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The Times-Herald

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TO GET RID OF THE RABBITS

THEY LIKE SALT AND MAY BE POISONED WHOLESALE.

A Destructive Arrangement Devised by a Citizen of Haystack, Crook County --Little Danger With It.

Prineville Or., July 12.—For several years past what are known as blacktailed rabbits have made the life of the farmer anything but pleasant during the season of growing crops throughout the greater portion of this county. Many schemes have been devised for their destruction, but all have failed. Last winter there were a number of drives made near here, and a large numbers were destroyed, but no diminution of the rabbit forces was perceptible. Over in the Haystack country, where they have been the most destructive to crops, several hunting matches were pulled off this spring resulting in the death of more than 3000 of these pests, but there remain enough of them to be a serious menace to the ripening fields of grain in that section.

A large number of the residents of the northern part of the county have been seriously considering the advisability of petitioning the county court to place a bounty on the little pests, but this would not seriously retard the increasing hordes and would be a drain on the county finances. Therefore, for reasons of public economy, it is not to be thought of, and the matter of their extermination lies with the farmers themselves.

For some years past a number of the foremost farmers of the rabbit infested territory have been experimenting on different lines with the end in view of discovering a poison which would be effectual, but until quite recently they have been unsuccessful. Among others who have been prominent in this work is R. V. Jenkins, and from him is learned something of the operations of the rabbit-poisoners.

It is not generally known that rabbits are fond of salt, but such is the case, and therein lies the secret of their extermination. Throughout this county a numerous alkali "licks," where cattle and horses are wont to go and lick up the dust and incidentally get a quantity of alkali, which answers the purpose of salt in other countries. It was noticed that the rabbits were accustomed to use these licks the same as the horses and cattle, and from this fact it was reasoned that they would eat salt. An experiment was made with a small quantity and found successful; then the question arose as to what kind of poison could be infused into the salt that would prove the most destructive to the rabbits and which would be the least liable to detection by them. Some have used strychnine, but the most effective seems to be paris green, which is also very cheap. The method by which the rabbits are caught with this bait is to place a quantity near their runways, on a board or rock. The poison must first be pulverized very finely, and thoroughly mixed with the salt, which must be of the finest obtainable. If the poison is placed out in the evening one can go to the spot next morning and count the rabbits lying dead in all directions, and there is no end to them.

For the protection of domestic animals one may build a strong pen of barbed wire and then place the poisoned salt on a low platform of boards, or rocks, where it will not be absorbed by the soil. Then the danger of anything but a stray coyote, or an occasional hungry dog, getting poisoned is reduced to the minimum.

This method of exterminating these pests is so simple that a great many of the settlers are inclined to ridicule the idea, and it is slow of being adopted, but there is little doubt that it will come into universal use in the future, and will be a Godsend to all parts of the West where rabbits abound.

If the rates of the rabbits in Australia and other of the English colonies are identical with those of local denizens, it will be but a matter of time until they, too, will become a prey to the inventive genius of the American mind, and Oregon will score another victory in the battle of life.—Oregonian.

MAY SELECT OREGON FOR PROJECT.

State Likely to Get One of the First Irrigation Experiments.

A recent dispatch from Washington says: Chief Hydrographer Newell, of the geological survey left for an extended tour of the Western States, where he will co-operate with various field parties now making examinations of feasible sites for reservoirs under the new irrigation law. He will visit Eastern Oregon and Washington among other places. Under the policy to be followed of first building modest irrigation works, it is quite probable that a site in one of these two states will be selected for early construction, especially as Mr. Newell is of the opinion that the Oregon delegation did much to further the interests of the irrigation bill.

The common desire of members of congress from the Western states is that the secretary of the interior shall carry out the provisions of the new irrigation law with only such haste as is safe, and in such a way as to place the greatest area of reclaimed lands in the hands of settlers in the shortest time. It seems to be the prevalent belief that the best results will be obtained if the government first undertakes the construction of medium-sized irrigation projects, at a moderate cost, each in itself reclaiming a modest area of land, capable, under irrigation, of producing crops of the first order. Suggestions of this sort were made to the department by many senators and representatives just before they left Washington for the summer.

Secretary Hitchcock is not personally familiar with irrigation matters or with land matters generally. He is, therefore, obliged to depend largely upon the recommendations of his subordinates. The suggestions of Superintendent W. I. Cole, of the geological survey, and of Chief Hydrographer Newell are given every consideration. There is much data of a general character now available, but there are no reports of sufficient detail to warrant the secretary in adopting or rejecting the sites heretofore examined.

It is a rather remarkable thing that, in spite of the overwhelming demand of the West for irrigation, that western members of congress are not insisting that the first work shall be undertaken in any one state. They have so far deferred entirely to the judgment of Secretary Hitchcock, merely urging him not to undertake large and expensive projects at the outset. They say that the eyes of the East are now on the states to be benefited by the irrigation law, and the initial work begun and put in operation under that act will be watched throughout its course of construction. There is yet doubt in the minds of many that general irrigation by the government is a success, and to dispel this doubt Western members of congress are anxious that the first projects shall be all that is claimed for them.

There are other reasons, however, why medium projects are advocated. If works whose construction will cost in the neighborhood of $4000 or $5000 are begun, it will mean that 10 or 12 projects may be undertaken simultaneously. This will make it possible to begin one system each in a majority of the arid land states and to distribute the improvements in all sections of the West. It will enable the secretary to demonstrate that irrigation is a success alike in Arizona and in Oregon, in Montana and in Nevada, in states where private irrigation is now being carried on with success and in states where it is almost unknown.

RAILROADS AND IRRIGATION.

A charge has been put in circulation by certain Western members that the Great Northern and the

(Continued on second page.)

