

The Times-Herald.

VOL. XIV.

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, AUGUST 31, 1901.

NO. 40.

The Times-Herald.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
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Collects, Land business, and Real Estate matter promptly attended to.
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Will practice in the courts of Harney and Harney counties and in the supreme court of the state, and also in U. S. land office.

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SMALL STOCKMAN'S SIDE

A REPLY TO MR. LUSK'S COMMUNICATION IN OREGONIAN.

He Opposes the Big Land Leasing Scheme and Gives the Gentleman a Few Straight Facts and Figures.

The following communication, written by J. D. Fairman, of Malheur county, was clipped from a recent issue of the Oregonian:

"In your issue of June 21 I saw a letter from Mr. Lusk advocating leasing of the range. In your last weeks issue I saw another letter from him, stating no stockman had presented any valid reason against the proposed measure. I have been asked to present the small stockman's side of the question, and with your permission will do so."

"First as to the much-talked-of overstocking of the range. There are in Harney county 6,780,160 acres of land, of which according to tax roll of 1900, 51,457 acres are tillable land, 563,006 acres are devoted to non-tillable land, of which the French-Glenn Company pays taxes on 105,931 acres, and the P. L. S. Company on 82,689 acres. Deducting tillable land from total area we have 6,728,703 acres of grazing on which (tax roll same year) there range 78,876 head of cattle, of which 33,200 are assessed to F-G Company and 20,000 to P. L. S. Company, 19,033 horses and 56,250 sheep. Now Mr. Lusk says in his first letter that his company pays taxes on every acre of land and every head of stock they own. The P. L. S. Company is a similar corporation, equally wealthy, and I presume equally conscientious (and as they pay taxes on one head of stock to every four acres of land, while the ratio of the F-G Co. is one to eight, it seems a safe presumption), but the settlers (I know being one of them) are dead hard citizens, and no founder of paying their taxes than the rest of the community, so we will double the number of their assessed stock, and with all possible apologies to Mr. Lusk we will also double that of the companies; not that I doubt his statement at all, but simply that the advocate of the leasing system can have no possible objections to my figures. This counting 10 sheep equal to one cow or horse gives us 149,068 head of stock on 6,728,703 acres of land, or 45.1-8 acres to each head of stock. For Malheur county, the figures are even worse. Total area, 5,760,000; tillable land, 86,433; net pasture, 5,673,567. Cattle 25,709; horses, 14,013; sheep, 144,241. Applying same ratio for sheep to cattle, and doubling total results, as in Harney county, we have 108,282 head of stock on 5,770,567 acres of land, or 52.1-2 acres to the animal, an average for the two counties of 48.4-5 acres to each head of stock. If this be overstocking, better paint the map a desert and warn intending settlers to keep out. And while we are on the subject of acreage, I would ask Mr. Lusk, Secretary Wilson or any other advocate of the leasing system, how any small settler can lease, erect and maintain fences on nearly 79 acres of land to keep one cow during the nine favorable months of the year and then provide feed and shelter for three winter ones beside. And, understand me, I neither assert nor admit that there are this many stock in the two counties. I simply put it so high that even Mr. Lusk must admit I have overestimated their number."

"Next as to the social aspect of the two systems. Take for instance the Island Ranch of the P. L. S. Co. This is a big hay ranch, situated in the forks of Silver river, below Burns. Mile upon mile, far as the eye can see, is one vast meadow, in the midst of which, surrounded by a few outbuildings, stands a large, white house, looking loosely and desolate as a coral island amid an ocean of waving grass. But go to the eastern end of the meadow, only a wire division fence marks the ending of the ranch. On the other side of every quarter section stands a comfortable farm house and outbuildings, the fields are dotted with the settlers' cattle, and in the midst of the rancher stands the thriving little town of Lawen, with its stores and hotels, blacksmith shops and livery stables, and close at hand a big white schoolhouse. Which is the most pleasing picture, the more profitable for the state at large and the country in particular, the vast lonely ranch or the thriving settlement? Turn to the census returns, and see the stationary condition of Harney county, dominated as it is by large companies, and the healthy growth of Malheur county, controlled by small stockmen. I have not the figures by me, but if you will publish them they will bear out what I say."

"As to the bloodshed of which Mr. Lusk makes such a point, he speaks merely from hearsay, for we have nothing of that kind in his section. Some years ago when the sheep and cattle war was at its worst, the papers were filled with the doings of one particular band of sheep, the owner, the herder and several cowboys were killed, and Snow mountain ran red with the blood of slaughtered sheep. The sheep were headed for Malheur county, and I being stock inspector at the time, with considerable interest went to meet the noted band at the county line. The tip owner (a Portuguese) was a very healthy looking corpse, the herder (a cripple) had been with the band since they started, and looked none the worse for his trip; some half a dozen sheep showed the effects of bullet wounds, and eight had been killed. Now if the worst case on record has for a foundation \$10 worth of sheep killed, what must the minor ones be? This was the only band reaching here in the three years I was inspector which had had any trouble, and I firmly believe that had they not been owned by a Portuguese and herded by a cripple, they, too, would have come through unharmed."

"If the leasing system is so good for Oregon, why does not Mr. Lusk get some corroboration from his own state, instead of going to the Antipods for it, and if it is the unmerited blessing for Australia Mr. Lusk would have us believe, why have the sheep decreased 34,000,000 in nine years, as shown in June Crop Reporter? And it was most unkind of the Oregonian to follow Mr. Lusk's letter with the Carpenter articles, with their accounts of sheep farms as large as the New England States. That wasn't what Mr. Lusk wanted to prove at all."

