

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

AN IRRIGATION SECTION.

Echo the Pivotal Point for Many Enterprises.

Echo.—In no other part of Eastern Oregon is there as many irrigation schemes under way as along the Umatilla river between here and Pendleton on the east and here and Umatilla on the Columbia river.

Echo is the center of this unusual activity in irrigation enterprises. Some of the companies which have been incorporated, many of which are in the midst of extensive improvement work, are Maxwell Irrigation Company, Bethel Ditch Company, Minnehaha Irrigation Company, Oregon Land & Water Company, Three Mile Falls Irrigation Company, Sun-tilia Ditch Company, Oregon Land & Construction Company, Bailey Ditch Company, Inland Irrigation Company, Brownell Ditch Company, Columbia Land & Irrigation Company, Allen others. There are also a number of others. There are also a number of private irrigation schemes under way by some of the farmers of the surrounding district.

Because water has already been supplied to a large section of the land below here, the district is now known as the famous Echo alfalfa meadows. Hundreds of tons of alfalfa are raised there yearly.

The irrigation project under way this year will be prove exceptionally valuable to the farmers who are now entering the sugar beet raising industry.

Some of the companies have purchased large tracts of the district and the property will be resold in small plots to be used for gardening and fruit raising purposes. The people are trying to make this district, which was once a land of desert and sage brush, a famous fruit belt.

HOW CHEMAWA HAS GROWN.

Great Indian School Celebrates Birthday With Good Cheer.

Chemawa.—The Chemawa Indian School celebrated its twenty-fourth anniversary one day last week. The pupils were given a half-holiday, in honor of the day, and in the evening the whole school assembled in the auditorium and an appropriate programme was rendered, consisting of addresses and music.

Twenty-four years ago the school was started by Captain Wilkinson, of the United States Army, at Forest Grove, and shortly after was moved to its present location at Chemawa.

Then it had accommodations for 25 pupils, now it can care for 600 pupils; then it had three small frame buildings, and a half-acre of land, now it has 37 commodious structures and 345 acres of good land as is found in the Northwest. From this small beginning it has grown in size and importance and is now the fourth largest in the United States, and is classed as the Industrial School of the Indian Service.

Its pupils come from California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Will Condense Milk in Coose.

Marshfield.—The establishing of a condensed milk plant in this city at the terminus of the Coos Bay & Roseburg railroad is almost assured. A. J. Seely, of Newberg, Or., is here on his second visit with a view of starting the enterprise. The Marshfield board of trade has offered all the inducements he could ask, and Manager Chandler of the railroad, has proffered the site, which is ideal, being the most central point in the county, from which milk can be received from all localities daily. The dairy interests of the county are extensive and the condenser will start with many tons of milk daily.

Will Quarry Belgian Blocks.

St. Helens.—The letting of the contract for 640,000 Belgian blocks for paving the streets of the metropolis will be a considerable help to the business of this community, as the blocks are to be quarried here, necessitating the employment of a large number of men whose wages run from \$250 to \$3 per day. Two quarries will be operated. One on Milton Creek; and the other below town, known as the Lister quarry. The latter has several feet of loose rock over the quarry and this will be barged to Portland, crushed and used on the city's streets.

Mineral Exhibit for Fair.

Baker City.—State Commissioners Rafferty and Williams, of the Lewis and Clark Commission, are here, looking over the exhibit prepared by Superintendent Fred Mellis for the St. Louis exposition. They found a choice collection of ores and mineral specimens already arranged for the exhibit and a long and exhaustive list of specimens secured from the various mines, which will soon be on hand ready for transportation. It will be the most complete collection of minerals ever placed on exhibition from this state.

To Forbid Insurance Trust.

Lebanon.—In view of the fact that the cost of insurance is steadily increasing instead of decreasing, as companies here asserted that it would, Hon. M. A. Miller states that at the next session of the state legislature he will introduce a bill forbidding insurance companies to combine, as they are continually doing.

FROM CATTLE TO SHEEP.

Many Lane County Men Turn to More Profitable Stock.

