

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Preliminary steps have been taken for the inauguration of a chautauqua association in Eugene.

Milton Hale, one of Oregon's earliest pioneers, died at the St. Mary's Hospital, Albany, at the age of 90.

Indications are that the grand jury now in session in Coquille will probe the recent city election in Marshfield.

The centennial of the coming of the first white man to Baker county will be celebrated at Baker December 28.

The Coos Bay Home Telephone Company has completed the equipment of a fine new exchange at Bandon.

The faculty of Pacific University has adopted a plan of graduation honors, which will take the place of the requirement of undergraduate thesis.

According to the school census, which has just been completed, Medford now has a population of 11,000, a gain of nearly 3000 since the census of last year.

A general order quarantining all places in Morrow county whence "walking disease," now known as bydrophobia, is reported, has been issued by the state board of health.

F. C. Darcy has been appointed as assistant commandant of cadets at the Oregon Agricultural College and will serve in the capacity of aide to Lieutenant Miller, commander of the O. A. C. corps.

Mrs. Vida Johnson, who has been United States commissioner for eastern Oregon for two years and said to be the only woman in the United States holding this position, has resigned her office.

The fight over the water in Silvies River has been renewed by several of Harney county's substantial farmers and stockmen, who own property along the river, against the Pacific Livestock Company.

To hold an annual poultry fair at Albany the Central Willamette Poultry Association was organized. The association will include the poultrymen of Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties and possibly other adjoining counties.

A suit wherein the Southern Pacific Company seeks to condemn right-of-way through land owned by the Pacific Great Western Railway, its rival for the possession of the Siuslaw canyon to the coast, was begun in the circuit court at Eugene.

W. D. McKinley, of Hansen, Idaho, was instantly killed while Freight Conductor B. T. Hancock and brakeman Jack Perrine were fatally injured when O-W. R. & N. helper engine No. 382 was blown up at Glover siding, seven miles east of Kamela.

The following fourth-class postoffices in Oregon will become presidential offices on January 1, the salary of the postmasters being fixed as indicated: Carlton, \$1200; Creswell, \$1000; Harrisburg, \$1000; Nyssa, \$1100; Stayton, \$1000; Yamhill, \$1100.

A bulletin recently issued by the Oregon state board of health, addressed more particularly to the physicians of the state, calls attention to the lack of observance of the law requiring physicians to make proper reports to the state board of all deaths and births.

That the disease which for the last one and one-half years has been killing hundreds of horses, cattle and other stock in eastern Oregon and has been the dread and scourge of farmers and ranchers in that section is nothing more than hydrophobia or a malignant type, is the finding of State Bacteriologist E. F. Pernot.

A fellow has a good prospect of grief and disappointment ahead when he swaps the old farm, whose productive capacity he is sure of, for a stock of merchandise, a hotel or livery barn of decidedly uncertain value and of the conduct of which he knows little or nothing. We have known of just such cases as this where in the windup the victims didn't own anything except their clothes and with so little credit left that they could scarce get trusted for a week's board.

One of the interesting as well as quite remarkable fruit records of 1911 was made by a 1.200 acre orchard of seven-year-old Elberta peach trees located in Pike county, Ark. The gross returns are placed at \$300,000 and expenses at \$100,000, leaving a net profit of \$200,000 from a tract of land that was bought for \$5 an acre eight or nine years ago. The tract in question was a cut over timber tract, the surface soil being gravelly loam and the subsoil a red clay. The season's output of fruit was 230 cars that averaged \$1,500 per car.

The other day a Minnesota farmer who for some time prior had not had any confidence in the stability or soundness of banks as places of safe deposit went upstairs in his house to get some \$1,800 which he had worked hard to accumulate and which he had concealed just beneath the floor. On removing the piece of floor he found not the bills that he had placed there in the past with such a feeling of security, but a nicely rounded bunch of greenish white fuzz and scraps inclosing a cozy rat's nest. This fellow has learned his lesson, but by mighty expensive instruction.

NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Congress to Adjourn at End of Week Owing to Nearness of the Holidays.

Washington, D. C.—The near approach of Christmas will see the customary lull in political and public affairs. Little real work is expected of Congress, which will adjourn at the end of the week for the holiday recess.

President Taft sent two messages to Congress this week, the wool tariff message and one dealing with the government departments. A special message with the report of the economy and efficiency commission will be submitted early in January. Other messages planned by the president after the holiday recess are on Alaska and the cotton schedule.

Favors Protection for Wool.
The tariff board's report shows that while substantial reductions may be made in the wool tariff, the average reduction cannot be great if the protective principle is to be maintained.

The Republicans in the Senate are said to have decided that if the Democratic House sends over a wool bill disregarding the tariff board report they will ignore it and prepare practically a new bill. The Republicans expect the support of the insurgents, but unless they have nearly every member of this faction with them the Democrats will pass their own bill, which means that President Taft, who has gone on record as unalterably opposed to any tariff measure which disregards the protective principle, probably will veto it.

Russia Angered by Treaty Abrogation.
What in diplomatic language is interpreted as practically a threat by Russia to sever all friendly relations with the United States in the event that Congress went ahead with its plan to abrogate the treaty of 1832 with that country, was made to President Taft and Secretary of State Knox by the Russian ambassador.

