

The Times-Herald.

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, MARCH 26, 1904.

NO. 18.

THE PUBLIC LAND

small stockmen, and the prospective settler and would unquestionably lead to much friction and trouble in the segregation of lands for government or private irrigation purposes. Best first stop the land leaks under the present laws by which the public lands are now being absorbed at the rate of 25 million acres a year, and then hold each acre in absolute government title until it is ready to be settled upon by a man who will build a home upon it. This will not curb the true development of the west in the least, if it does curtail that class which is now going on at a much too rapid rate for the good of the country's future.—Ontario Democrat.

STRANGE DISEASE KILLS CATTLE.

Reports say it is Dropsy, But Veterinarian says it is Not.

Reports from the Hudson Bay district say that Harold Goodman has lost 16 head of yearling calves, with a disease which has been pronounced to be dropsy by Walla Walla veterinarians, says the East Oregonian.

The calves swell up under the breast and in the legs and die in a few days after first becoming afflicted with the disease. From its ravages among Mr Goodman's cattle it is thought that the disease must be contagious, but Dr. J. Christie, of this city, deputy state inspector, and a member of the state veterinary board, says that dropsy is not contagious, and that this disease is not dropsy, from the report he has heard of it.

Dr. Christie expects to visit the herd immediately, and ascertain the true nature of the disease, and take steps to prevent its spread.

While the other herds in that vicinity have not suffered from this disease, it is evident that it is not highly contagious and Dr. Christie does not anticipate anything serious from it.

Stock in Umatilla county are in excellent condition this spring, from the standpoint of health and flesh, and with the exception of a few slight cases of mange, there is no disease of any kind existing in the county.

SWALLOWED A NEEDLE.

The small child of G. M. Irvin of Dayville, was brought to town Monday to have some foreign substance removed from its breast. The parents of the child were of the opinion that the something was a needle, though at a loss to account for it's being there. The next morning Dr. Fell made an examination and decided that a needle it was. He made an incision, and removed a needle about an inch and a half in length from the child's breast. The needle had corroded until it was as black as ebony, but strange to relate no evil effects had been observed from its presence. Its position was near the skin and it was lying laterally along the chest. The mother supposes that the child was playing on the carpet when the little fellow found and swallowed the needle.—Grant County News.

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GRADING THEIR CATTLE UP

COL. WOOD SAYS WESTERN HERDS ARE IMPROVING.

Wade Herd One of the Best Collections Ever Brought Together in Northwest—Effect Will be Felt.

Col. F. M. Woods of Lincoln, Nebraska, who had charge of the sale of the Wade cattle left this morning for the east where he has a number of cattle sales to attend, says the East Oregonian.

Col. Wood is one of the best informed men in the United States on the subject of blooded cattle and makes a business of selling fine cattle. He has a circuit mapped out which it will take some time to travel around and in that time many herds of the best stock in the land will have changed hands.

Mr. Woods in speaking of the Wade cattle was enthusiastic in his praise and spoke good words for each number of the band. He said that it was seldom that such a number of fine cattle were found together in one place, and while the prices that were paid were fair they were not what the Colonel would like to have seen paid for the herd.

The stockmen of the western country, in the estimation of Mr. Woods, have not as yet come to realize the value and the usefulness of good cattle.

It has been but a short time since thousands of cattle roamed over the western hills. Little effort was made to grade up the cattle and all that was thought necessary was to put a little fat on them when it came time to ship them to the market. The large numbers did away with the necessity of a higher grade.

This time is now past. Farms are taking the place of big ranges and the herds have no place to run. The cattle men are beginning to see as never before, the necessity of putting the best blood into their cattle and the sales of Saturday will have much to do with the increased standard of the Eastern Oregon cattle and the herds of the northwest. The time of the range cattle is passed and the blooded herds will soon be the rule rather than the exception.

In the east and the middle west the same gradation has been gone through. First the cattle were held for their numbers and not for their blood. Now it is the blood that counts. The small farm has raised the grade until now nearly every man who owns one cow knows that she has some illustrious ancestor. It is the quality that is sought after and not the quantity. While there are scrub cattle scattered among the farmers it is the tendency to get the best.

This condition will come, in fact it has come for there are some fine cattle through the west as can be found in the United States. But the day is here when everyone who owns cattle will try to have the best of whatever breed. Under those conditions each owner can realize a neat profit from a few cattle where in the past, it took thousands of acres and a steer on each one to make the margin good.

SEEKING IRRIGATED LANDS.

Irrigation in the West is manifestly on the up-trend.

The first boom in building large irrigation works at the West was at its height 15 years ago. The investment was then very popular and Eastern and foreign money readily responded to the call of the promoters. With only a few exceptions every Western state and territory received the benefits of this expenditure.