Eugene.—The present winter, while the winter has been unfortunately mild, has set a number of cattlemen to thinking on questions of economy, and the relative profits of cattle and sheep. As a result many will gradually work away from cattle and devote their attention more to sheep. There has been no great profit in range cattle for some years, unless they could be kept on range that cost nothing, while sheep are paying handsome profits on any of the best farms in the Valley, after charging them with feed, interest and all items of expense. The cattlemen are brought to a realization that it costs nearly as much to keep an animal over the winter as it will sell for in the spring, and in this they see no profit. This winter hay is worth \$18 a ton or better. It takes no less than a ton to each animal to winter them in decent shape, and very few ranges could sell out their stock at \$18 per head. For this reason they are looking more to sheep, which subside almost entirely on the range, require little attention, yield an annual revenue in wool that will pay for keeping and have the mutton left as profit.

RULING ON LAND LAWS.

Opinion on Important Point Given by Attorney-General.

Salem.—In response to a question propounded by Clerk of the State Land Board G. G. Brown, Attorney-General Crawford has rendered an opinion in which he held in substance, that if a person purchase indemnity school land from the state and divest it of its timber, and thereafter it is found that the state cannot convey title thereto, said purchaser is entitled to the repayment of his purchase price paid to the state, under sections 3310 and 3311 of the code.

The Attorney-General adds that if such timber is removed from the land and it is found that the title thereto lies in the United States, the party removing it is held accountable for the same to the Government, but that the Government cannot hold the state liable for such devastation.

So far as is known, there is only one case of this kind in existence, the one in which the question was raised, and in this case, the timber has all been cut, but remains upon the land, owing to a lack of facilities for bringing it out.

Buys Horses at Pendleton.

Pendleton.—John Michaels, of North Yakima, shipped a car or draft horses from this point to his Washington ranch last week. He paid from \$200 to \$300 per team, purchasing the most of the horses from B. F. McElroy, a farmer living about five miles out from Pendleton. Good draft horses are held at a high figure in this district, said Mr. Michaels this morning. "I could have purchased horses in Yakima county, but not as readily as I could here. The Seattle buyers have bought up a large number of the Washington horses."

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 78c; blue-stem, 83c; valley, 82c.
Barley—Feed, \$21.22 per ton; brewing, \$22; rolled, \$23.
Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat, straight, \$3.90@4.10; clear, \$3.55@3.75; hard wheat, patents, \$4.20@4.50; graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$4.00; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.17½@1.20; gray, \$1.10@1.15 per cental.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$18.50@19 per ton; middlings, \$26; shorts, \$19.50@20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$15@17 per ton; clover, \$11@18; grain, \$12@13; cheat, \$12@18.

Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 2c; lettuce, head, 25¢@40¢ per dozen; hothouse, \$2 per box; parsley, per dozen, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@2 per crate; cauliflower, 75¢@1.00 per dozen; celery, 65¢@75¢ per dozen; squash, 1½¢ per pound; cucumbers, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen.
Onions—Yellow Danvers, \$2@2.50 per sack, growers' price.
Honey—\$3.50 per case.
Potatoes—Fancy, 90¢@1.35 per cental; common, 75¢@90¢; growers' price; sweets, 2½¢ in sacks; 2½¢ crated.

Fruits—Apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50@2.25 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c.
Butter—Sweet cream butter, 27½¢ per pound; fancy creamery, 32½¢@30c; choice creamery, 25c; dairy and store, nominal.
Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 31c, sour cream, 29c.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12½¢@13c per pound; springs, small, 14½¢@15c; hens, 13¢@13½¢; turkeys, live, 15¢@16c per pound; dressed, 18¢@20c; ducks, \$8@9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14c; Young America, 15c.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 20¢@21c.
Beef—Dressed, 5¢@7c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6¢@7½¢; lambs, 8c.

Veal—Dressed, small, 8¢@9c; large, 6½¢@7c.
Pork—Dressed, 7¢@7½¢.
Hops—Choice, 25¢@26c per pound; prime, 24¢@25c.
Wool—Valley, 17¢@18; Eastern Oregon, 12¢@15c; mohair, 32¢@35c.

GALE DRIVES FIRE.

Prairie Fire Sweeps Over Oklahoma With Great Damage.

