

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

ARE THE GUIDE BOARDS?

Road Supervisors Shall Place Them.

It is on section of the road law more imperative in its requirements which is more disregarded than that which makes it a duty of supervisors to erect guide boards on every highway. If the law were strictly followed no supervisor would draw his salary until he had placed guideboards wherever roads cross, yet it is remarked by those who travel in the country there are very few such boards in evidence. Newcomers in particular are in the absence of signboards. The subject is section 30 of the Oregon road laws and reads as follows:

Every supervisor shall erect and keep the forks of every highway and crossing of public roads within each district a guide or signboard, containing an inscription in legible characters directing the way and specifying the distance to the next town or place situated on each road; provided, that the road supervisors shall not be paid after submitting their report to the county until they have shown to the satisfaction of the court that the provisions of this section have been complied with.

BEST PROSPECTS EXCELLENT.

County Crops Have Been Helped by the Showers.

County farmers are elated over excellent prospects for good crops. Damage done by the few days of weather early in June has been made good by the cool weather and of the past week and the indications are that almost a full crop will be secured.

Now the rain is doing some good to hay. A considerable amount of clover hay has been cut and is being injured by the rain. A good weather would see a large amount of the hay crop safely harvested.

Fruit outlook is excellent, although the crop of apples and pears is light, there will be an extraordinary yield of prunes, which constitute the greater portion of most orchards. The prune trees in this section will be loaded with all the fruit possibly bear. In some instances a part of the fruit will have to be taken off to save the trees.

Lands in a Tangle.

A large stack of disapprovals of lieu selections which lay on the desk of the state land agent a few days ago shows the wholesale manner in which the general land office and department of the interior are clearing down Oregon lieu lands. Thousands of acres which have been selected by the state and sold after appeal by local land offices have been recently by the general land office and the end is not yet. Appeals are being taken to the secretary of the interior, but if that official adheres to present policy there is small chance of a change in the decisions. A question of the state land department is involved in the worst tangle known in its history, and it will not be long before the kinks are straightened out.

Scarcity in Brick and Masons.

The state board of capital building commissioners has recently let contracts for three new brick buildings. In addition to the prison, a new industrial building at the reform school and cottage at the asylum. As a consequence, there is immediate demand for a large quantity of brick and masons. Brick yard will be kept working at its full capacity for nearly two months to supply them. The contractors all wish to begin work at once, and hence each wants brick first.

Coyote Scalps Were Costly.

From the next legislature has appropriated \$35,805 to pay off deficiency on Oregon's experience with coyotes. Many bounty laws will be ended. The amount will be required to pay bounties that have accrued under the laws which were repealed by the last session of the legislature. When this money is paid Oregon will have expended for bounties some \$212,000. The amount would be \$250,000 but for the fact that when the appropriation was exhausted early in 1902 a number of counties ceased to allow bounty.

Few Reports Are Made.

There are 9,000 legally organized corporations in this state and only 500 have filed their annual reports as required by the provisions of the corporation law. All that have not filed reports will be liable to a fine of \$100 if they continue in default for 20 days. Some very prominent corporations have failed to make reports, and it seems almost certain that they have done this through neglect.

Articles of Incorporation Filed.

Two new companies filed articles of incorporation in the office of the secretary of state last week. They are: Davis Lake Irrigation company, Roseburg, \$25,000; Nitro Lumber company, Linnton, \$25,000.

Baker Will Pay the Taxes.

Colbath, of Marion county, has notified that ex-State Printer Baker will pay the taxes due on the state printing plant. The sheriff has advertised the sale of the property to place this week.

ARID LAND NOT IN DEMAND.

Department of the Interior Approved Two Applications for Reclamation.