But this development proved disappointing on the side of colonization. It was found that arid land, worthless water, was still without practical value after the water had been provided unless there was a man there to till the soil. And this man did not come in sufficient numbers.

As an investment, irrigation lapsed into unpopularity and the active campaign of reclamation by

means of private enterprise came to an end. Since then two things have happened.

The tide of settlement has caught up with irrigation. There is now but little virgin soil open to the homeseeker except in the valleys of the arid region. Furthermore, the people have become educated as to the merits of the irrigated farm. They understand what it means to have their crops insured by the ditch. They appreciate the advantages of self-sufficiency and of near neighbors offered by the small, diversified irrigated farm. So they are moving into all the places prepared for them by the enterprise of other years.

California is getting many of them. But just how many will not be known until another census is taken. The railroads report that they brought 350,000 people to California during 1903, of whom only 90,000 had return tickets.

One hopeful report comes from the newly-reclaimed desert in the eastern part of San Diego county. On January 1, 1901, there was not a single white man in the neighborhood. On January 1, 1902, there was only a camp of a dozen surveyors. January 1, 1903, saw a population of about 2,000, while January 1, 1904, finds about 6,000 on the ground. They are still coming very rapidly and another year is likely to disclose an even larger gain.

The beautiful Yakima Valley in Eastern Washington is witnessing a similar growth. Indeed, this holds true of many parts of the Pacific Northwest drained by the Columbia river and its tributaries, including Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho.

The Rocky mountain states are finding a strong demand for their irrigated lands. Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico are gaining recruits very rapidly. And perhaps, more encouraging than anything else is the activity of settlement in the long-neglected state of Nevada. Railroad and mining development have much to do with it, but Nevada is also the beneficiary of the general movement of population to irrigated lands.

The lesson of all this is that the inauguration of the new national irrigation policy is well timed and that the duty of saving the public lands for actual settlers presses urgently upon congress. It can no longer be claimed that the people do not crave homes in the West. They are clamoring at the doors of this great empire and every acre that the government shall reclaim will be promptly taken by those who are ready to cultivate the soil in good faith.

If we have needed the speculator in past as sort of an advance agent of prosperity we need him no longer. The land laws under which he has grown rich should be repealed and a true homestead law put in place of them, so that no one except the actual settler can get possession of this public property.—William E. Smythe.

Studebaker Wagons, Hacks, Carriages, Buggies and Buckboards are arriving now and selling as fast as we can get them in. We have two car loads of these goods here and in trains. The best stock of Wagons and Vehicles ever brought to Burns. Call and look at goods even if you do not desire to buy at the present time. Geet & Cummins.

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WILL BUY HORSES IN OREGON

JAPAN WANTS TO SECURE HORSES FOR THE ARMY.

Other Northwestern Territory will be Drawn Upon to Provide 1000 Animals per Month—Price no Object.

A recent special to the Oregonian from Vancouver, B. C., says: Ten thousand horses for the Japanese army will be purchased within the next few months in Eastern Oregon and Washington, The contract for the supply of these remounts has been awarded to Dr. Armstrong of Nelson, B. C. through the Consulate in this city. The agreement specifies that 1000 animals per month be delivered, and this will make ten months before its expiration. The price is not mentioned, but it is needless to state the quality of the horses will be of the best; in fact, the announcement has been made here that none other will be accepted. Some of the horses will be procured from the ranches near Kamloops, B. C., and other points in the interior of the province, but by far the greater majority will be purchased from the breeders in Eastern Oregon and Washington, where the strain is better, and where good horses have been bred with great care for many years past.

Packing Houses Coming.

Monte B. Gwinn, secretary of the Idaho Woolgrowers' Association, and a director of the Independent Packing Company, who visited his brother, J. H. Gwinn in this city, several days this week, says of the prospects of the Independent Packing Company' to the Oregon Daily Journal:

"Within 60 days we expect to be in a position to state just what, where and when we will begin operations," said Monte B. Gwinn of Boise, secretary of the Idaho Woolgrowers' Association, and one of the promoters of the independent packing concern. Mr. Gwinn, accompanied by A. R. Steunenberg of Caldwell, a prominent banker, arrived in Portland last night. He will be in Portland two or three days.

Continuing in regard to the packing house, Mr. Gwinn said: "Every one is busy at work with his coat off and there is no doubt but that we will make the proposition go. Just as soon as we see where we are and show the people we can do the business, the money will roll in. The independent Packing Company cannot help but be a success."

Kansas City is looked upon as the base of operations, and it is presumed that the Missouri town will be the site of the main packing plant. Mr. Gwinn, in speaking of Portland's chances of securing one of the branch packing houses, said: "Personally, I favor Portland, and will give it all the support I can, but just what will be done depends largely upon circumstances."

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