

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

GRANT CATTLE ARE DYING.

Heavy Snow Falling and Temperature Drops to Zero.

John Day—A snowfall of more than a foot occurred last week in the higher valleys of this county. The storm is quite general, but the fall is not so great in the larger valleys. The temperature fell to 14 below zero at this place. It is almost zero in the colder sections. With very few exceptions this is the coldest weather of the year. In some of the higher valleys the stock situation is decidedly serious. Bear valley stockmen are entirely out of feed. Although cattle are generally strong, grave fears are entertained.

A disquieting rumor has been growing, started by messages over the telephone. In some places, herds being moved to better feeding grounds, have been overtaken by the storm and are now strung along the public roads, staggering and falling dead. In one instance the road supervisor found it necessary to give orders to owners to remove carcasses from the road.

Stockmen are grimly whetting their skinning knives, preparing to save the hides. Only a speedy raise in the temperature can save enormous losses. Sheep and horses have not suffered much loss yet.

BAKER GETTING OUT OF DEBT.

Economy in Expenditures Brings Warrants Nearly to Par.

Baker City—Baker county is fast getting out of debt. Four years ago the bonded and floating debt of the county was over \$250,000. County warrants were way below par and the county burden was increasing fast.

By practicing economy and calling a halt on reckless expenditure, the floating debt has been almost wiped out. At the present rate the entire indebtedness will be discharged next year. County warrants are now worth 90 cents on the dollar, which makes them practically as good as cash, because investors do not care to handle them on such a small margin.

Last week the indebtedness of the county was reduced about \$30,000 by the payment to Union county of the amount due on account of the "Panhandle" annexation. A portion of Union county, known as the "Panhandle" was annexed to Baker county by the legislature four years ago. Baker county had to pay Union county about \$40,000 in settlement of various claims. At this debt has now been paid.

DISEASED HORSES TO BE SLAIN.

Domestic Animal Commission Orders Slaughter in Umatilla.

Salem—Six hundred horses, afflicted with contagious diseases, will be killed in Morrow county in pursuance of an order made by the domestic animal commission. The horses are owned by Indians living on the Umatilla reservation and are afflicted with mange. The state board has made repeated efforts in the last two or three years to induce government authorities at Washington or at the reservation to take steps to stamp out a disease that threatens to spread to all parts of the state. All efforts proving fruitless, the board has at last determined to take radical measures, and the state veterinarian has been ordered to kill diseased animals and bury them. The horses are declared to be valueless because of their diseased condition.

Warner Settlers Prepare to Sue.

Salem—J. L. Morrow and other settlers in Warner valley, Lake county, in Salem perfecting their papers preparatory to bringing suit to regain, if possible, the lands which were awarded to the Warner Valley Stock company by the department of the interior. The suit will be brought in a federal court and will raise the question whether the lands were swamp character in 1860. The Warner Valley Stock company holds under deeds from the state, while the settlers claim as homesteads.

Fallen Trees For the Fire.

Salem—The heavy wind storm last week is likely to increase the amount of cordwood cut in this vicinity this year. Timber enough to make many thousand cords of wood was blown down and the farmers will cut much of a fallen timber into cordwood. A thousand cords of fallen timber on single farms has been reported in a number of cases. So far as timber is concerned, the wind was an advantage to farmers.

Change Union County Seat.

La Grande—A petition has been filed with the county clerk by Recorder William Miller, to be presented at the next meeting of the county court, asking the court to make the petition an issue for the June election that the county seat be removed from Union to Grande, its former site. This petition was signed by 2,570 of Union county residents.

GOOD ROADS FOR LANE.

Association Formed at Eugene to Forward the Work.

Eugene—A meeting was held at the courthouse which was well attended and had for its object a consolidation of interests and energies in the direction of road improvement in this vicinity. About 150 interested citizens were present, and the meeting organized by the selection of M. Svarverud chairman and F. M. Wilkins secretary.

Professor J. M. Hyde of the university, who has long made a study of road engineering, made the first address on the subject and gave much valuable information for consideration. President Campbell also made a good address, as did a number of others.

A committee on organization made its report, and the Good Roads association of Lane county took tangible and permanent form. A constitution was adopted and a good membership secured at once.

It is the intention of this association to take active steps toward the securing of first-class highways in all parts of the county, and to work in the direction of securing judicious and scientific returns for the money annually expended for road improvement. The association declared itself in support of the Brownlow good roads bill now before congress and will use its influence in its behalf.

Timbermen Must Pay Taxes.