The rush which was made a year ago for land under the arid land law is not in evidence this year. Only a very few applications for arid land contracts have been received in the last six months, and all of these are for small tracts which will be occupied, reclaimed and cultivated by the applicants. Only two of the applications for large tracts have been approved by the department of the interior. One of these is the application of the Portland company, organized by W. E. Burke, which company has a contract for the reclamation of about 8,000 acres northeast of Malheur lake. This tract is entirely included within the region recently withdrawn from entry by the department with a view to examining it to ascertain whether a suitable site exists for the construction of large irrigation works by the government.

The other application approved is that of the Pilot Butte development company, which has secured some 87,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes, from which stream the water for irrigating the land will be taken. This is the company organized by A. M. Drake. Among the applications pending are those of the Oregon development company for 78,000 acres near the headwaters of the Deschutes; the Three Sisters company, for 27,600 acres between the Deschutes and the Cascade mountains, and the Harney valley improvement company, for 69,999 acres near Malheur lake, in Harney county. A part of the application of the Oregon development company has been rejected on the ground that the land is timbered and cannot be properly classed as arid land.

Mrs. Geer Made President.

The Oregon federation of women's clubs completed a most successful three days' session at Astoria last week by the election of the following officers to serve during the ensuing year: President, Mrs. T. T. Geer, Salem; first vice president, Mrs. Samuel Elmore, Astoria; second vice president, Mrs. A. Bernstein, Portland; recording secretary, Mrs. Hattie Young, Grants Pass; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Samuel White, Baker City; treasurer, Miss Olive Slater, La Grande; auditor, Mrs. Florence Sheldon, Eugene. The federation will meet at Baker City next year.

Horses Sent to Canada.

A shipment of 23 cars of horses of all sizes and kinds went from La Grande last week. They will go via Spokane to Cut Bank, Mont., and be driven from there to McLeod, Alberta. There are about 700 horses, and the purchase price is about \$21,000, of which \$17,000 was paid to the horse growers of Eastern Oregon. With freight and 20 per cent duty, the purchasers will be in about \$30,000, and will sell out to the local dealers of their section, and come again, should the venture pay. Prices ranged from \$10 to \$125 dollars.

Apportioning Money.

State Superintendent Ackerman has advised the various county school superintendents of the state that the state treasurer, in making the regular apportionment of school money this year, will strictly follow the provisions of the state law on the subject. The disbursement will be made August 1, and such counties as have not filed their report with the state superintendent before that date will not receive their share of the apportionment.

Christian Convention a Success.

The convention of the Christian churches of Oregon, held at Turner last week, was a great success. There were nearly 40 ministers in attendance and over 200 delegates and very many visitors.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70@74c; valley, 77c.
 Barley—Feed, \$20.00 per ton; brewing, \$21.
 Flour—Best grades, \$3.95 @ 4.30; graham, \$3.45 @ 3.85.
 Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$27; shorts, \$23; chop, \$18.
 Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10 @ 1.15; gray, \$1.05 per cental.
 Hay—Timothy, \$20@21; clover, nominal; cheat, \$15@16 per ton.
 Potatoes—Best Bu-punks, 50@65c per sack; ordinary, 35@45c per cental; growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$3 @ 3.50 per cental.
 Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10@11c; young, 13@14c; hens, 12c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; dressed, 20@22c; ducks, \$7.00@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$6.00 @ 6.50.
 Cheese—Full cream, twins, 15½@16c; Young America, 15@15½c; factory prices, 1@1½c less.
 Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound; extras, 22c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 16c@18.
 Eggs—17@20c per dozen.
 Hops—Choice, 18@20c per pound.
 Wool—Valley, 12½@17c; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 35@37½c.
 Beef—Gross, cows, 3¼@4c, per pound; steers, 5@5½c; dressed, 8½c.
 Veal—7½@8c.
 Mutton—Gross, \$3.50 per pound; dressed, 6@6½c.
 Lamb—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7½c.
 Hogs—Gross, 6@6½c per pound; dressed, 7@8c.

HUNDREDS ARE DEAD.

Awful Explosion of Fire Damp in a Wyoming Mine.

