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THE REPRESENTATIVE NEWSPAPER OF WALLOWA COUNTY.

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ENTERPRISE, OREGON, FEBRUARY 20, 1902.

WHOLE NO. 926

Grand Reduction Sale



Beginning Saturday, Dec. 28th, we will place on sale an immense line of merchandise at astonishingly low prices. We do this in order to reduce our stock before taking our annual invoice Feb'y. 1st, and every one is invited to call and avail themselves of this opportunity to secure bargains.

We also take this opportunity to express to our patrons and all our appreciation of their liberal patronage during the past year and solicit the same in the future. We assure you that we will do our utmost to merit your good will, and endeavor to serve you faithfully.

Wishing all a prosperous and happy New Year, we are

Respectfully yours,

E. M. & M. CO.

THE WORLD'S NEWS

FROM FAR & NEAR.

Clipped From Our Exchanges.

Many Umatilla county farmers express the fear of severe damage to growing wheat fields as the result of the recent cold snap. The strong winds removed much of the snow from fields, thus leaving the sprouting plants with little or no protection from the heavy frost.

A naturalist says that every time a farmer kills a hawk he throws a fifty dollar bill into the fire, for although the bird takes an occasional chicken it destroys at least a thousand rats, mice and gophers every year. Prof. Hodge, of Clark University, estimates that the rats are worth twenty dollars each for their work as destroyers of cut-worms.

According to the statement of one who knows there were sixteen train robberies last year and twenty-nine in 1900. In the past twelve years 396 trains were "held up" and ninety-five persons killed and 105 injured by being shot. In the past two years five train robbers were killed and two wounded, and two passengers and train men killed and ten wounded.

The United States has, in round numbers, 200,000 miles of railroad in operation or more than two-fifths of the mileage of the world. Germany is the nearest rival with 92,000 miles. Russia comes next with 30,000 miles, and France, India, Austria-Hungary, British Isles and Canada follow in order. Almost one-third of the mileage is government owned, and the railroads of France will revert to government control about the middle of the century.

A conservative estimate of the number of horses shipped from Montana last year places the number at 100,000. The British call for mounts for South Africa has resulted in thousands of head of stock leaving the state. The result is that there are now fewer horses in this state than ever before, indeed there are no large bands, and unless there is a movement of horses to Montana from the south, there is certain to be a horse famine in this state next year. Before the bottom fell out of the horse market a cayuse could be seen on every hill. Today it is possible to drive for 50 miles across the country without seeing a horse. Montana is to be congratulated.

A novel plan for settling the lands in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and other western states tributary to the lines of the Harriman syndicate is being worked out by the officers of these railroads. A new method is to be used to influence this settlement. The Harriman syndicate through the officers of the different roads have engaged a corps of lecturers, who will travel over the east and central west giving free lectures on the subject of settlement in the west and northwest. These lecturers will illustrate their talks with stereopticon and moving pictures. Photographs will show the land offered for sale and the development of the country. They will show the products, railroads, water facilities and everything else that tend to induce moves from the older regions of the country to the promised land.

Democratic Call.

As recommended by State Central Committee, I hereby notify all Democrats in the county that there will be a meeting of the County Central Committee of the Democratic party of said county, in Enterprise, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the transaction of such business as may come before said meeting. All Democrats of the county are urged to be present as questions of importance will come before the meeting for its consideration.

AARON WADE,
County Central Committeeman.

Looks Like Trouble.

There seems to be trouble and rumors of trouble for homesteaders and their witnesses who have been proving up on homesteads by means of perjury themselves.

Rumors are afloat from various sources that a United States marshal is expected in the county any day to make arrests, and certain citizens are contemplating a trip to the U. S. court at Portland. In trying to chase these rumors down and get at the bottom of the flurry, we found a difficult job, and have come to the conclusion that there is nothing authentic in the matter that can be termed news. If such a thing should occur, we predict a great deal of trouble. There probably has been already a number of resolutions to actually establish a residence on their homesteads, or to relinquish them and proceed no further. The numerous possible things that might happen should the government conclude to investigate how the homestead law is being interpreted in this county and put in practice would be startling.

As a matter of news and general information valuable to every citizen of the United States, we print the following extract from the affidavit required of a person who files on a piece of land as a homesteader:

I, * * * do solemnly swear, that my said application is honestly and in good faith made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not for the benefit of any other person, or persons, or corporation, and that I will faithfully and honestly endeavor to comply with all the requirements of law as to settlement, residence, and cultivation necessary to acquire title to the land applied for; that I am not acting as agent of any person, corporation, or syndicate to give them the benefit of the land entered, or any part thereof, or the timber thereon; that I do not apply to enter the same for the purpose of speculation, but in good faith to obtain a home for myself, and that I have not directly or indirectly made, and will not make, any agreement or contract in any way or manner, with any person or persons, corporation or syndicate whatsoever, by which the title which I might acquire from the Government of the United States should inure, in whole or in part, to the benefit of any person except myself, and further, that since August 30, 1890, I have not entered under the land laws of the United States, or filed upon, a quantity of land, agricultural in character, and not mineral, which, with the tracts now applied for, would make more than three hundred and twenty acres."

When a homesteader goes to make final proof in support of his claim to a certain tract of land he has to answer to a list of questions as to his actual residence and cultivation of the land as also have the witnesses to swear to the answers to the same questions. As a warning to all against false answers, the following section of the U. S. statute is read to them:

Sec. 5392.—Every person who, having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed is true, willful, and contrary to such oath, states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of perjury, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment at hard labor, not more than five years, and shall, moreover, thereafter be incapable of giving testimony in any court of the United States until such time as the judgment against him is reversed.

