

The Bend Bulletin

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1919

ANTI-RABBIT PLANS.

Harney county is now getting ready for a rabbit poisoning campaign.

That may not sound especially interesting to people who know what a pest the jack rabbit is in these Central Oregon counties and who understand that the approved method of dealing with it is by poisoning. To those, however, who remember the wave of initiated legislation providing for the payment of bounties for killing rabbits, which swept over this part of the state in 1916, the announcement has real meaning and importance.

In 1914 Harney county initiated and adopted a rabbit bounty law. In the two years that followed many thousands of dollars were paid in bounties. A good many rabbits were killed and people in adjoining counties began to think that the bounty method not only provided an income but also assured the destruction of the pest. Accordingly rabbit bounty bills were initiated and received many votes at the fall election in 1916. The passage of the bills was of no effect, however, because a court decision denied the right of the counties to legislate in this manner and no more bounties were paid.

Harney county, which had been paying bounties for over two years, was apparently glad to be rid of the law for no effort was made to obtain the legislation in any other way. In none of the others where the law was not allowed to take effect was any such effort made either, but all have devoted their anti-rabbit activity to the methods approved by the Biological survey-poison in various forms. In short, were both plans have been followed the latter has been finally accepted as the better.

Whenever the bounty idea is suggested this should be remembered.

THE COUNTY AGENT.

Deschutes county has always been fortunate in the men assigned by the state agricultural college to act as county agents. Every one has been a man of ability, with expert knowledge of some branch of agricultural affairs and the general acquaintance with all others that made him competent to handle local problems. It is safe to say that thousands of dollars have been added to the value of the county's agricultural lands and products as a result of the work of the county agents.

Because they have been men of special ability it has been the county's misfortune to see them continually going on to better jobs and the present agent, H. E. Koons, is no exception to the rule.

Although here for less than a year Mr. Koons has made his mark on county agricultural practice, his especial contribution being in the use of irrigation water. Since the beginning of irrigation in the Deschutes valley there has been no improvement in methods. Although only a limited amount of water has been available there has never been any concerted effort to make the most of that water. The proper duty of water has never been determined as is shown by the proposal that the settlement of this question be taken up by the C. O. I. district, and its proper use will never be established until the most economical and best method is adopted.

Mr. Koons has made a good beginning toward the adoption of the best methods and sooner or later the methods he advocates are bound to be put in use.

We regret that Mr. Koons is resigning and wish him success in his new work.

A JAPANESE PERIL?

While everyone welcomes the prospect of development indicated in the announcement of the purchase of a large acreage in the Powell Butte section to be devoted to the production of potatoes, the fact that a Japanese is one of the buyers suggests the possibility of a situation developing here like that which now faces the people of the Hood River valley.

A 12,000 acre ranch will require a large number of men to do the work. It is to be expected that George Shima will want to employ Japanese. If Japanese are brought in as ranch hands it will be only a short time before they will be buying ranches for themselves and then the white ranchers will go. This is just what is happening at Hood River and only recently an association was formed there to bring an end to the condition that was rapidly becoming intolerable to the white people who wanted to continue to make Hood River their home.

As yet we are faced with a threat, only. The Farm Bureau recognizes the possible developments, however, and is planning steps to prevent them. In this the Bureau should have the hearty assistance of every public agency in this and the adjoining counties. The Bureau's plan contains nothing revolutionary, nor is it one that is likely to cause a difficult diplomatic situation, as has sometimes been the case in dealing with Japanese in other parts of the Pacific coast.

The officers of the Bureau are doing well to take the lead in the matter and support should be given them.

Anyone who can find any satisfaction in these wintry days is invited to visit The Bulletin office and read the record of temperatures for last July.

HELP FOR THE MERCHANTS.

Representatives of The Bulletin probably come in contact more often with more local business men than any other persons in town. Daily they are called upon for news and for advertising and their opinions learned on a wide variety of subjects which, taken together, go to make up the news side of local business life.

Of late we have been struck by the frequency of the complaints against the growing practice of calling on

the merchants for donations for this, that and the other, either outright in cash, or indirectly through advertising in programs. The burden is becoming greater and greater, they say, and more difficult for them to endure. They wish that in some way this solicitation might be put an end to, or at least, regulated and kept within reasonable bounds.

