

CROWDING THE WORK AHEAD.

Progress of Pilot Butte Development Company's Irrigation Enterprise.

For a week before Wednesday the work on the flume frame of the Pilot Butte Development Company was very difficult and slow, the handling of the long, green, freshly peeled poles to support the structure being attended with considerable danger to the men as well as being the hardest kind of work on account of the rocky ground. But that part of the trestle was completed without accident and since Wednesday progress has been faster. It is now given out that the trestle to the headworks will be completed by next Wednesday, if no unforeseen delay occurs.

Men are added to the construction force as fast as they can be obtained, though, of course, there is more or less change, as is usual on work of that character. Some men go, others come.

Five teams are now engaged on the ditch excavation—not nearly as many as are wanted. A number of others are promised and they will probably go on the work after the holidays. At first the pay, in view of the high price of feed, was deemed too small, but a concession in the price of supplies has been made that gives satisfaction all round.

President Drake is expected home near the first of the year and then the working force is to be doubled and the canal will be crowded forward to completion. All the men and teams that can be had will be put at work. Now that the railroad is assured it is evident there will be use for the irrigated land and no efforts will be spared to get a large acreage under water service for the coming season.

HAS HUTCHINSON SOLD OUT?

Story to That Effect—Irrigation Project to Go Forward.

Jesse Harcerow, who is looking after the Columbia Southern ditch in the Tumello valley, was in Bend Wednesday on his way to Prineville to spend Christmas. He had with him a letter received from Colonel C. F. Smith, who was the chief engineer on the Columbia Southern ditch construction last summer and who recently returned from a visit to Portland to consult the Columbia Southern Irrigation management regarding field work. At the close of this letter was the brief statement that C. C. Hutchinson, of the Oregon Irrigation Company, had sold out to a company in New York and that work on that enterprise would go ahead.

Three weeks ago Mr. Hutchinson visited Bend and drove out over the prospective ditch line of his company. With him were two New York men, W. E. Gurrin and H. D. Turney. They gave out no intimation of what bearing their visit had on the Hutchinson project, but from other sources the news came that the visitors represented men likely to invest in such enterprises. If they have taken over the Hutchinson interests, or otherwise arranged to push work on that irrigation scheme, it is important for this locality. Every movement for development of our native resources, for making arid lands fertile, should receive every possible encouragement.

A MILE OF WIRE NETTING.

Fence to Keep Chickens in and the Coyotes Out.

Mr. Wiest has completed the fencing of 40 acres of his homestead with wire netting so as to keep his fowls inside and the coyotes outside. This is the forty on which his dwelling and the present chick-

en houses stand. The fence is made of juniper posts set eight feet apart, with a wide baseboard and above that the wire netting of 2-inch mesh is stretched. Three feet above the baseboard a narrower strip is fastened. The netting extends a foot above that strip, so as to catch the chickens that fly up intending to alight on the board on their way over the fence. Six inches above the top of the netting a single barbed wire is strung to stiffen and support the fence and turn animals that might be disposed to disregard the warning boards. Holes under the baseboard due to inequalities in the ground are now being stopped. When that shall be completed Mr. Wiest will have a very substantial and effective fence.

The 40-acre lot thus enclosed is to be subdivided by similar fences, though they will not be so substantial. Their purpose will be simply to separate the various varieties of fowls into their own yards. This improvement will give Mr. Wiest very complete runs for his fowls and enable him to branch out in the poultry business.

Suspension Order Revoked.

Timber and Stone Entries to Pass Promptly to Patent Hereafter.

Last Monday afternoon Secretary Hitchcock, of the department of the interior, issued the following:

The order, under which final action upon timber and stone entries was suspended has been revoked by the secretary of the interior, and all such entries will now be acted upon the General Land Office in regular order.

The suspension served a good purpose, and was the means of preventing many fraudulent entries. While a rigid scrutiny of all entries under this act will be continued, it will have the effect of allowing all valid entries to be patented.

At the conference at the white house Monday morning the public land situation in Oregon was thoroughly reviewed. The senators stoutly protested against the continuance of the suspension policy of the interior department, on the ground that it worked inexcusable hardship on bona fide settlers, and was seriously retarding the development of the state.

Secretary Hitchcock, in a statement submitted to the president, explained that the extent to which frauds had been perpetrated in Oregon made it necessary that the utmost precaution should be taken to head off other fraudulent operations under the timber and stone act.

President Roosevelt, after considering both sides, directed the secretary to revoke his former order, and hereafter timber and stone entries will pass to patent, as soon as they have been approved by the commissioner of the general land office.

Banking and Investment Enterprise.

Olaf M. Muus and Peter Nereth, of White Earth, N. Dakota, who were in Bend on land business last week, looked over the general business situation here and were so favorably impressed that they said they would probably be out here in the spring and engage in business. Mr. Muus now runs a retail lumber yard in White Earth and Mr. Nereth is in the general merchandise business there. Closely affiliated with them is J. P. Smerud, cashier of the First State Bank of White Earth, who is also said to be desirous of engaging in business here. Arrangements have been talked over with reference to the erection of a substantial building on the west bank of the Deschutes opposite Sisemore's for the accommodation of a banking and investment house by the White Earth people, and other lines of business are to be gathered about that. These are conservative, substantial

young business men and will be a notable accession to Bend.

