Change of days from Wednesday to Saturday

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RANGE LAND QUESTION

A Letter from Wm. Altnow on the Subject.

The following is an extract from a letter recently written by our friend William Altnow of Drewsey. Speaking in behalf of the settlers of small means, and arguing that the leasing of grazing lands under the plan now being considered would be in the interest of the richer stockmen, he continues:

Now, to the first we say that it looks like this. The big sheep and cattle companies have the first fight between themselves, and when they get through nothing is left for little settlers and middle men—neither grass or water, as their days are numbered. The move is in the big companies' and associations' favor, and fencing it would give them the title, it seems.

Oh, poor little homesteaders; perhaps no water, neither grass on your allotment; for whomsoever knows this country is aware of the fact that wherever it is settled the public highway runs along and thousands of cattle, and, I I might say, hundreds of thousands of sheep, during the season, are driven over said roads to the railroads. Now, there is no grass miles from the road. Where is the poor settler's show?

Now, where are Mr. Wilson's experiment stations? One in the Walla Walla valley, I presume, where the grass gets cultivated like grain on the farm. Let him bring his seed here among the rocky hills or mountains and have it sown and put in. Then ask him what he thinks of it. A failure!

Now comes Professor Scribner's report, flat-footed in the rich men's favor. That's when the land be sold, the renter should have the privilege as lessee above any other parties to purchase said land.

Still another reformer, that is, Honorable John Minto, even suggests that the lessee be allowed to make improvements on said lands, and said improvements to be charged to the government, and if another party should get hold of said tract of land (shove the first one off), then it shall be appraised, and of course that be charged up to the government, and said first parties would receive that amount for their labor. This would be a good plan to introduce a European heirland aristocracy.

Now, I give my views in regard to those ranges, in two parts, or two sides of the question.

A Market for American Horses.

The news is flashed across the wires from Chichgo that American horses will drag English ammunition wagons and heavy artillery over the plains of the Transvall in the event Great Britain and the Boers clash arms.

Orders came from London to a firm of horse dealers at the Union stock yards to buy up all the 1,200-pounds "gunners" the western market afforded, and make arrangements for immediate shipment. Stress was laid upon the fact that the animals were wanted for the impending South African campaign and the dispatch was marked "rush" and "imperative."

The horse market at the yards was stirred by the news. Telegraph orders were flashed to breeders in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa for reservation of choice stock with the expectation that the first consignment will leave Chicago for England this week.

The specifications that must be adhered to in the selection of the artillery horses, dealers say, will make the filling of such a wholesale order somewhat difficult of accomplishment at this time. The prices which the British government set as a lim't range from $110 to $125 a head. One firm declared that the extra high standard needed would mean a practical corner of choice stock if a consignment as hervey as 500 horses was made.

The Union stock yards was visited by a number of foreign horse buyers, engaged in buying high-bred horse flesh for export.

The Lost "Peleg" Mine.

"Jim" Townsend, editor of the Bodie Miner-Index, one of the old pioneer newspaper men of Nevada, and who in the early '60's—the palmy days of Virginia City—was a running partner of Mark Twain, prints the following, which is no doubt a true story, as "Truthful Jim" was never known to tell a lie—well, hardly ever:

Prospectors are abount to make another effort to discover the "Pegleg Smith" mine, supposed to be located somewhere in San Diego county, says the Scientific Press. Several men have already lost their lives in the fruitless search for this ignus fatuus, and now others, no less foolhardy, are about to attempt it. The "Pegleg" story has been printed and told for years, and there is little doubt that it originated in a newspaper office, and has no foundation in fact.

The editor of the Miner-Index well knew "Pegleg" Smith, whose habitat was the corner of Montgomery and Clay streets, San Francisco. This was along in '56. When Smith was good and drunk he had a wonderfully rich mine way out in the waterless and inaccessible wilderness, always between "two round hills that looked like a woman's breast." Rider Haggard, we presume, got onto this expression when he was writing up "King Solomon's Mines."

When Smith was sober he had no mine, never had one, and didn't want any. In one of his drunken spasms Thomas J. Ford got hold of him. The latter was an employe of the "Golden Era," the best miscellaneous paper in the world at that time. He got Smith "full as a goose" and pumped him dry. A startling story of the "Pegleg" mine appeared in the next issue of the "Era" and the legend was born, as it were.

Smith was a man of parts, one of which was a pine leg; hence "Pegleg." He was an oleaginous liar. To him lying was food, drink and lodging. He invented a rich mine every time he got drunk, and scattered them all over the coast. Deluded softies have been hunting for them for forty years, never a single one will be found.

The cheapest postal service in the world is that of Japan, where for two sen—about seven-tenths of a penny—letters are conveyed all over the empire.

"For President of the United States, Admiral George Dewey; platform, anything he says goes," is the sentiment expressed by the Walla Walla Statesman.

The world may be divided into people that read; people that write; people that think, and foxhunters.—Shenstone.

INTERESTING ITEMS

Culled From Exchanges Surrouding Burns.

(District Silver Advocate, Oct. 4th.)