Lawton, Okla., March 5.—Driven by a terrific gale from the north, which at times reached the velocity of 90 miles an hour, a prairie fire swept over thousands of acres of Kiowa and Comanche counties last night, destroying hundreds of farm buildings and much live stock, made 1000 persons homeless, caused the death of several persons, threatened a number of towns and swept away scores of buildings in the outskirts of towns.

The losses from wind and fire reported to date follow: Hobart, \$4000; Vinson, \$8000; Lawton, \$10,000; small country towns, aggregate, \$50,000; farm property, \$100,000.

The country was very dry, no rain having fallen for months. Grass and stubble fires set by farmers, as is customary at this season of the year, were soon driven beyond control by the gale, which rose suddenly.

All estimates of the loss exceed \$200,000. At Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa county, the fire destroyed numerous outlying buildings. The 75,000 acres of Government military and timber and Indian reserve near Hobart were swept with loss of buildings and cattle.

In the Homestead district near Lawton, occurred the loss of life.

Late at night the fire began moving southward toward the city. At 12 o'clock, midnight, 5000 people of this city were up in battle with the flames. The advance line of the fire was fully two miles in length and moved in a semicircular form.

Two thousand men turned their efforts to checking the grass borders of the reservation at the city limits. Water from every source, carried in every conceivable way, was distributed along the line and carried all around the city limits. This served the purpose of checking the advance lines of the fire, but was of little avail in hindering the continued rolling of the firebrands into the streets of the city. In more than a hundred places flames arose from dwellings, barns and out-houses, but wherever a blaze grew men were present to quench it with water. As a result of the cool judgment of the fighters, the city's loss was only \$10,000.

Stories are coming in tonight of how families laid out on the barren prairie through the freezing night after the storm had passed with only the thin clothes on their backs as reminders of once prosperous homes. Hundreds of people are destitute and are suffering intensely in the cold with the excruciating pains caused by their burns. Clothes, medicine and physicians are being sent out from all the cities and towns of the district to relieve the suffering.

TO RENEW FIRE.

Japanese Ships Believed to Be Replenishing Supplies.

St. Petersburg, March 5.—The authorities are badly puzzled at the apparent disappearance of the Japanese squadron which has been investing Port Arthur, and are inclined to believe that the ships are being coaled and their ammunition supply replenished, in order to renew the bombardment at an early date.

The report which is being persistently circulated by the "official" news agency that the Japanese have retired discouraged at their lack of success in damaging the fortress, and the severe injury to some of their ships, is laughed at by the best-posted of the naval experts here. They point out that the ships of the Japanese squadron have used a great deal of ammunition in their several bombardments of the fortress, and declare it was to be expected they would have to withdraw to their base in order to load supplies and coal.

CEMENT BIDS EXCESSIVE.

Government Will Erect Own Plant at Arizona Irrigation Works.

Washington, March 5.—The Interior department today rejected all the bids submitted several days ago for the supply of some 150,000 to 250,000 barrels of Portland cement to the government for the Salt River irrigation project in Arizona. The action is the result of the excessive prices submitted by the cement manufacturers, the department stating that first-class Portland cement can be manufactured at the dam-site on Salt River from good materials at hand there for less than \$3 a barrel, including the entire cost of the plant, fuel, operation, etc. The department will now consider the question of erecting a plant for the Government manufacture of the cement, the purchase of the supply in open market, or readvertisement of bids.

Steamers Intended for Russia.

Tacoma, Wash., March 5.—While no confirmation of the fact is obtainable at this time, the belief is gaining ground that the steamers sold by the Northern Pacific Steamship Company to the Northwestern Siberian Company are intended for the Russian government, and will never be put on the Alaska run, except to pass Alaska on their way to Kamschatka. The fact that John Rosene, manager of the purchasing company, recently returned from St. Petersburg, and the further fact that he is owner of valuable concessions from the Russian government, lends odor to the report.

Siberian Reserves Anxious to Go.

St. Petersburg, March 5.—Mail advices from Siberia say the army reserves from the rural districts seem to be more anxious to go to the front than the townsmen. Many of the latter are presenting physicians' certificates of illness.