Astoria—All the holders of large timber tracts in Clatsop county, with the exception of three, have paid their taxes on the 1903 roll. Representatives of these three syndicates were here and tendered the sheriff 60 per cent of the tax, but the tender was refused, although the sheriff said he would accept 50 per cent as a first payment, as is allowed by the state law. The timber men now assert that they will appeal to the county court for a reduction, although the chances of getting a rebate are small.

Fish Price Will Be the Same.

Astoria—Judging from present indications the opening price of fish the coming season will be the same as during the past few years—5 cents per pound for those under 25 pounds and 6 cents for those weighing 25 pounds or over. The cold storage men are now endeavoring to reach an agreement among themselves to increase the weight limit of what are known as "cold storage" fish from 25 to 30 pounds, but with little success.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; blue-stem, 81c; valley, 81c.

Barley—Feed, \$23 per ton; rolled, \$24@25.

Flour—Valley, \$3.90@3.95 per barrel; hard wheat straights, \$4@4.20; clears, \$3.85@4; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.60; graham, \$3.50@3.90; whole wheat, \$3.65@4.05; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15@1.17½; gray, \$1.10@1.12½ per cental.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18@19 per ton; middlings, \$24.50@26; shorts, \$19@20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$15@16 per ton; clover, \$10@11; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½c.

Butter—Sweet cream butter, 30c per pound; fancy creamery, 25@27½c; choice creamery, 23@24c; dairy and store nominal.

Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 28½c; sour cream, 26½c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12½@13c per pound; springs, small, 16@17c; hens, 13@14c; turkeys, live, 15@16c, dressed, 18@20c; ducks, \$8@9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@13c; Young America, 14@15c.

Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 1½@2c; lettuce, head, 25@40c per dozen; parsley, 25c; tomatoes, \$2@2.25 per crate; cauliflower, 75c@81c per dozen; celery, 65@80c; squash, 2c per pound; cucumbers, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; asparagus, 8½@11c; peas, 9c; rhubarb, 9c; beans, 10c; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$2@2.35 per sack.

Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.

Potatoes—Fancy, 90c@1 per cental; common, 60@80c; new potatoes, 3½c per pound; sweets, 5c per pound.

Fruits—Apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c.

Hops—1903 crop, 23@25c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; mohair, 32@35c.

Beef—Dressed, 5@7½c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, 6@7c; lambs, 8c.

Veal—Dressed, 7@8c.

Pork—Dressed, 7@7½c.

JAPS DRIVEN OFF.

Admiral Togo's Entire Fleet Bombardees Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—Another attack by the Japanese fleet on Port Arthur, beginning with operations by torpedo boats and ending with a bombardment by battleships and cruisers, took place after midnight Monday.

The emperor received the first message regarding the attack late this afternoon, but nothing was allowed to reach the public until 10 o'clock.

All information which has reached St. Petersburg shows that the defenders of Port Arthur had taken seriously to heart the coup of the Japanese torpedo boats at the beginning of the war, and were now maintaining a sharp lookout.

The Japanese torpedo boats were twice discovered sneaking toward the harbor entrance under cover of darkness, but both times they were detected far out at sea, and were driven off by the hot fire opened on them. The breaking of day necessarily prevented further torpedo boat operations, but Admiral Togo brought his battleships and cruisers up. The division of his fleet was for the purpose of making a cross fire upon the harbor in the hope of destroying the town and of damaging the Russian ships lying in the basin, or at least demoralizing the personnel of the defending force. When the first official dispatches were received the belief gained ground that Vice Admiral Makaroff had put to sea and that a naval fight had taken place. Later advices established the fact that the admiral had simply gone with the undamaged portion of his fleet to the outer roads, where he could more effectively support the batteries, and at the same time take advantage of any weakness which might develop in the enemy's attack.

AID TO '05 FAIR.

The House Committee Decides on an Appropriation of \$475,000.

Washington, March 24.—A substitute for the senate Lewis and Clark bill, carrying an aggregate appropriation of \$475,000, was today ordered reported by the house committee on appropriations, the vote being unanimous. The provisions of the bill are \$200,000 for a government exhibit, including forestry and irrigation exhibits; \$250,000 for government buildings, which will include in addition to the regular government exhibit, the Philippine, Alaska, Hawaiian and Oriental exhibits, and \$25,000 for the Alaskan exhibit.

The bill provides that the plans for the government buildings shall be prepared by the supervising architect of the treasury and the buildings erected under contract. The cost of preparing the grounds and lighting is included in the appropriation for buildings, and authority is granted for the coinage of 250,000 gold dollars to be used as souvenirs.

Chairman Tawney, of Minnesota, who has the bill in charge, will report it, and no reference will be made to Sunday closing.