Christmas Celebrated.

The usual Christmas festivities occurred in Bend. The Union Sunday school had two Christmas trees in Grant's hall, with fire place between out of which Santa Claus came to distribute the good things from the trees. There was a short program of appropriate music, including a cantata in which a company of children showed to advantage. Miss Marion Wiest is entitled to great credit for her work in training the children. There was a goodly attendance and the affair was entirely successful.

At the schoolhouse the new Sunday school had a Christmas tree and a suitable program and the house was well filled with spectators. At this tree, as well as at the one in Grant's hall, all the children were remembered with bags of nuts and candy, and other presents were numerous.

Work of Legislature.

The legislature adjourned Wednesday night after three days session in which it repealed the troublesome Phelps tax law, restoring the old one, appropriated \$100,000 for getting canal right of way at Celilo and attended to several local measures.

LOCAL NEWS

"Dad" West was a Prineville visitor Sunday and Monday.

Joseph F. Taggart returned Monday from a two weeks visit in Portland.

Postmaster and Mrs. Staats made the round trip to Prineville the fore part of the week.

New Year's eve there will be a grand ball at West's hall. Every one come and bring somebody.

About two inches of snow fell Sunday at Lava, but the weather was warm and there was no wind.

Thirty-two horses were quartered at Sisemore's last Sunday night, which indicates that travel up the Deschutes is not scanty.

A fine flock of audacious mallards came down the river Tuesday and spent the afternoon feeding unmolested along Bend water front.

J. N. Hunter returned Tuesday from a week's trip in the timber up in Klamath county. He found that country under about 8 inches of snow.

After the Christmas tree festivities there was a dance at West's hall, which was well attended and kept the young folks merry until nearly daylight.

Charles Blank, of Antelope, was enroute to Silver Lake with a load of stock and furniture for the new saloon of F. W. Silvertooth.

C. A. Dano and Charles Turney were down from their claims in Klamath county this week. They went to Prineville to attend to some business matters and returned up the river today.

Lewis McCallister is hauling lumber from Bend this week for a house and barn on his place over in the southeast corner of 15-11. He is putting about 5000 feet of lumber into those structures.

Ferd McCallister was up from the mouth of Crooked river with a load of apples this week. He finds Bend so good a market that he makes regular trips here to dispose of his fruit. But this trip closed out his supply of apples at \$1.75 a box.

The grossbeaks and the juniper jays, returning from the desert,

have been with us the past week. But not a robin or a blackbird has been in sight. The chick-a-dees have come and they make themselves so much at home that they must expect to remain till spring.

William Vandeventer and C. B. Allen have just moved the old post-office building at Lava from the Wes Aldridge place to a site between Allen's and Vandeventer's to use as a school house this winter. This location is most convenient for the scholars of the district.

J. M. Lawrence has moved from the Garden Row cottage his family has occupied since last June, to rooms in the Federal building adjoining the office of United States commissioner. J. N. Hunter has taken the Garden Row cottage vacated by the Lawrences.

John Bloss is over from his homestead near Sisters this week on business. In November he killed two bears near his homestead, getting from them 20 pounds of fine lard for domestic use. Bloss says it is equal to the finest hog lard and superior to much of the alleged hog product in the market.

L. D. Wiest set out his traps again this week and yesterday morning there was a good sized bobcat caught. Miss Marion took her rifle and ended the troubles of the beast with a bullet in the eye. The fur is thick and glossy, this being the time of year when fur bearers in this latitude are at their best.

John Steidl is down with typhoid fever. He had been ailing several days but last Saturday his condition was so serious that Dr. Edwards was summoned from Prineville. He was out Sunday and diagnosed the case as typhoid, but not a very severe one. It is expected that Mr. Steidl will be up again in due time, but there is no hurrying this malady.

Road Supervisor Sisemore has completed the planking of the county bridge at his place and finds that he will be able to collect personal poll tax enough in the district nearly to pay the cost. The county will be called on for the balance. Mr. Sisemore paid out of his own pocket \$386 for the construction of the bridge a dozen years ago—\$1 for each running foot of the structure.

A move is on foot to add greatly to the capacity of the Pilot Butte Inn. The plans contemplate the erection of a frame building 24x48 in front of the present structure, with dining room 20x20 on one side of a central hallway and office on the other side, and guest's chambers overhead, the whole to be neatly finished and furnished and painted white. Landlord Lucas is bound to have facilities for accommodating his growing patronage.

"Dad" West celebrated Christmas by presenting each of his daughters a corner lot from his acre tract a short distance east of the school house. To Mrs. Eva Poindexter he gave the lot 50x100 feet at the northeast corner of the tract and to Miss Iva the lot at the southeast corner, of the same size. These lots are valued at \$100 each. It is expected that Mrs. Poindexter will build a dwelling upon her lot soon.

About 100 persons were photographed this afternoon by Messrs. Weider and Cramer at the Lytle townsite. The first view was photographed across the rapids at the Deschutes Lumber Co's mill and another near Low's store. The Oregon Concert Band furnish several pieces of music and held first rank in each of the pictures taken. It is the intention of Messrs. Reed & Steidl to have the views appear in the Portland Oregonian.

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