President Taft turned over to the Senate the task of completing the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 with Russia, because of alleged discriminations against American Jews.

Ignoring the House of Representatives, the President sent a message to the Senate announcing that he had caused notice to be forwarded to St. Petersburg that the United States desired the treaty to end January 1, 1913. This notification was officially handed to the representatives of the Russian government.

Trust Control a Live Issue.

Trust control will become important in legislation before the close of the present Congress. Steps will be taken in the direction of enlarging the control of Congress over trusts and monopolies. Drastic legislation will be proposed and there may be efforts to modify the present Sherman act so that it will not have to be largely interpreted by the supreme court.

The investigations which have been conducted and the reports which will be made will afford an opportunity for drafting laws to further regulate trade combinations.

Demands on Treasury Heavy.

The pension bill already passed by the House, carrying from \$40,000,000 to \$75,000,000; the demand of the public buildings committee for an omnibus measure to carry between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 and other large demands on the treasury have complicated the situation. Democratic leader Underwood insists that the public buildings bill shall not be put through.

National Capital Brevities.

Aid from Congress for the protection of W. Morgan Shuster, the American financial minister of Persia, is not required, according to a statement made by Secretary of State Knox.

An investigation to determine why the price of sugar was increased several cents a pound last summer was begun by the House committee appointed to investigate sugar conditions.

Various attempts to cut down the 20 cents a mile that it is allowed each member of House and Senate for traveling expenses were finally defeated in the House by a roll call and vote of 129 to 98.

General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, favors the restoration of the canteen to army posts. He declares in his annual report that the consensus of opinion in the army is that the canteen should be reestablished.

The latest proposal along the line of daring agricultural achievement is a redemption of the sun and drought cursed wastes of the Sahara desert through a planting of the spineless cactus. Dollars to doughnuts if such an enterprise were put afoot there would be all kinds of suckers that would bite on the bait and buy large tracts of these arid wastes.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

Club's Action Approved.

Pendleton.—Seeking to discredit the action of the Pendleton Commercial Association in endorsing the West Umatilla project extension, J. N. Burgess, of the Umatilla County Water-Users' Association, has been circulating petitions among the business men of Pendleton setting forth that the signers do not approve the action of the club, and demanding that the adjudication suits of the government against the water-users be dismissed.

Telephone Lines for Union County.

Elgin.—With one crew setting poles on the main line in the direction of Summerville and another stringing wires on the poles already in place to Minam, work on the lines of the eastern Oregon Cooperative Telephone Association is going ahead with a rush.

LARGE PROJECT PROPOSED

Cascades to Be Cities' Reservoir Is Plan Broached.

Portland.—A water system having its source in Clear Lake, in the Cascade Mountains, and extending through the length of the Willamette Valley on the west side of the Willamette River, from Springfield on the south, as far as Salem on the north, and supplying all the intermediate cities and towns, as well as all the state institutions, with pure mountain water, was the plan submitted to the state board of health at its annual meeting by Dr. Calvin S. White.

The board authorized the employment of an engineer to survey the project, and the appointment was immediately conferred upon Louis C. Kelsey, civil and hydraulic engineer, of this city, who had interested himself in the project before the meeting of the board. Dr. White, secretary of the board, was instructed to supervise the work, to submit the subject to the cities and towns that would be users of the water and to pave the way for the consummation of the project in other ways.

Roseburg Wants Elk Herd.

Roseburg.—Acting upon the suggestion of Binger Hermann, the members of the local Elks lodge adopted resolutions memorializing the United States Congress to donate to Douglas, Coos and Curry counties 500 of the elk now under government control in Wyoming.

Lawson May Be Promoted.

Cottage Grove.—In converting the fourth Oregon infantry regiment into the coast artillery, Captain B. K. Lawson, of this city, it is said here may be promoted to lieutenant-colonel.

CULTIVATED AREA DOUBLED

Irrigation Projects Will Open 23,000 Acres in Malheur County.

Ontario.—The cultivated area of Malheur county will be almost doubled the coming year and 23,000 acres of new land tributary to Ontario will come under irrigation as the result of new irrigation systems being built.

The assessor's report for the year 1911 indicates that the cultivated area of Malheur county is 23,300 acres. The Ontario-Nyssa project, now completed, will bring under cultivation 7000 acres of new land. The Kingman Colony will irrigate about 5000 acres during the coming season. The Snow-Moody pumping system, almost completed, will water 6000 acres of land on Dead Ox Flat. Two small projects on the same flat are under way to water 4000 acres. More than 1000 acres abutting Ontario are to be watered by ditches now completed, except the installation of a pipe line from the pumping plant to the main canal. Nearly all of this land is tributary to Ontario, the distance being from abutting the town to five to fifteen miles distant.

Box Men Extend Market.

Astoria.—At a meeting of representatives of the box factories in Oregon and Washington, held a few days ago, an organization was formed with the object of extending the market of the various plants in the two states.

To Go on Get Acquainted Trip.

La Grande.—The merchants of La Grande are going to Medford to attend the state retailers' convention. They will travel in special cars, making the trip a sight seeing, get acquainted, and boosting expedition.

Bonds Voted for City Hall.

Huntington.—At a meeting of the city council it was decided to bond the city in the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of a city hall and jail.

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