The senate will refuse to accept this substitute bill after it is passed by the house, and this will cause it to be sent to conference. As all the conferees—Senators Burnham, Hansbrough and Daniel, and Representatives Tawney, Sherman and Bartlett—are strongly in favor of the Lewis and Clark exposition, there is good reason to believe they will increase the appropriation to the \$750,000 asked for.

War Funds are Assured.

Tokio, March 24.—The Diet has adopted resolutions thanking the navy in the name of the nation for the several successes that have resulted since the beginning of the war. It is announced by the leaders of both political parties that they are in complete accord with the program for raising the revenue needed for the conduct of the war. The compromise whereby the tax on land has been reduced and that proposed on salt and silk stuffs is eliminated from the bill has disarmed the opposition, and the revenue bill will likely be passed without a dissenting vote. The total amount affected by the changes is about \$5,000,000. It is said that the bill as finally passed will provide that the increased tax shall be levied for one year, and not five, as was at first supposed.

Yankee Defies China.

San Francisco, March 24.—Officers of the steamer Coptic, just arrived, saw the Russian gunboat Mandjur lying in the river at Shanghai, and report that her commander is a Captain Carter, born in the United States, but a Russian by naturalization. When ordered to leave Chinese waters, Captain Carter emphatically refused, and invited somebody to make him move. At last accounts he was still at Shanghai with his gunboat. A Japanese gunboat and a cruiser flying the same flag passed out of the river.

Russia to Seize Battleships.

Paris, March 24.—The Echo de Paris correspondent at St. Petersburg says it is rumored in naval circles there that Captain Reitzenstein's Vladivostok squadron has been ordered to overtake at a certain point in the Pacific the battleship and two cruisers bought from Chile by Japan and return with them to Vladivostok. The Russian general staff, estimates that the number of Japanese troops landed in Korea does not exceed 75,000.

Russians Prepare for Siege.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—The Russians are continuing preparations for a prospective siege of Port Arthur by rushing large quantities of supplies to that point.

BIG AREA AFIRE

Nebraska Prairie Blaze Sweeps Everything Before It.

IS PAST ALL HOPE OF CONTROL

Property Valued at \$100,000 is Already Destroyed—Three Deaths Reported and Several Persons are Missing.

Loomis, Neb., March 25.—A prairie fire is raging through this section of the state, and already three deaths are reported, while a number of farmers are missing. Houses and stock running far toward \$100,000 have already been lost, and the fire continues with unabated fury.

August Olson, an aged farmer, is known to have been burned to death and two of his hands are missing. James Lewis and William Anderson, ranchmen, are also dead. A number of cowboys are reported missing from different directions.

The flames are past all hope of control, and are leaping across the prairie at racehorse speed, burning everything in its path.

The Burlington railroad has sent a special train with fire-fighters from Holdrege to assist the ranchmen in saving the small towns in the path of the flames. From Loomis to the Platte river, 15 miles, the whole country will be swept clear by the fire. Further to the west, toward which the blaze is sweeping, the prairie country extends for nearly 200 miles. There are no streams of note along this country, and the fire may sweep to the bend of the Platte river in that direction.

JAPAN'S FOOTHOLD IS STRONG.

Elaborate Preparations Made for Handling Troops in Corea.

Chinampo, Corea, March 25.—The organization of the Japanese in Corea is perfect. Elaborate preparations have been made for landing troops and advancing them through the country, and pontoon bridges and stables are built wherever they are found to be necessary. The greatest difficulty facing the Japanese is the commissariat, as, owing to the poor food supplies of Corea, it is only possible at present to maintain 90,000 men.

The Japanese hold two enormously strong positions at Ping Yang and on the Miakokak-San range between Hwaing-Ju and Seoul. The latter is practically impregnable and secure from land attacks from the northwest. In the event of defeat, it is intended to hold the passes at Kazan, thus protecting Ping Yang valley. The Japanese troops are suffering from dysentery and pneumonia, and many of the cavalry horses, which are poor, have died, but the army is full of spirit.

There are probably 20,000 Japanese at Ping Yang, which might easily have been taken, when the Russian scouts first arrived, there being then only 250 Japanese soldiers.

WILL NOT LET CHINA JOIN HER.

Japan Will Not Run Risk of Russia Occupying Provinces.

Vienna, March 25.—The number of alarming editorial articles in the Austrian press regarding the probability of China coming to the assistance of Japan and making common cause against Russia has had the effect of creating genuine alarm throughout the nation against the "yellow peril," and the Japanese minister has been addressed on the subject. The result has been the receipt of an official statement from the Japanese government setting forth the "real position" of Japan.

