

THE BEND BULLETIN

"For every man a square deal, no less and no more."

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From Shaniko via Prineville.....7 p. m. daily
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1906.

Which is considered of more value in Crook county, an Oregon "fuzz tail" or a man's life? Two men are sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary for stealing a horse and a calf; another is given a term of one year for killing an old man. Verily the ways of justice are wonderful to behold.

Much complaint has been heard during the past week on account of drunken Indians about town. The complaint has been vigorous and it would not be surprising if some action was taken to find out who is violating the law by selling or furnishing liquor to the Indians. The law imposes a very severe penalty for this offense. A drunken Indian is both a nuisance and a danger to public safety. Those who are supplying them with liquor should be compelled to observe the law by feeling the force of its penalty.

There is no statute expressly prohibiting the fencing of government land; but courts of equity will recognize the offense and give relief by injunction. Fencing government land for any other purpose than settlement is taking for private use that which belongs to the whole public and is unlawful both as a purpresture and as a public nuisance. It is immaterial that such inclosures are for stock range purposes. The law recognizes no such purpose. The grazer has no more right to hold government land than he has the private land of others. Persons desiring to become bona fide settlers may tear down the fences surrounding such tracts. This advice appears directly and in many forms in the decisions of the land department.

Mr. Morson has made a good start on his irrigation enterprise in the Walker basin by putting L. D. Wiest, of Bend, in charge of the engineering work. Mr. Wiest has been very successful in his Oregon irrigation work. Four-fifths of the Carey reclamation enterprises of the state were prepared under his direction and so carefully done that there was little delay at Washington, and no retracing of the work in the field. It is to be observed, however, that ditch construction in the Walker basin, where the soil is filled with pine roots, will be much more difficult than digging through the sagebrush land of the "desert". With reclamation work and railroad construction, the Walker basin ought to be a very active locality in the coming five years.

Messrs Bray & Choate, the leaders of the Wisconsin coterie now desperately resisting trial for land fraud in Oregon, are by no means strangers to the record of timber theft. The Bulletin has referred to their connection with the polit-

ical machine of the late Senator Sawyer. Illustrative of the swindling operations of that gang is a certain letter from Secretary Teller, in 1883, in response to an application from the receiver of the Wausau (Wis.) land office, Senator Sawyer, J. M. Bray and Leander Choate urging that Bray & Choate be permitted to pay \$3 per 1000 feet for part of a lot of logs they had bought from one Lane after they had been officially informed that the timber was stolen from government land. The department rejected the offer with rather caustic comment and required payment at \$6.50 per thousand feet for the entire lot as scaled. Only the day before this decision was made the secretary decided against the application of a lumber concern of Racine which offered to pay \$2 per thousand for a lot of lumber stolen from government land. In that case Senator Sawyer also appeared with the recommendation that "the government ought to accept the proposition." It was not accepted, however. This lumber concern was a neighbor of Joe Quarles, who subsequently became U. S. Senator, was turned down by La Follette and then pulled upon the federal bench by the old machine in order that there might be a judge who would see no offense in the efforts of the gang to steal Oregon timber land.

Another Well Drill Bought.

J. Strain and John Tims, ranchers living on Agency Plains, have bought a deep well drill and will test the possibility of getting water on Agency Plains. The drill has a capacity of 1,000 feet. The machine will first be set up on the Strain ranch. Mr. Tims is an experienced driller and is very confident of reaching water at a reasonable depth.

Much Business at Shaniko.

Times are reported good at Shaniko, 230 carloads of cattle having been shipped out of there this fall, besides the large shipments of sheep and other products of Crook, Grant and Sherman counties.

Problems That Confront The Irrigator.

The Deschutes Region.
Paper prepared by L. D. Wiest and read before the Fruit Growers Convention at Hood River.

As it is only two years since the first settler located on what is known as the Pilot Butte selections under the Carey Act, our opportunities to observe are necessarily limited to such an extent that it may be well to say that conclusions we may have formed by this time are not necessarily conclusive.

While the Deschutes district is rapidly becoming occupied by settlers, when we consider its remoteness from any railroad, yet on account of the extensive area of this territory it will require a number of years before this tract will become densely settled and its possibilities fully realized.

Not only are the developments new, but from a geological view the entire surface of the district to a depth of from 50 to 100 feet is one of the latest formations of the globe, and consequently it is not surprising that all the soil analyses show practically no humus and very little moisture, while on the other hand it is rich in chemical properties.

The settlers being scattered over a vast area, the products raised this year fully demonstrated the uniform conditions of the soil. The exhibits at the Redmond fair two weeks ago not only fully proved this uniformity but would also have been a great credit to older communities than this.

The most serious problem that the irrigators have to contend with at present is the natural condition of the soil, which on account of containing considerable decomposed basalt and pumice is coarse, loose and light, thereby not only requiring an excessive amount of water but also being the cause of the air permeating the soil to such an extent as to prevent most vegetation from sending down feeders to a sufficient depth to successfully resist drought and impeding capillary attraction. However, it may be well to state here that, on account of the intelligence of the average settler that is locating in the Deschutes district, the people of Oregon may rest assured that these people will help to continue to hold up the

high standard so notably earned and won by Oregon and the Northwest in general and will successfully solve these questions in the near future. I may further add that, while the sun shines almost every day during the year, these farmers take advantage of any bad weather they may have during the winter by holding farmers' meetings and freely discussing the subjects most directly concerning them, through which they not only become readily acquainted with each other but also promptly learn and defuse any new knowledge that is secured by any of them.

In reference to the different methods of irrigation in general use, we might say that none can be said to be absolutely satisfactory to meet the present conditions. The furrow system seems to be the most popular and to give the best results. For this particular locality the most satisfactory results are obtained by observing the following changes to the usual method:

1. Construct the furrows not over 25 inches apart.
2. In all conditions of slope, run the furrows at right angles to the contours.
3. Construct parallel feeders or sub-head ditches, at distances of from 300 to 400 feet apart, where the slope does not exceed two feet in 100.

In reference to the first, the soil does not readily admit transverse permeation and consequently the necessity of the furrows being only short distances apart.

In reference to the second, the soil being loose and porous, any attempt to hold the furrows on a grade results not only in the furrow system continually breaking and the water collecting in depressions and cutting channels but also in causing more labor and expense for irrigating than the flooding system would require.

On account of the soil being both porous and underlaid with an irregular and broken lava bed, it is not only quite difficult to convey the water for any great distance through the furrow from the head ditch, but considerable damage to the crops is likely to result near

(Continued on page 5.)

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