COST OF COYOTES TO OREGON

ANOTHER APPROPRIATION WILL BE ASKED FOR.

Appropriation of $50,000 Used up in Fourteen Months, With $18,000 in Claims on File.

A Salem dispatch to the Oregonia of July 12, says: The appropriation of $50,000 made by the last legislature for the payment of scalp bounties has been exhausted and additional claims aggregating $13,965 have been audited and allowed. Claims not yet audited have been filed with the secretary of the state to the amount of $4400. This makes a total of $68,365 of scalp bounty claims presented to the secretary of state under the law passed in 1901. That act took effect March 1, 1901, and provided that the several counties should pay the scalp bounties in the first instance, and then be reimbursed by the state to the amount of two-thirds of the payments made. The claims thus far filed represent the scalps taken up to about June 1, 1902, or about 14 months after the law became effective. The scalp bounty expense under the new law has therefore been about $4883 per month, and and in two years will run up to $117,197. The bounty law of 1899 cost the state about $120,000, so that the total for four years will be about $227,197. There is no apparent diminution in the in the supply of scalps.

ONLY AMOUNT PAID BY STATE.

The sum last mentioned is only the amount that will be paid out by the state. Under the new law, the counties pay one-third of the bounties, so that at the rate claims have been filed in the office of the secretary of state, the counties will pay out under the new law in the neighborhood of $58,000, bringing the total expense up to $295,197. At $2 each, this expenditure will indicate the killing of 147,598 coyotes.

The act of 1901 provided for the payment of the bounties did not place any limit on the expenditure for this purpose. An appropriation of $50,000 was made for the purpose of paying the claims, but no provision was made that the state should not be liable for the payment of a greater amount. Another act was passed making it the duty of the secretary of the state to audit and allow all claims presented, but to issue certificates of allowance instead of warrants in all cases where the expense was authorized but the appropriation had been exhausted. The appropriation was exhausted on May 19, and since that date the counties claiming reimbursement have received certificates showing that their claims have been allowed for the sum stated. The difference between the warrants and the certificates of allowance is that the latter do not draw interest.

ANOTHER APPROPRIATION DESIRED.

Friends of the scalp bounty law will ask the next legislature to appropriate some $67,000 to pay the deficiency in the scalp bounty account. Judging by the readiness of the last legislature to pay up the previous deficiency, it may be expected that the appropriation will be made. In the present instance, however, the circumstances will be very different from what they were two years ago. Under the new law, warrants were issued to the bounty claimants, and were transferred by them to storekeepers in payment of grocery bills, or sold to warrant speculators. In the present instance, the claims against the state will be held by the counties within which the coyotes have been killed. The legislature may take the view that the counties that have made the payments received the benefits, and that it is fair all around if they are left to bear the whole of the expense.

NOT CERTAIN OF REIMBURSEMENT.

The counties paying bounty claims now to do so without any certainty of reimbursement. According to the news dispatches today Lane County has refused to pay any more bounty claims, evidently preferring not to take chances on legislative reimbursement. Should the Eastern Oregon counties take the same course the total expense for bounties will be correspondingly less at the end of the four years of the scalp bounty experiment.

MAY MEAN A NEW RAILROAD.

A special to the Evening Telegram, from Eugene, says: J. A. Straight, who has been in this county for several weeks in company with James Archibald, an attorney from Scranton, Pa., and A. E. Fitch a civil engineer from Cassanova, N. Y., started for the East, and it is said he goes on business connected with a railroad project of considerable importance.

The report is that these three men have been looking into the feasibility of a railroad to cross through Eastern Oregon, coming over the Cascades by the way of McKinzie pass, and from here to the coast, probably Florence. The three men have been up the McKinzie as far as the bridge, and it is said they have been both examining the lay of the land for the location of a road and also looking into the matter of obtaining the right of way for the same. At Florence it is reported they have secured an option on land valued at $15,000 or $20,000, suitable for terminal grounds.

These men are said to be here at the instigation of the Gould railroad interests, who are seeking a connection from Salt Lake by the most feasible route to the coast. The same people have been negotiating for a route to cross through Southeastern Oregon across the Middle Fork pass, and on to Coos bay. This is on the course of the old military wagon road, the land grant of which was recently purchased by the Booth-Kelley company.

B. J. Pengra, who has been a principal character in the military road transactions, and also been in correspondence in regard to the railroad proposition, is now in Eastern Oregon with R. A. Booth inspecting the lands recently transferred. Before his departure he expressed himself as confident a road would be built across Eastern Oregon, and indicated the Middle Fork route as being certainly the one to be followed.

Now it is said there are some objections to this route, and these gentlemen have been here in the interest of the same parties to learn if the McKenzie route offers any greater advantages. They will not talk on the matter, but the points are gleaned by their actions and their general conversation, which gives the general belief that they are looking for the best route and that the people they are representing are intending to build through the southeastern part of the state and from the to the coast.

New Species Of Fish.

Editor Watson, of the Prairie City Miner, writes a letter to Master Fish Warden Van Dusen, asking the appointment of J. B. McIntire as special deputy for Strawberry Lake, at the head waters of the John Day river, in Eastern Oregon. This is asked for the protection of a new specie of fish called trout by Editor Watson and the people of that region.

The deputy is to be paid by voluntary contributions of the neighbors. They want to prevent the fishermen from putting dams and traps in the streams above the lake in the spawning season of July, which trapping is destroying this valuable fish. He sends a pencil sketch of this new sort of fish.

Estray Notice.

One sorrel horse, between 8 and 9 years old, weight about 1100 lbs. branded with a blotted H H or H N, is now in my field and has been there for some time. He is well broke and very gentle. The owner can have same by proving property and paying bill.

M. V. Baker.