After stating in unmistakable terms the relations between China and Japan, and the latter's intention of compelling China to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality, the statement concludes by saying that "Chinese aid and support would be in many respects advantageous to Japan, yet the Japanese government cannot run the risk of Russian occupancy of other Chinese provinces than Manchuria.

Under the War Department.

Washington, March 25.—The president practically has determined that the Panama canal commission shall be attached to the war department. This proposition is not pleasing to all members of the commission, but the bureau of insular affairs of the war department has been so successful and economical in its management of details of governmental affairs in the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico that it is felt to be the proper bureau to look after the myriad details of the government of the canal zone.

Censorship to Be Relaxed.

London, March 25.—The stringent Japanese censorship is likely to be relaxed early in April, says the well-informed Daily Telegraph's Seoul correspondent. In the meantime the veil has not lifted, and not a word has yet issued, either officially from Japan or unofficially from any other source, concerning the last bombardment of Port Arthur. The rumored naval battle off Port Arthur of March 18 is also totally unconfirmed.

Russian Ship Reported Lost.

Tokio, March 25.—A special dispatch from Moji, opposite Shimonoseki, Japan, says the Japanese fleet made another attack on Port Arthur March 18, bombarded the city and its defenses, and fought a furious engagement with the Russian fleet outside the harbor, destroying one battleship. Seven Japanese casualties are reported.



Automatic Milking Device. The buxom dairy maid will soon be a thing of the past if a new invention which has successfully undergone



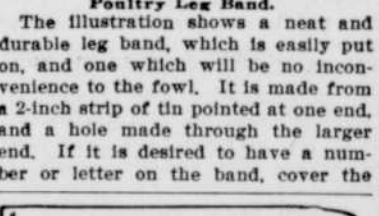
numerous tests comes into general use. The ingenuity of man has devised a scheme to accomplish her downfall as a necessity in the agricultural districts.

The invention, known as the Lawrence-Kennedy cow milker, is described by a London correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean. It can be operated, its inventors claim, by any motive power—steam, water, gas, oil, or electricity. Pictures showing its method of operation have the following explanation:

"Connected by pipes with a vacuum continuing-tank is the tube A. The other end of the tube is connected with the pulsator G, which rests upon the cone-shaped pail placed between the cows. From the pulsator two rubber tubes BB branch out right and left, one to each cow, and each tube is attached to four rubber cups C, which are fastened to the cow. When the vacuum cock is turned on the pulsator commences to work and causes the cups to collapse and expand and thus extract the milk. The milk on its way to the pail can be seen passing through a glass trap or indicator D, which is protected by a wire cage. The number of pulsations per minute can be regulated by screws which give adjustability to the characteristics of each cow."

Lime in Agriculture. The use of lime on land has not been largely encouraged by scientists in the past, though it has been used to a considerable extent in isolated localities. It was at first considered from the standpoint of plant food, and as such of course it would not receive a very enthusiastic support from men that had found out by various tests that there was already in the soil more lime than the plants could use. When the soils of the various States came to be examined for acid, it was found that many of them were so strongly acid that some of our most important plants would not grow on them satisfactorily. In the soil surveys carried on during the past three years in Illinois it has been found that one-third of the soils of the State are so strongly acid that they will not grow red clover and other legumes successfully until treated with lime. Of the other two-thirds of the State some of the soils are slightly acid and would be improved by an application of lime.

Poultry Leg Band. The illustration shows a neat and durable leg band, which is easily put on, and one which will be no inconvenience to the fowl. It is made from a 2-inch strip of tin pointed at one end, and a hole made through the larger end. If it is desired to have a number or letter on the band, cover the



larger end with grease, in which carefully write the number or letter with some pointed instrument. Then apply muriatic acid, which will cut into the surface of the tin where grease has been removed. After the band has been put around the leg of the bird insert the pointed end through the hole in larger end and bend point down flat.

Lime for Sheep Sorrel. Where sheep sorrel is a nuisance in hayfields, liming of the soil is an effective remedy. From experiments noted by the Department of Agriculture it is believed that the appearance of sorrel is due to acidity of the soil. Lime neutralizes such acid conditions. The Rhode Island experiment station has for some years been experimenting with lime applications, in connection with other fertilizers. In all cases where tried on grass lands the liming increased the total yield to a very marked extent, in many instances to over three times that of the unlimed lands, otherwise similar in character. The effect of liming on timothy and clover fields was highly beneficial.