There are many theories and ideas advanced as to how to circumvent or as it is called, to "comply with the law" in the matter of actual and bona fide residence. Of these we have nothing to say. But we do know that a technical construction of a law very seldom amounts to much in the courts

of justice, or with the Land Department. There is a wide difference between a technical residence and an actual residence. We shall endeavor to keep our readers posted on the authenticity of the many rumors that are afloat.

LATER.

A Deputy U. S. marshal by the name of Proebstel arrived in the city Tuesday evening with a warrant for Walter Simmons on a charge of perjury growing out of the final proof recently made on his homestead. No other names were mentioned in the warrant as has been rumored.

LATER—Word is received from Joseph that the deputy U. S. Marshall arrested Walter Simmons yesterday. His preliminary examination will be held today at two o'clock before U. S. Commissioner Lake at Joseph.

MORE BARB WIRE 'PHONE.

Palouse Country Becoming a Network of Telephones.

The Palouse country, according to local dealers in electrical supplies, is becoming a regular network of barb wire telephones, says the Spokesman Review. The farm house without telephonic communication either with its nearest neighbor or with outlying barns on the farm, is becoming a rarity, and to meet the demand several local supply houses have laid in telephone apparatus.

Insulation is unknown to the Palouse. He strings an ordinary telephone wire from his house to the fence that runs in the direction he wants his telephone to go, splices the two wires and the work is done. An instrument connected by splicing at each end of the barb wire is all that is necessary.

There is no insulation whatsoever on the fence posts. The users of the 'phone system say that if a staple that fastens a wire to a post becomes loose or rusty it is likely to render hearing somewhat difficult, and wet weather has a depressing effect on the system. Under favorable conditions however, it is claimed one can hear almost as well as over a regular insulated city 'phone. The regulation storage batteries are used.

As yet Palouse ingenuity has not figured out a switching system. Nevertheless several farmers having separate 'phone in their houses attach them all to the same wire. Under this plan when a bell rings in one house it rings in all, and to avoid confusion the farmers using the same line have adopted a system, so many rings for each house wanted, just as is used on the party lines in the city.

One man who called into an electrical supply house in Spokane the other day said to the proprietor that 15 farmers in the vicinity of Endicott, Whitman county, were contemplating attaching their individual 'phones to one barb wire fence. The proprietor expressed his doubts if more than 10 at the most could use the line, but the farmer was positive that it would accommodate the entire number.

The longest barb wire 'phone is said to be just across the Idaho line, in the Palouse country. It is nearly 20 miles long, and on a good day it is claimed that conversation from one end to the other is almost as clear as that of two people sitting in a room and talking together. Only ordinary storage batteries are used.

Instances have been known, it is claimed, where one could plainly hear the playing of a piano over a barb wire 'phone for a distance of 10 miles.

Eastern supply houses have become aware of the desire of Washington farmers for telephonic communication with each other, and have their representatives in this section offering for sale several cheap telephonic devices. Those who have tried them say they are not as satisfactory as the barb wire system, in that they will not carry sound so far.—Ex.

Why not try the experiment in Wallowa county? The fact is how ever no longer an experiment, so why not bring some of the outlying communities in closer communication by means of the barb wire telephone lines. It is worth thinking about.

Died.

In this city, February 14, 1902, of consumption, Alfred Vane, aged 22 years.

Little was learned of the deceased as he was brought here only a few days previous to his death for medical aid. His funeral sermon was preached at the Methodist church Saturday by Rev. Walker.

Far, far away from home and friends,
Beneath the Western sky,
The messenger of Death was sent
With a summons from on high.

No mother's hand to press his brow,
No relatives were near,
But strangers kindly took their place
As mourners 'round his bier.

A friendly hand on his casket placed
A sheaf of grass and flowers,
As years go by his grave will be strewn
With sunshine and with showers.

At solemn toll of the old church bell,
They laid him 'neath the sod—
There till the resurrection morn,
We leave him alone with God.

Received Certificates.

The following applicants successfully passed the teacher's examination which was held in this city last week.

State Papers—Mrs. Nora Patton, E. F. Carleton,

First Grade—D. C. Conner, Mrs. Henrietta Reames, Miss Pickett.

Second Grade—The Misses Nellie Beach, Lesta Wagner and Nellie Maxwell and B. F. Miller.

Third Grade—The Misses Maude Craig, Etta Churchill, Zella Williams, Stock and Lester Imbler.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the Alder Slope Ditch Co. will receive bids for the construction of a water ditch of the following dimensions:

Six miles or any part thereof 20 feet on top and 16 feet on bottom with uniform depth of 2 feet and about one and one-fourth of enlargement of the Hurricane Creek Ditch to the following dimensions:—22 feet on top and 16 feet on bottom with uniform depth of 3 feet. Bids will be considered by the rod or by the mile and the said company reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

JOHN REID, Secretary,
Alder Slope Ditch Company,
Enterprise, Oregon.

Publishers Notice.

On and after Feb. 15, all subscribers outside of Wallowa county must be cash in advance, and the paper will be stopped when the time is up. Therefore all our subscribers outside the county who still want the paper must send in the cash or their names will be dropped off. All accounts for such subscriptions up to that time will be placed in the hands of attorneys for collection. Hoping that this arrangement will be satisfactory to both ourselves and subscribers outside of the county we are,

Yours very truly,
ROUSE & ROE,
Publishers Wallowa Chiefstain.

Populists, Attention!

The members of the Populist party of Wallowa county, are hereby notified that at Enterprise, on Wednesday, the 26th day of Feb., 1902, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., there will be a meeting of the members of said party, to discuss the political situation of the state and county, and to determine what action the party shall take in the approaching election.

All members of the party are cordially invited to attend.

G. M. HENDRICKSON,
County Chairman,
J. A. FRENCH,
Acting Secretary.