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MORE ABOUT STOCK WAR

TROUBLE AGAIN REPORTED ON GRANT COUNTY RANGES.

Said That Another Big Band of Sheep Has Been Fired Into and Several Killed --Particulars are Scarce.

The Spokesman Review of Monday contains the news of another bloody episode which has taken place in Grant county's spectacular stock war. The scene of the last killing was on Murderer's creek, a remote and inaccessible district of the interior of John Day country. While particulars are meager, the story is that several head of sheep were killed by infuriated cattle men and residents of that section near where the slaughter occurred. It was, as usual, an outside sheepman who suffered this time. Reports vary as to the number slaughtered, one report is that several hundred were killed, while others say that only a few dozen died at the hands of the stock men who believe this is the only way of dealing with outside invasion.

Where the shooting occurred is many miles from any telephone or outside communication, and is many miles from any settlements and it will be several days, perhaps weeks, before the particulars will be obtainable.

Another story goes that while herders of William Mitchell were ranging a band in a district just invaded, a short distance over the Umatilla line on Camp creek, hidden men, supposed to have been settlers or stock men, fired several shots at the herders. None of the shots took effect, however, and it is thought the firing was done to intimidate the men in charge of the sheep. Then men struck camp with their band and no further violence was attempted.

The above are the only outbreaks in Grant county since the massacre of Baker's and Massey's flocks of sheep last month. Affairs are outwardly quiet again, but it is said a bitter under current is running and may break out at any time.

The range question of the interior is one of the most unique of the country. It is said that the resident cattle and sheepmen have decided to stop fighting among themselves and lay for the outsider. This will be a case of lion and lamb lying down together in order to catch the other fellow. In fact, it is said satisfactory agreement has already been reached and hereafter all efforts will be turned toward the non-resident who invades the country with hands of sheep.

Anyway, the situation does not grow any better from the outsider's standpoint. There is enough range in Grant county, it is said, for all of the resident stock if the other fellow can be kept out. This is the question that agitates. The public domain belongs to no man and the outsider argues he has as much right to it as the other fellow. If the resident stock men had full control of the range of their home counties they would be alright. There is grass and to spare to keep all the resident stock fat and in good condition, but frequently it is eaten off by the outside herds until the situation becomes serious and before fall there is little food for anything. This the resident stock men say, is what makes them angry.

The feeding was intensified this year because rains and bad weather made shearing late in Grant county, while most of the outside sheep men got their clip off before the bad weather came. Then the foreigners hurried their sheep into Grant county, while the home stock men were still ranging right around winter quarters. That gave the foreign stock man all the best of the range, both to eat off in the beginning and in choosing districts accessible to water and to other good range. The home stock man was indignant in consequence.

Grant county stock conditions are unique to a certain extent. There is nothing like them in Umatilla, Harney, Morrow or Gilliam. In Crook a similar state of affairs exist. There has been an equal amount of trouble with as much shooting this year as in Grant, East Oregonian.

Creating More Big Reserves.

The farce of setting apart six thousand miles of forest reserve in Oregon is announced without further comment from Washington.

Geological surveys, irrigation schemes, wagon road land grants, lieu land schemes and railroad land grant frauds all lurk behind the forest reserve swindle.

It is today the great breeding ground of civil service officialism—where the over production of college graduates are worked off on the people for life jobs.

In Oregon one corporation has taken 400,000 acres of the people's finest timber lands under the guise of forest reserve legislation.

The forest reserves are as European invention, a mild name for a game preserve on which to multiply officialism, with which the land is swarming in every direction.

Like the lice and frogs God sent as a plague to the Egyptians, the multiplication of officialism goes on.

What is worse, the public lands are stolen and sequestered from the thousands who need homes, and who would protect the forest against fires.

The Europeanization of America will not cease until the country is on the verge of a political revolution—if not over the verge.

Oregon is sowing the seed that will result in a bloody harvest all over this nation some day.—Eugene Guard.

Timber Cruisers Hurt.

The setting aside of the watershed of John Day, Powder, Grand Ronde and Burnt rivers as a forest reserve has completely demoralized the plans of the timber locators operating in those sections. The territory embraced in the reserve contains some of the finest belts of pine timber in the world and timber men here have realized for some time that the timber is worth millions.

The cruisers do not take kindly to the reserve proposition and see in it a complete ending of the large revenues they have been receiving from prospective timber locators. Many of them have already made snug sums and are still going ahead in the locating business, claiming that either there is no truth in the report of the reserve establishment or that the order has no bearing on the land they are locating.

As soon as the news was received by those in the section affected, that territory in question had been set aside there was much wailing and all who understood what such an order means have desisted from attempting any further locations.

Cruisers are going ahead just the same and it is possible that some unwary individuals will be found who are willing to pay a good sum for having a fine piece of timber land pointed out to them.—East Oregonian.

Rural Mails Hurt Trade.

The rural mail delivery was hailed with delight when it was first put in operation, but there promises to develop a lively opposition to its further extension. The country storekeeper declares that it is ruining his business and he is calling upon his congressman for redress.

Under the old postal regulations the farmer went to the village for his mail, and just so sure as he went he left some money with the merchant. Now he remains at home, never going to the village except in cases of necessity, enlisting the services of the mail carrier to do some little chores he desires.

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TO WATER OREGON DESERT

BIG IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR THE DESCHUTES VALLEY.

New Company Will be Organized With Large Capital to Take up Work of Oregon Irrigation Company.