Spraying Fruit Trees. Spraying fruit trees for the purpose of destroying insects and fungus growths is no longer looked upon as a fad, but is recognized as being an absolute essential where the best results in fruit growing are expected. In the matter of spraying the average farmer who has but a small orchard has much to learn from the specialist. Many thousand carloads of fruit are

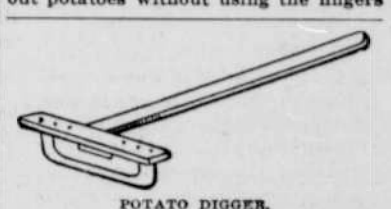
sold annually in the corn belt that have been raised in other States, under conditions that are no more favorable for fruit growing than those of the corn belt, providing the same care could be exercised in handling the fruit trees. Spraying is an operation that should not be performed in a haphazard manner, and should only be taken up after obtaining specific advice pertaining to it. In this regard the experiment stations of the corn belt stand ready to furnish individuals with formulas and directions for this work.—Iowa Homestead.

The Farmer's Reverie.

Th' nights is gittin' shorter an' th' days is gittin' long. An' yest'day, i-jing, I heerd a robin red-breast's song; Jes' let me say in passin' when a robin starts tew sing Thet it's a shore-nuff sign we hain't so fur away from spring, I calculate th' grass is sproutin' some beneath th' snow; Th' sap is sort o' thawin' an' a-tryin' hard to flow; Th' crow looks down an' sasses ez he flies past on th' wing, An', somehow, things begin tew sort o' small tew me like spring. 'Fore long I'll be a-traitsin' on th' hill behind the plow— Inste'd o' settin' 'fore th' fire like I'm a-doin' now— A-lis'nin' in th' furrow fer th' dinner bell tew ring— A-cussin' Jeff and Kate an' kind o' happy cus' it's spring. Some folks prefers the winter time an' sum prefers th' fall, While summer time suits others, yit it, anyhow, don't suit all, Ez fur ez I'm consarned, ef I could hev my choice, i-jing, I reckon I would hev th' hull endurin' year jes' spring.

Potato Digger.

S. A. Pollock, of Cass county, Iowa, writes: "I have never found much use for any tool to scratch out potatoes after a digger of any kind save my fingers, but I know so many are averse to this habit that I have devised a tool whereby they can scratch out potatoes without using the fingers



POTATO DIGGER.

for the work. It is made in the shape of a rake, but instead of using teeth, pieces of heavy wire bent as observed in the illustration and riveted in the head will be found very useful. The wires will let all the loose dirt pass through and being close together will bring out all tubers that are not small enough to pass through between the wires."—Exchange.

What Does the Pork Cost?

It is periods of depression in values that put the hog grower to the crucial test. W. A. Henry, the Wisconsin expert on porcine matters, insists that the corn belt hog grower has not yet got down to the basis of making pork at a minimum cost. When corn is worth 25 cents a bushel it can be thrown to swine ad libitum, but with grain worth 40 cents, the horse assumes a different hue. Growers unite in declaring that they cannot make pork profitably at four cents. G. J. Maggenheimer, of Hamlet, Ind., a successful grower on a large scale, told the writer only recently that \$4.10 was the cost of his hogs at the shipping point. Consequently, thousands of growers are taking the easy horn of the dilemma and shipping the stock to market lacking maturity.

The problem at present before the grower is whether or not he can furnish his hog crop and market it at heavy weights profitably. Feeding either hogs or cattle for recreation is not desirable. Many feeders did both last year, hence the indisposition to repeat the performance.—Live Stock World.

Good Jersey Cow Record.

Will give you the record of our 14 Jersey cows for the year 1903:

Butter sold, 4,885 pounds..... \$1,322 07

Cream and buttermilk..... 73 10

Total \$1,395 17

This does not include cream and butter used by the family of six. Neither does it include calves or skim milk.—Ralph Brenner, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

A Boom in Connecticut Orcharding.

There are over 4,700 acres of apple orchards and 3,000 acres of peach orchards in Connecticut in which the trees are cared for and the fruit handled on a commercial scale. New Haven county contains 218,000 peach trees, and Hartford county comes next with 167,000. Either county has, today, more peach trees than there were in the whole State ten years ago.

To Fatten a Horse Quickly.

To fatten a horse quickly in order to improve its appearance before sale, feed liberally of corn meal, steamed oats and clover hay, adding a little linseed meal to the grain ration. Exercise but little, and give purging salts once a week. Feed at least three times a day and supply plenty of water. A horse not too wild will often gain several pounds a day for a fortnight under this plan.

Good Roads and Social Life.

The advent of good roads will promote attendance at school and the church; facilitate social gatherings, literary societies, dramatic entertainments, and make club and lodge meetings possible to the farmer's family in the winter and spring months. Give the bright young men and women of rural districts these privileges and there will be a smaller tendency of their drifting to the city.