Hanna, Wyo., July 2.—At 10:30 A. M. today an explosion of fire damp in mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific coal company snuffed out the lives of 236 men, injured scores of others and caused the destruction of a vast amount of property. The mine was not fired, as stated in the early reports, but the explosion was terrific, and completely shattered the timbers of the main shaft and numerous entrances, killed the workings with debris, and those of the miners that were not killed outright by the explosion were buried alive.

The explosion was heard for many miles around, and attracted people from the adjoining settlement. Huge timbers and railroad iron were hurled from the mouth of the shaft a distance of 200 and 300 feet.

Superintendent E. S. Brooks and a large force of men went to work with a will to remove the debris from the shaft and reach the entombed miners. Their progress into the mine was blocked by the foul gases, and several times they were forced to return to the surface.

All day the rescuing party worked, the force being increased from time to time by the arrival of ranchmen and others from near by settlements, and by those of a relief train sent out from Rawlins, which arrived about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

About 1 o'clock this afternoon four men were taken out alive, and half an hour later they were followed by 42 others. Many were unconscious and had to be carried from the workings. Some were injured, but none fatally. Several are in a critical condition, but it is believed all will recover.

Two hundred and eighty-two men went down in the mine at 7 o'clock this morning, and up until a late hour tonight only 48 had been accounted for. Of this number two are dead.

Horses and scrapers were put at work hauling debris away from the shaft, and cars were pushed down the incline, loaded and hauled back up to the tipple and dumped. The work is progressing slowly, owing to the narrow space in which the rescuers are compelled to operate, but by daylight the mine should be opened sufficiently to permit of deep explorations and the rescue of the dead bodies.

Late tonight a party of rescuers reached four miles that were alive, and this caused hopes to arise in the breasts of the tired workers and the anxious women and children gathered about the shaft. It is a faint hope, however, for experienced mine bosses and miners say that when the imprisoned men are reached all will be found dead. Some of the miners that escaped say that they saw 20 dead bodies in entry 17.

They reported that many of the men were crazed by the explosion and ran hither and thither in the mine. Many of these could have escaped, but they laid down, buried their faces in their hands and gave up the fight.

Of the 243 dead about 175 were married and leave large families. About 100 were Finlanders, 50 were Iored and the remainder were Americans.

BID ADIEU TO KIEL.

Americans Leave German Waters Amid Great Booming of Cannon.

Kiel, July 2.—The United States squadron sailed at 6 P. M. today from Kiel, all the German ships saluting and the Americans replying. The flagship Kearsarge, Tioggo and San Francisco will go through to Cattagat, stopping at Kallund Borg, Denmark, for two days. The Maenias will go by way of Kiel canal to Bronsbüttel and thence will rendezvous with the other American ships off Spithhead. The squadron will arrive at Portsmouth July 7.

The salutes of the imperial standard were fired as the Hohenzollern sailed for Eckernforde this morning to accompany the emperor and empress tonight, after the cruiser yacht race. The emperor started for Eckernforde on board the Meteor at 7 A. M. The empress was on the Iduna, which also started for Eckernforde.

The American naval officers attended a series of receptions on board the German warships this afternoon.

Slays Man in a Frenzy.

Austin, Tex., July 2.—Frenzied by supposed wrongs, W. G. Hill, an ex-attache of the state controller's office, today entered the private office of State Controller R. M. Love and killed him by means of two bullets from a large caliber revolver. As Hill turned to flee, he was intercepted by Chief Clerk Stevens, of the department, who engaged him in a scuffle, during which Hill's revolver was accidentally exploded. The bullet entered Hill's abdomen causing a wound from which he died this afternoon.

Eight Killed in Tornado.

Wildor, Minn., July 2.—A tornado passed over this place tonight killing eight persons and doing much damage to property. The storm first struck the ranch of Dr. Wester, destroying all the farm buildings. From here the tornado turned eastward, taking everything in a path of 40 rods wide and about eight miles long. At the farm of Daniel Gallagher all the buildings were demolished and Gallagher and his daughters killed.