"Many people cry over the ruined range. They should remember that the famous grass lands of 20 years ago are the famous wheat fields of today, and that the stock industry is now crowded back into the rimrocks, the sage brush and the deserts. We do not pretend that the present system is perfect. We are simply doing our imperfect best on a very rough and rocky range. We understand perfectly that our range here is only temporary, that the horses we have built and the ranches we have made will pass into the hands of others, when we shall go our various ways and our place knows us no more; but the welfare of the state demands we should be succeeded by smaller farms and better methods, and not by a renewal of the conditions we are supplanting. I have no personal fight with the companies. I have always found them honorable on the range, and most courteous and hospitable on their ranches, but it would be infinitely better for the state if their large holdings were cut up into small farms, and it is a shame that anyone outside of the interested parties can be found advocating a system which would turn the greater portion of Southern Oregon into an outlying cow camp of a California cattle company."

"Mr. Lusk says that small stockmen will be fully protected, but what representation have we on the committee formed to draft the bill, and why the gentleman from Texas? There are no government lands in that state. And what most

THE HARNEY COUNTY FAIR

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 5.

List of Premiums by The Association For Live-Stock, Farm Produce, and Dairy Products, Art.

The following premiums are offered by the Burns, Harney County Fair Association for the Second Annual Fair to be held here September 30 to October 5:

DIVISION A—HORSES.
Draft stallion \$20.
Standard bred stallion, \$20.
Jackass, with colts of his get, \$20.
Mare and colt, draft, \$15; roadster, \$15.
Best double team, driving, \$10.
Best double team, draft, \$10.
Mules in harness, \$10.

DIVISION B—CATTLE.
Bull, two years or older, \$20.
Cow and calf, for beef, \$20; for milk, \$20.

DIVISION C—SHEEP.
Ram, one year or over, \$20.
Ewes, pen of three lambs, \$20.

DIVISION D—SWINE.
Boar, one year or over, \$10.
Boar under one year, \$7.50.
Brooding sow over one year and pigs, \$10; under one year, \$7.50.
Ten per cent entrance fee will be charged on all live stock entries.
Seventy per cent to first and 30 per cent to second.

DIVISION E—POULTRY.
Trio of Braunas \$2.50; second \$1.
Cochins \$2.50; second, \$1.
Hamburgs \$2.50; second, \$1.
Leghorns, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Dome-neckers, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Plymouth Rocks, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Pair turkeys, \$2.50; second, \$1.

DIVISION F—FARM PRODUCTS.
Display of sheaves of grain, all kinds, not less than 5 sheaves of each, \$5; second, \$1.
100 lbs barley, \$2.50; second, \$1.
100 lbs wheat, \$2.50; second, \$1.
100 lbs oats, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Display of alfalfa, \$2.50; second, \$1.

Timothy grass, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Natural meadow grass, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Corn, \$2.50; second, \$1.

DIVISION G—HORTICULTURE.
Display 1 bu apples, \$5; second certificate.
1 bu peaches, \$5; second, certificate.
1 bu pears \$5; second, certificate.
1 bu plums, \$2.50; second, certificate.

DIVISION H—GARDEN PRODUCE.
Bushel onions, \$2; second, \$1.
Turnips, \$2; second, \$1.
Beets, \$2; second, \$1.
Potatoes, \$2; second, \$1.
Tomatoes, \$2; second, \$1.
Cabbage, 1 doz heads, \$2; second, \$1.
Pumpkins, \$2; second, \$1.
Sugar corn, \$2; second, \$1.
Squash \$2; second, \$1.

Display of kohlrabi, carrot, kale, cauliflower, Mangel wurtzel, etc., \$2; second, \$1.

DIVISION I—DAIRY PRODUCTS.
Ten lbs butter, \$5; second, \$2.
Ten lbs cheese, \$5; second, \$2.

DIVISION J.
Display by Harney county merchants, \$20; 70 and 50 per cent.

DIVISION K—HANDICRAFT.
Neatest piece of mechanism in iron, \$3.50.
In brass, \$3.50.
In tin, \$3.50.
In wood, \$3.50.
In stone or brick, \$3.50.

DIVISION L—ART AND FANCY WORK.
Landscape painting in oil on canvass, \$2.50; second, \$1.
Marine painting in oil, \$2.50.
Portrait on canvass, \$2.50.
Largest display of portrait painting in oil on canvass, three specimens, \$5.
Largest and best display of portrait painting in oil by one person, \$5.
Best painting in water colors displayed by the artist, \$2.50.

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The Citizens Bank

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BURNS, OREGON.
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A General Banking Business Transacted.
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Fine Turbouts, Courteous Treatment, Hay and Grain Always Kept On Hand.
McCULLY & DOWNING, PROPS

Going to the Mountains?

Well, you will need one of those Outing Hammocks that take up so little room and are so servicable. And camp chairs too. When you return drop in and see our matting, linoleum, carpets, etc., also those fine couches we are now displaying. You might replace your old window shades. **The very thing for this weather.**
NOW KEEP COOL—A REFRIGERATOR YOU WANT.
Latest patterns in Wall Paper Designs, Building Paper.

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Now that the spring season is on us we naturally turn toward looking after our machinery and see what is needed for the season's work. We wish to announce at this time that we have Wagons, Buggies, Plows, Hay Rakes, Trains, Binders, etc., and are sole agents for DeWitt's. You should profit by this windy weather and buy a Windmill from us. Call and examine goods, get prices and terms. We can save you money.
Seer & Cummins

Harry C. Smith, Contractor and Builder

BURNS, - - - OREGON.
Draws plan, makes estimates, etc. Buildings put up within the amount of figures given in estimates. 100% Satisfaction guaranteed.
My Specialties are:
Brick Laying and Plastering.
Brick and lime always on hand at the yard. 120% Residence Hanley house.

(Continued on fourth page.)