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Tule Lake not a Lake.

Surveyor-General Habersham has rendered a decision in the controversy concerning some 1700 acres of lands, situate within the meander line of what has been known as Tule lake, and which were claimed as swamp lands by the state, and long ago sold as such.

The land was surveyed in 1863 by D. P. Thompson, and when the border of the swamp or marsh was reached, a meander line was run around it and the swamp marked as a lake. It is the same as several other so called lakes in Eastern Oregon, at times covered with water, at other times covered with grass, and susceptible to cultivation when drained. A number of Persons have located hay ranches on this "lake" and claimed that it was public land, on which they could enter homestead claims. Finally, to arrive at an understanding on the subject, the commissioner of the general land office directed that the testimony of the settlers and witnesses for the state be taken, which was done at La Grande before the county clerk of Union county, and the testimony, which was quite voluminous, was forwarded to Surveyor-General Habersham.

After giving the testimony his careful attention, he decided that the tract in question, known as Tule lake, was not a lake at the date of the granting of swamp lands to the state in 1860, and that the lands were swamp lands, and consequently belonged to the persons who had purchased them from the state.

This opinion was forwarded to the department, and Mr. Habersham has been directed to notify the parties in interest of the decision. There has been no end of trouble first and last on account of swamps in Eastern Oregon having been called lakes because they are covered with water at times. It is probable that these swamps were difficult places to survey, and contractors found it more profitable to to run a meander line around them and call them lakes than to survey them.

Snakes Near Fossil.

Rattlesnakes are very plentiful in the vicinity of Fossil this year, and the mortality among them is therefore very great, as no man ever sees a snake without killing it, says the Journal. The editor of the Journal killed one with seven rattles Friday, while it was in the act of crawling under his house. Charlie Byrd killed one about four feet long up the creek Tuesday, and Dr. Howard dispatched one nearly as large on the Cummins hill Monday. The largest snake heard of in this part of the country was killed last Saturday by Frank Sankey on his place down the creek from Fossil. It had 14 rattles. The reptile came very near biting its slayer. As Sankey was in the act of taking a bridle out of a wagon bed which the snake, which was hidden in the grass, struck at his leg, but missed it, without having given the usual warning with his rattles.

On Friday morning of last week Miss Augusta Dras, of Fossil, was nearly scared to death by a blow snake on the Buckingham ranch near the John Day river, where she was visiting Mrs. Phania Angell, a sister of George Metteer, jr., who has the place rented. The snake had in some manner crawled into a cupboard in the house, in front of which was covered with a curtain, and was on the top shelf when Miss Dras drew the curtain aside to get something out of the cupboard. The reptile raised his head and blew into her face the instant he saw her, throwing the young lady into such a state of hysteria and nervous prostration that for several days her life was considered in danger. Miss Dras is now convalescing, and was moved to Fossil, but may never entirely get over the effects of her fright.

While the whole world is excited over the gold discoveries in the North, sight has been lost of another discovery that promises to be of great value in the development of that section.

Some months ago a lake of almost pure petroleum was discovered and samples sent to Seattle for analysis. The assayer's report on these has just been made public, and the find is reported to be of incalculable riches. A company has been formed in Seattle to handle the product and travelers from there say that the company intends to putit onthe Alaskan market at once.

The lake is of unknown depth, several miles wide and five or six in length, and the quality of the petroleum is said to be of the finest. It is fed by springs, and the hills surrounding it are said to be rich in coal and asphalt. The lake is only two miles from the ocean, so that the difficulties of transportation are reduced to a minimum. It is the intention of the owners of the lake to take its product right into the mining camps of Northern Alaska wherever the waterways will permit.

Whether a person pronounced by the law as civilly dead can be proceeded against for a crime committed prior to his civil death is a question that is engrossing the attention of a number of attorneys in North Dakota. The case in point is that of August Normand, the Grand Forks county murderer, who has been found guilty and centenced to life imprisonment. He has not been brought to the penitentiary and will have to stand another trial for murder before he begins to serve out his life sentence, and there are those who hold that if he is convicted and sentenced to death for the second murder, he having committed two, he can be hanged and the life sentence will be of no effect to save his life.

On the other hand, many attorneys hold that he will have to be relieved of the life sentence by pardon before a sentence of death could be executed upon him. This is a peculiar case and is seldom paralleled. Judge Fisk of the Grand Forks district court has ordered that the man be tried again for murder. Public sentiment is so inflamed by the fact that the first jury failed to inflict the death penalty that it is more than probable that that punishment will be inflicted at the second trial. If this should be the case, Normand will stand under a sentence of life imprisonment and one of death. Then the question will arrise as to which sentence shall have to be carried. The matter will have to be carried to the supreme court for settlement. —St. Paul Pioneer-Piess.

The Indianapolis Journal prints this interesting story concerning ex-President Harrison's forthcoming book: General Harrison has just completed the revision of his articles which have appeared in The Ladies Home Journal, making extended notes and additions to them. There is a little story in connection with both articles and publication. When the arrangement for the articles was made with General Harrison by Edward W. Bok, editor of The Ladies Home Journal, the General was paid for them, with the understanding that when they were put into book form the magazine was to share the royalties accruing therefrom. Mr. Bok, however, of his own accord, generously released General Harrison from paying him any royalty, for the season, as he states, that by the publication of the articles by General Harrison the subscription list of his magazine was enlarged many thousands. The profits to The Ladies Home Journal were more than the publishers anticipated, and in view of this Mr. Bok asks nothing further. General Harrison placed the disposition of his book in M. Bok's hands. The best offer came to the editor from the subscribers, and to them Mr. Bok gave the book for his distinguished contributor. General Harrisson's revision of the book has just been completed, and the volume will appear in the autumn.

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