SUNK BY SHELLS

RUSSIANS AGAIN LOSE IN BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR.

One Torpedo Boat Sunk and Two Battleships Badly Damaged—Attacking Fleet Which Withdraws in Good Order, Is Met Outside, but Opponents Soon Seek Shelter.

London, March 2.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Yinkow, dated February 29, says:

Fifteen Japanese warships furiously bombarded Port Arthur from 10 until 12 o'clock this morning. The Russian cruisers Novik, Askold and Bayan, accompanied by four torpedo-boats, steamed out to meet the attack. They were, however, forced to retire. The Askold was in a sinking condition. The Novik was badly damaged, and a torpedo-boat was sunk. The Russian battleship Retvizan was again damaged. The Japanese withdrew in good order.

This battle shows a repetition of the now familiar tactics of Japan, and it is presumed the attack was made in bad weather, previous telegraphic advices having reported a severe gale raging at Port Arthur. As usual the Japanese did not remain long enough off the harbor to enable the gunners at the fort to get their range. Again at the time the three cruisers, the Bayan, the Askold and Novik, came out to meet the attack, and this suggests that either they were the only effective ships there, or that the larger battleships were unable to get out.

Many alleged dispositions of the opposing forces are published this morning, but they differ too much in detail to be of any great value.

A dispatch from Shanghai to the Daily Chronicle says the Russians are transferring the guns from the disabled ships at Port Arthur to the forts there.

A dispatch from Chefoo to the Standard, dated February 29, says a Japanese cruiser and torpedo-boat entered that harbor without lights at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, and it is believed they embarked the Japanese who took refuge there after the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur.

A Tokio correspondent of the Times cables that the steamers sunk by the Japanese on either side of the Russian battleship Retvizan at Port Arthur practically obstruct the entrance to the harbor.

NOT RELISHED BY RUSSIANS.

Chinese Troops Are Concentrating to the Westward of Mukden.

Liao Yang, March 2.—General Mishchenko, with a detachment of mounted Cossacks, has reached KashaJa, Corea, and is expected at Ichio Yang at once. His men and horses are in good condition and he is well supplied with provisions.

The concentration of Chinese troops westward of Mukden, in the district of Gubantsa, is not relished by the Russians. War material is being brought up and the militia posts are being strengthened. It is doubted if the attitude of the population can be relied upon. The people at several points refuse to sell produce to the Russians. Snowstorms are raging here and the frost is intense. The railroad is working perfectly and troops are arriving uninterruptedly. Their health and spirits are excellent.

SAY FORT WILL DESTROY FLEET

Russian Military Authorities Have No Fears for Port Arthur.

Moscow, March 2.—Interest throughout Russia is now fixed on Port Arthur, and speculation as to the probable fate of that supposedly impregnable fortress takes the widest range.

The publication of General Stossel's order to the troops, while it has had the effect of arousing enthusiasm in Russia, had also attracted attention to the tremendous strategic value of that fortress and to the crucial part it plays in Russia's plans for the defeat of the Japanese in Corea.

While the failure of the Japanese attempt to bottle up the fleet evoked sarcastic comment from the Russian press as to the Japanese cunning and the miscarriage of the enemy's plans, the Russian military authorities are pointing out that this attempt having been defeated, therefore it must follow Port Arthur is impregnable and the Japanese can never capture it.

Original force of Rebels Was 3000.

Manilla, March 2.—General Leonard Wood reports, under date of February 15, an engagement with Datto Moros, under Hasan, on the Island of Jollo. Lieutenant West and six privates were wounded. One has since died. The Moro loss was heavy. Hasan succeeded in making his escape. His original force of 3000 has now been reduced to 15. The island is now under control of the American authority, and influential Moros are aiding in the pursuit of the outlaws. The members of the constabulary who revolted at Vigan are all in custody.

Will Not Advance for Month.

Paris, March 2.—Reports received from Russian sources state that the Russian land preparations in Manchuria will not be completed for a month, and the general advance cannot be ordered before that time. It is then expected that whatever ground the Japanese have gained will be overcome and they will be finally annihilated.



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" Corvallis.....	11:30 a. m.
Arrive Albany.....	12:15 p. m.
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