China Sees Methods in Move.

Tien Tsin, July 2.—The local newspapers comment on the alleged significance of the gathering of the American, British and Japanese fleets in the northern part of the Gulf of Pechili. It is asserted that no less than 57 Russian warships of one sort and another are assembled at Port Arthur. The Japanese reserve officers who were on leave in North China are said to have been called home.



A Mechanical Milker.

The latest milking machine is here pictured in outline. It requires an engine or other power to drive it in order to work the vacuum air pump located at some convenient point. From this a line of iron gas pipe is run above the stalls in the milking shed. This pipe is used only to exhaust the air in the milk buckets. No liquid passes through it. A small branch pipe terminating in a hook is fitted to the main pipe and hangs over the stall about two feet above the cow's back.

The bucket is shown in the picture and is air tight, the top being closed with a lid, clamped securely in place by simply raising the handle to lift the bucket. All that is needed to make connection is the mere hanging of the bucket on the pipe above the cow by a hook attached to the milk pail for that purpose, as shown in the cut. This is an ordinary pail with a tight lid and glass peepholes down the sides so that the milk can be seen. A rubber tube runs to the cups attached to the cow's teats. Between the cups is a valve and chamber about the size of a



MILKING MACHINE.

hen's egg which really constitutes the effective part of the machine. The machine is set to work by a simple turn of the valve and the suction holds it in place until the milking is finished. It requires from two and one-half to ten minutes to milk a cow. With proper equipment one man can readily handle fifty.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Science and Farming.

If you tell the average Missouri farmer that he ought to use a little more science in his business he will reply that the advocates of scientific methods are mere theorists; that they do very well in their way, but they can't teach a practical agriculturist anything in his line. Robert H. Kern, a St. Louis lawyer, has lately given the conservative farmers of Macon County a lesson in scientific agriculture that has opened their eyes. In settling an estate he came into possession of some almost worthless city property. This he traded for some land in Macon County which seemed almost equally valueless. The larger part of it was under water most of the time, and a good crop never had been raised on it. Mr. Kern called in an engineer and had him make plans for a drainage system. Then he called in a farmer who understood the science of agriculture and put him to work. The land was drained perfectly, a bog became a fine meadow, and where a swamp had been from time immemorial a bumper corn crop was raised. Now that farm, which, when Mr. Kern got it, would hardly have brought \$5 per acre, is worth \$50 per acre. Ten thousand dollars' worth of corn was raised on it last year. It is said half the dwellers in the Charleston bottoms are now talking about hiring scientific engineers as farm hands.—Kansas City Journal.

Produce Only Choice Butter.

Dairymen should ever bear in mind that their only hope of competing with spurious butter, melted lard and cottonseed oil is to produce only the choicest dairy butter. Educate the tastes of the people up to the use of the highest standard and then honestly supply the demand. Oleomargarine can never supplant what is known as gilt-edge butter, but it revels in the competition with the low grade butter made by the careless, shiftless farmer. Those dairymen who do not observe the handwriting on the wall and who continue the production of inferior parcels, will be driven from the business under a cloud of loss and disappointment. The consumer who has had an opportunity of spreading his bread with choice, fresh, highly flavored, aromatic dairy butter will never become a willing purchaser of butterine or oleomargarine.

How to Feed Horses.

Horses fed liberally, if not well exercised, will often get off their feed. The skill of the feeder must remedy this. Every one having the care of stock of any kind should bear in mind that all troubles of appetite and of the digestive organs are generally chargeable to the feeder rather than the animal. Regularity, a keen judgment and strict attention are the "medicine" the feeder of stock needs to administer.

Do You Know?

Do you know that every cruelty inflicted on an animal in killing or just before death poisons to a greater or less extent its meat?
 Do you know that every cruelty inflicted upon a cow poisons to a greater or less extent its milk?

