Great papers with wide circulation are keeping the people informed as to the actual conditions of business in the country. So long as people read such papers as the Oregonian, with its powerful editorials, showing up the motives of the railroads, and depicting the real conditions, there will be no big scare and consequently no panic.

Last week's issue of the Pendleton Promoter contained a writeup of Morrow county which occupied the whole front page and a couple of inside columns. The editor of the Promoter has the well earned title of being the biggest booster in Eastern Oregon. Morrow and Umatilla counties would be better off if they had more boosters like Mr. Willis. The Promoter ought to have more subscribers in Morrow county. We ought to show appreciation of the efforts of this paper. Here's to you, Brother Willis.

The article on Morrow county, which the Heppner Commercial

Club gave a cash prize of \$25.00, written by Mrs. Geo. Whiteis, of this city, appeared first time in the Pendleton Promoter of last week. The article is able and complete. The resources, industries and opportunities of Morrow county are pictured in a reliable and impressive manner. The actual facts are interwoven into an interesting story that will appeal to the reader. The Gazette hopes to be able to give space to this article in the near future.

Judge Beatty, of the United States District Court at Boise Idaho, recently handed down a decision that will be of interest to all interested in the question of forest reserves. Adigo Domingo, a sheepman, drove his sheep onto a forest reserve without a permit, contrary to the forest regulations. He was indicted and the case went to trial. Domingo interposed a demurrer, claiming that the forest reserve law is invalid, insofar as it authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make such regulations for grazing in reserves, the contention being that the act attempts to rest legislative power in the Secretary. Judge Beatty overruled the demurrer, thus upholding the forestry law.

### WHY NOT ORGANIZE?

The grain growers of the state of Washington have a strong association. The president, E. N. McCaw visited Pendleton last week for the purpose of merging the Umatilla Wheat Growers' Association with the Washington organization. Mr. McCaw met with much encouragement at Pendleton and will return soon to meet with the incorporators and the farmers when a union of the two organizations will be consummated. Mr. McCaw states that the Washington farmers are beginning to realize that if they cope successfully with organized opposition they must meet it with organization.

Morrow county, with more wheat per capita than any other county in the state of Oregon, is absolutely without any organization of the farmers. Certainly these conditions ought to stimulate interest in wheat growing, and the protection of wheat growing interests here. If organization in the state of Washington, and Umatilla county will bring results that are beneficial to the agriculturists of those districts, why not try it in Morrow county. There would be everything to gain and nothing to lose. Organize, join the Umatilla association and the Washington association and others. Get big enough to force recognition.

The question of buying grain sacks is just now an important issue with the farmer. Every farmer knows that he has been forced to pay exorbitant prices for grain bags and also to look pleasant about it.

The Umatilla association is now taking steps to buy grain bags in large quantities and get a reduction in price. Morrow county farmers will be asked to help in this effort to get cheaper sacks. The Gazette believes that it is possible to get cheaper sacks, but then we must do something.

### FARMER'S MEETINGS.

The Irrigon Irrigator speaks very highly of the farmers' institute held at Irrigon, Saturday of last week. The meeting was conducted by Dr. James Withycombe, Professors Lewis and Bradley, of the Corvallis experimental station, and A. I. Mason, a prominent apple grower, of Hood River. Questions of vital importance were discussed, and the people of Irrigon were benefited by the dissemination of knowledge gained by practical men who have given years of attention to scientific research in agricultural pursuits.

Such meetings should be encouraged not only by the people actually engaged in tilling the soil, but by everybody, because we are all dependent upon agriculture.

For the improvement of agricultural conditions in Morrow county, there is a great field. The conversion of the desert looking sands at Irrigon into green, productive, and profit bearing fields, serves as a good illustration as to what can be accomplished with the application of energy and brains when applied to the great, but dormant resources of Morrow county. Every town in this county should encourage such meetings. Exchange experiences. Ask questions. Let us try and arrange for a farmers' meeting at Heppner.

### THE HOMESTEADER AND FOREST RESERVES.

The Eugene Register is opposed to what it terms "the wholesale setting aside of forest lands into reserves as will withhold from settlers their rights to take up such lands and thereby help to develop the country."

The Register like a great many other people and newspapers are making statements without foundation of fact. The erroneous idea of many people who have not investigated, that a forest reserve bottles up or builds a prohibitive wall around the withdrawals is common.

A forest reserve does not take away a single right from the homesteader, or settler. In fact, the reserve policy has caused the passage of acts that give additional rights that settlers did not have prior to the creation of forest reserves. Any agricultural land within the limits of a reserve can be filed upon under the homestead law just the same as ever. Another advantage. All that have exercised or lost their homestead rights are granted an additional homestead right of entry by complying with the homestead law and paying \$2.50 per acre at the time of making final proof.

Still another great advantage. A settler can list and describe his homestead by metes and bounds, thus being able to pick out 160 acres along a creek bottom, or other place, using all kinds of irregular lines in order to get the best lands, not being forced to go by section and quarter section lines as heretofore and take rocky or rough lands in order to get a small tract of good land.

Timber lands will not be sold, but the timber will be sold at a reasonable price. The quantity is limited and there are certain restrictions for the preservation of the forest. The ordinary local sawmill can get all the timber needed, but the big syndicate is shut out from gobbling all the timber, as the timber cannot be bought and held for speculative purposes.

To sum the matter up, the homesteader is given additional rights. The stockman is allowed to graze. The timber can be used and sold. The forests are protected from the big land grabbers and from fires, and only reasonable restrictions are placed upon the many abuses that have caused the institution of the forest reserve policy.

When statistics show that the available timber supply of the United States at the present rate of consumption will only last 30 years, is it not time that some action should be taken?

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