Judge James A. Waymire, of San Francisco, and Benton Killin and C. C. Hutchinson, of this city, returned last evening from an inspection of the Deschutes valley with reference to its irrigation possibilities, says the Oregonian.

They spent 10 days driving over the country on the east side of the river from Agency Plains to the southern boundary of Crook county and away into the desert beyond Prineville. They examined sites for head works for irrigation ditches along the river, and made a reconnaissance of between 400,000 and 500,000 acres of land that would fall under the ditches to be constructed in pursuance of the project they have in mind.

Mr. Hutchinson is now president of Oregon Irrigation company, which has made pretty thorough survey of the Deschutes country and applied last fall for a contract with the state for the reclamation of about 160,000 acres. That application was found to be in conflict with one from the Pilot Butte Development Company, of which A. M. Drake is at the head. That company applied for a contract to irrigate 85,000 in the vicinity of the Bend. After a short delay the Oregon Irrigation Company withdrew its application and the other company got its contract. But there is yet considerable land in the Deschutes valley susceptible of irrigation that nobody has applied for. That, it is understood, is what Messrs Waymire, Killin and Hutchinson were examining.

Judge Waymire last night says it was the intention to organize a new company with much larger capital than the Oregon Irrigation Company has, and to proceed with reclamation works in accordance with the Carey law. This new company will succeed to all the rights and property of the Oregon Irrigation Company, and will take up the work where the old corporation now rests. This will give it a great advantage in the matter of time over any other company that may enter the field.

"Still, a work of this magnitude cannot be put through in a day," said Mr. Waymire, "and it will be two years before our main ditch will be completed and the land really opened to productive farming. But what a country that will be! It will support a denser population than Western Oregon will. The roll is strong and friable, and can be tilled at any season of the year. Absolutely the only thing lacking is water, and when we put water on the land there will be hardly a limit to its agricultural possibilities. It is a beautiful country, too, with an equable and invigorating climate and in full view of the snow-capped range to the westward. I regard it as offering the best opportunity today that can be found in the United States."

What the capitalization of the new company will be, or just the extent of land that will be reclaimed by it are details that have not yet been settled. Judge Waymire will leave this morning for the south, stopping over between trains at Salem to ascertain precisely the condition of the record of the present company and application. Then he will go to California, and he expects to return in two or three weeks to perfect arrangements for putting the new enterprise into the field. He has been extensively engaged in irrigation projects in California, his latest work having been in the construction of a system of irrigation ditches in Stanislaus county, in San Joaquin valley. He has a complete construction plant ready to bring to Oregon and set to work in the Deschutes valley.

Judge Waymire is an Oregon pioneer. He spent his early years,

and was admitted to the bar in Oregon. He removed to California in 1872, and has had an active career there. Of late years his activities have been chiefly in connection with irrigation matters, in their legal aspect and in practical construction and operation, and he is deemed well qualified for prosecuting that work in Oregon.

Work Horses Still High.

Ex-Sheriff Frazier has returned from Eastern Oregon with a carload of work horses purchased within the past few weeks, says the Telegram. He found horses scarce and high this trip, he says, as stockmen quit breeding in the dull time when the price of horses dropped. In this they made a mistake, Mr. Frazier thinks, as the lapse of several years in horse-breeding is now being felt when the growing industries of the country require more horses than ever before.

"A few years ago all the horses fit for cavalry use were bought up by agents of the American and English governments," Mr. Frazier said last evening, "and this left a scarcity of these. At present no one is buying cavalry horses, as all the wars are over, but I notice still how closely the animals were bought up in Eastern Oregon."

"The coming harvest will require all the work horses now east of the mountains, and the big farmers of Umatilla county are buying up horses instead of selling them. I had considerable difficulty in procuring what animals I did."

"The price of horses has advanced 50 per cent over that of five years ago, and the demand comes from the logging camps of Oregon and Washington, from the cities of Puget sound and from Alaska. Portland has become great headquarters for the sale of horses, and I am constantly receiving letters from people all over the Northwest who want to buy. Besides this, Portland herself uses a great many and the depletions must be kept up from year to year. I look for good prices for horses for several years to come."

"Horse raising is like everything else. When horses are high everyone tries to raise some, but when the price drops, breeding stops, when it should keep right on."

Unknown Body Found in Owyhee River.

Last Saturday Dr. Hoople was summoned to Owyhee to hold an inquest over the dead body of a man found just below the mouth of Dry creek in the Owyhee river, 40 or 50 miles distant from Vale. A preliminary examination was made by Dr. Hoople (coroner) and P. E. Phelps, but the body being so badly decomposed they failed to discover anything leading up to identification. The remains were taken from the river and buried pending a further examination, which will follow in a day or two. Dr. Hoople is of the opinion that the body has been in the river 6 or 7 months.

Some are of the opinion that the remains might be that of Alois B. Krause, or that of Hammond. Krause owns a homestead at Dry creek, and Hammond is mentioned as his partner. Mystery and suspicion seems to be the only ground on which to work.

At the camping place of Krause his coat and vest, two saddles and some bedding was found. His vest contained two silver dollars and a check book. Krause owns considerable property—a number of hogs and other property incident to ranch life. A span of horses and wagon have disappeared, as have also the two men. Some advance the theory that one of them was drowned while the other is working over in Harney county, where Krause is reported to have been a month ago. Hammond and Krause will possibly turn up all right. The body of the unfortunate may be that of some one who was drowned further up the river possibly in our next issue we will be able to give definite information.—Vale Gazette.

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