Do you know that fish killed as soon as taken from the water by a blow on for most of their living will be obtained on the range and, unless eggs are very low in price, you will receive enough from the supply to pay well for the extra food and care.

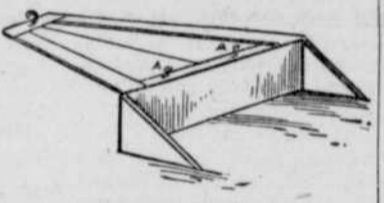
Profit in Summer Eggs.

It is well understood that the eggs laid during the winter are, to a certain extent at least, a forced production. This being the case, it is hardly fair to expect that the fowl who has turned out a goodly supply of eggs during the winter can keep it up during the summer. It is questionable if it would be advisable to force the winter laying fowl to continue during the summer. If the bird is to be counted as among the layers the following winter she should be allowed the period of rest during most of the summer; that is, she should not be fed so as to force egg production, but her food should be sufficiently liberal and sufficiently varied to keep her in good shape to go into winter quarters prepared to lay. The poultryman who has not received from his fowls the number of eggs he should have had during the winter ought to make an effort to get even during the summer, the natural season for the hen to lay. This cannot be done by simply turning the hens out on the range, for they must be grain-fed and properly cared for. Handle them as you would the fowls for winter egg production. It will not be expensive, the back of the head will keep longer and be better than those permitted to die slowly.

Do you know that birds destroy millions of bugs, mosquitoes and harmful insects, that without the birds we could not live on the earth, and that every little insect-eating bird you may kill and every egg you may take from its nest means one less bird to destroy insects?—Live Stock Journal.

For Leveling the Soil.

This land leveler is a tool that will pay for itself many times over and ought to be found on every farm. The illustration shows clearly how it is made. A heavy plank eight or ten feet long and two feet wide, set on edge, is used for the leveler and the wings at the side keep it in an upright position at all times. These wings should be securely fastened by iron straps. Strips of strong board one and one-half inches thick by three inches wide are fastened at each upper corner of the plank and a small crosspiece at the end is provided with a ring, to which the team is hitched. A



A LAND-LEVELING TOOL.

small iron rod from the center of crosspiece to the center of the top of the plank gives additional strength. A and A indicate large screw eyes, to which a light rope is attached to enable the driver to raise the leveler if need be and to enable him to turn corners easily. This leveler will be found to work perfectly on any soil that is not too heavy, and it will level the soil better and cheaper than in any other way.

Value of Shelter.

The value of shelter and comfort for cattle is demonstrated in an experiment made by the Arizona station. A herd of milch cows was exposed for three days to a cold rain, at the end of which time the flow of milk had decreased just one-half, notwithstanding that the cattle were properly fed. It was a month before the cows gave as much milk as before the exposure.

Farm Notes.

The value of the leaf tobacco exported by this country in 1890 was \$20,640,000.

To use more machinery and conveniences of every kind, or to cut down your acreage, appears the only remedy in sight for lack of farm help.

Give the young pigs a low trough and a chance to feed separate from the sow. Add to ground oats or barley or wheat middlings some warm skim milk or water.

The product of the stolen nest will be lively as crickets. The brood is usually small, and the mother will take care of them. Throw them food when they are present at feeding time, but let them rustle.

There is no better egg-producing food than a combination of oats, bran, corn, green stuff and insects, with the average waste of the average kitchen or dairy, and you don't have to pay 5 cents per pound for any of these.

Milking should be done rapidly, and it is therefore not well to have too many hands employed in the work. With one milker to a dozen cows there is more likelihood of efficiency of work than when half as many cows make up the tale. The slow hand gets less milk and dries the cow.

On the thirty-seven acres of ground devoted to the live-stock department at the world's fair, at St. Louis, are being built 2,800 stalls. Two thousand four hundred of these are open stalls, 5x10 feet. The remaining 400 are box stalls, 10x10 feet. In addition four octagonal dairy barns will provide 140 open stalls and twenty-eight box stalls.

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