The same condition has developed in many other towns and various methods for dealing with it have been used. In no case, we believe, has it been left to the public to let up on the pressure. The merchants themselves have had to take the necessary steps for self protection and have taken them, by agreeing to make no donations to causes not approved by a committee of their number and to eliminate program and like advertising entirely. None want to lay down such rules alone, but as joint action it is usually effective.

A Commercial club committee once dealt with all requests for donations. Could it not be rejuvenated and made to deal with all such matters, or will the merchants find it necessary to form a separate organization to insure protection against these constant calls?

AN UNFORTUNATE REPORT.

Reporting a recent farmers' meeting at The Dalles a correspondent of the esteemed Oregonian quoted H. MacGregor, of Bend as saying that "the interior of the state was menaced by the agrandizement of the Mongolians. He asserted that the Asiaties had gained control of much valuable potato lands by deceitful methods. The Deschutes Growers' association, he asserted, had refused to accept potatoes grown by the Japanese in the interior country."

"The association has requested of Japanese farmers that they use American or white labor on their farms," said Mr. MacGregor. "They often work from 12 to 16 hours each day and no white man should be required to do that. We can meet the Japanese question now and it will be easier to handle now than in the future. The whites of Central Oregon are behind any effort urged here to rid the state from the yellow scourge."

Now there is a Japanese question developing in Central Oregon, as the readers of The Bulletin are aware. It is coming from the plan of a Japanese potato grower to acquire a large acreage in the Powell Butte section for potato raising. The purchase has not yet been made, however, and there is not at present any difficulty with Japanese here. We doubt if Mr. MacGregor suggested that there was. If he did it is unfortunate and correction should be made; indeed, correction would be made in any case because a country that is looking for settlers does not care to have such reports of bad conditions circulated.

If they keep up these anti-prohibition injunctions it will be necessary, back in St. Louis and Louisville, to change the simile and say that water flowed like whiskey—when it does begin to flow again.

Folks who never saw a trench in France think the zero hour was set when they woke up last night with not enough blankets over them.

If you do not like this wintry weather just think of the coalless east and middle west and be thankful for what you have here.

Eggs 80 years old have been discovered in an old house in the east. Bet they bring more as eggs than as curiosities.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson, the American temperance advocate who lost an eye in a fracas in London, has been left 'igh and dry.

The Public Service commission has directed the telephone company to ring off on those increased charges.

To leave an egg stain on your chin is no longer slovenly. It's an indecent flaunting of one's weakh.

Shop early in Bend.

AUDIENCE PLEASSED WITH AMATEUR PLAY

Before an audience which slightly more than half filled the athletic club hall, Noble's Popular Players put on one of the best amateur theatrical productions of the year Friday night, when they appeared in the comedy-drama, "In Dixieland." Their work was well received and liberal encores were given at every curtain. J. B. Noble was featured in between-act specialties, while music for the evening was under the direction of Mrs. M. H. Horton.

Everybody's Thoughts Now Turn to CHRISTMAS

AND WHAT GIFT WILL BE MOST ACCEPTABLE? WHAT GIVES MORE CHEER THAN

Music

Pianos and Player Pianos

Lyon and Healy Player \$700

Auto Player PIANO \$700

H. C. Bay Co. Player \$650

Behr Bros. Player \$750

Pianos

Behning \$550

Concord \$450

Christ mare \$400

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CENTRAL OREGON BANK

BEND



OREGON

LOSS FROM FIRES REPORTED AT \$6,632

Completion Friday of the annual report on forest fires in and near the Deschutes National Forest shows a total of 1731 acres burned over, and loss of two and a quarter million feet of lumber, valued at \$6,632. Fires numbered 124, and of these, 56 were caused by lightning, 19 were the work of incendiaries, 33 were carelessly set by campers and hunters, and the origin of 12 is unknown.

RED CROSS SEALS WELL DISTRIBUTED

Through the work of Mrs. C. P. Niswonger, in charge of the city districts, and Mrs. E. P. Mahaffey, who is handling all the territory in Deschutes and Jefferson counties outside of Bend, \$25,000 worth of Red Cross Christmas seals have been placed on sale through out the district. A thorough canvass is being made in an attempt to set a new record for Bend and the two counties

in disposing of the Christmas stickers.

MARKET IS TOPPED BY TUMALO LAMBS

John Marsh, Tumalo rancher, on December 1, topped the Portland market with 128 spring lambs at a price of \$13.10. This price was 50 cents better than the market quotation of that date. The lambs weighed 74 pounds and averaged \$91.69 per head.