W. D. Hanley, the Harney county cattle dealer, shipped a trainload of cattle from Ontario Tuesday.

W. J. Coleman, official stonographer of the 9th Judicial District, arrived in Ontario Wednesday on his way to Vale to attend court.

J. A. Lackey delivered two carloads of horses to Lockett Bros. of Dell Friday, and the same were shipped with their consignment to the east.

Alex DeRache and his sister Mrs. Boehme of Burns were in the city Thursday, Mrs. Boehme on her way to San Francisco and her brother going home to Wisconsin.

Among the returning Idaho volunteers at Boise we met Alex Abernathy, formerly of Burns. He has seen a rough time and is in bad health, but states that when he gets back to Burns he will regain his lost health.

Joel Sturtevant left Ontario Sunday with two 8-horse teams loaded with machinery for the Burns flouring mill, of which he and N. Brown, the pioneer merchant, are proprietors. John Newman and Jap McKinnon were captains of the freight schooners.

(Grant County News, Oct. 5th.)

Atty. E. Hicks went over to Long Creek last Tuesday on legal business.

Sheriff Livingston has entered his running horse "Satan" in the Prairie City races.

Attorney A. D. Leedy, of this place, has been appointed Deputy Grand President of the "Native Sons of Oregon" for the counties of Grant, Baker and Harney.

Sheriff Livingston returned from Portland last Monday, accompanied by his daughter Katie, who has been pursuing her studies in the Portland Business College for some time.

J R. Childers has found in the last month twenty bee trees, from which he has taken 1000 pounds of honey. He has already realized $60 from honey which he has sold. Bee hunters will have to rurrender the palm to Mr. Childers as the champion bee hunter of Grant county.

Frank Metschan, wife and child and Otto Metschan drove over from their home in Silvies valley last Sunday. Mrs. Metscan and daughter expect to start for California this week, where they will visit with Mrs. Metschan's mother, who is quite feeble. Miss Annie and Otto Metschan will accompany them as far as their home in Salem.

(Malheur County Herald, Oct. 6th.)

C. C. Kilburn, the popular foreman of the rough riders of the P. L. S Co., is taking in the sights at Malheur's capital.

C. E. Kenyon of Burns, bookkeeper for the P. L. S. Co., arrived at the county seat Monday. His wife accompanied him.

Eleven head of cattle were recently stolen from the range between Rye Valley and Willow Creek. They were found below Nyssa, where they were left by the cattle rustlers, who gained the knowledge that they were being pursued.

The machinery for the Burns flour mill, loaded on four big wagons, in charge of Messrs. McKinnon and Newman, passed through Vale on Tuesday. The plant is owned by Joe Sturtevant and N. Brown and the total cost of the same delivered at Burns amounts to $6,000.

At a meeting of the directors of the Eastern Oregon Irrigation & Land Company, held in Huntington, it was decided to at once begin work on the Spring Cove reservoir. This proposed reservoir is situated on Willow creek, Malheur county, and when completed will hold sufficient water to irrigate 50,000 acres of land. J. S. Stark has contracted to build a supply ditch from Willow creek to the reservoir, a distance of three miles, and he is now busy getting a force of men together to begin operations. It is the intention of the company to rush work on the reservoir so that it will be completed in time to save the immense volume of water that always runs to waste in the early spring before the irrigation season commences.

Dad's Old Britches.

The following has been going the rounds of the press. The article is said to have been written by a small boy, who is a close observer and somewhat of a poet, and contains more truth than fiction:

"When dad has wore his britches out, they pass to brother John, then ma she trims them round about and William puts them on. When William's legs too long have grown, and the trousers fail to hide 'em, then Walter claims them for his own, and puts his legs inside 'em; next Sam's fat legs they close invest, and when they won't stretch tighter, they're turned and shortened up for me—the writer. Ma works them into caps and rugs, when I have burst the stitches. At doomsday we, perhaps, may see the last of dad's old britches."

Some large English timbermen, who have been making a tour through the lumber regions of the United States, were struck with enormous waste of timber due to the stave industry, which slaughtered the trees, taking only the best, without regard to other uses which might be subserved by a more conservative method of operation.

The Weekly Oregonian and this paper give you all the news of home, state, the Northwest and the nation.

FINAL PROOF.

LAND OFFICE AT BURNS, OREGON.
September 16, 1899.

Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver U. S. Land Office at Burns Ore., on November 4, 1899, viz: Sylvester Armstrong.

Hd. Entry 402, for the W½ SW¼ sec. 1, and E½ SE¼ sec. 2, Tp. 20, S R 34, E.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: James Paul, D. H. Smyth, and John Anderson, all of Smith, Oregon, and Geo. M Stancliff of Burns, Oregon.

GEO. W. HAYES, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. LAND OFFICE, BURNS, OREGON
Sept 6, 1899.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver U. S. Land Office at Burns, Oregon, on October 31, 1899, viz: George Crooker.

Hd Entry No. 514 for the E½ NE¼, Sec. 31, and SW¼ SW¼, NW¼ SW¼, sec 32, T. 18 S R 32 E W M

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Ben Conod, Frank Hayes, Frank W. Metschan and George Hankins, all of Silvies, Harney county, Oregon.

GEO. W HAYES, Register.

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