

### MUST WATCH THE GRABBERS

ORIGINS SHOULD GUARD WELL HER WATER RIGHTS.

Needs a Strong Code, Says Expert Elwood Mead, Who is in Portland to Meet Irrigation Committee.

Oregon should have a law defining water rights and water titles and preventing the monopolizing of her water powers by private interests.

As the state grows and develops her water power will become one of the most important resources in the state, and action looking to the conserving of these invaluable sources of wealth should not be delayed.

Title to water rights should be certain and just as definite as the law admits of title to land.

The people of Oregon should be warned in time, for capital is interested in this state, and it is only a question of time, unless preventive legislation is enacted, that the vast water powers of the state will be grabbed up by private monopoly.

The waters of the state of right belong to the whole people, and the right to use the waters for power and commercial purposes is nothing more than a franchise, and should be regulated as such.

These are some of the suggestions of Elwood Mead, of Washington, D. C., chief of the irrigation and drainage investigations being conducted by the Department of Agriculture, who is in Portland to appear before a committee appointed by the Portland Board of Trade to draft a water code for Oregon, says the Telegram.

The people at present do not appreciate the value of the water power of the state," said Mr. Mead this morning. "The supply is so vast that it would seem to be sufficient forever, and vast enough to afford room for all, and yet who would have dreamed a few years ago that today 98 per cent of the anthracite coal fields east of the Mississippi River would be controlled by one company?"

The point is that the people of Oregon should take warning early and prevent their valuable water rights from falling into the hands of private interests, which would in time absolutely control the water power of the entire state.

As the state increases in wealth and population the water power will become more and more an important asset as a resource for transportation power and in manufacturing."

Mr. Mead says that in his opinion the waters of the state belong to the people as a whole that the right to use water power for commercial purposes is a franchise, and should be treated as such. He would allow the state to grant franchises for its use by private concerns, but would guard against such grants being perpetual and being given without compensation to the state in time.

"One of the main things to be accomplished by legislation is the enactment of a water code that will establish title to water, just as definitely as laws at present prescribe the method of acquiring title to land," said Mr. Mead. "Until this is done there will be no end of litigation and court made rules, that are certain to be unsatisfactory. The whole proposition must be reduced to the basis of an administrative one, and I should favor the creation of a commission to act with the State Engineer as a board of water control, to settle disputes and decide questions arising under the water code."

Mr. Mead is interested in seeing the next Legislature make an appropriation to enable expert irrigation men to instruct farmers regarding the use of water for irrigation purposes. Most people Mr. Mead says, know nothing of the practical uses of water in irrigating, and he believes that much more than the amounts expended would be saved by having a man in each irrigation district to instruct the farmers on the right way to irrigate.

The committee before which Mr. Mead and others will appear at the meeting is composed of the following members: G. W. Allen, chairman; Will R. King, of Ontario; J. W. Perkins, of Medford; R. R. Johnson, of Echo; J. H. Lewis, of Salem.

In addition to these, there is an advisory committee consisting of Stephen A. Lowell, of Pendleton; Nathan Winkler, of The Dalles; J. N. Hart, of Baker City; Frank

T. Griffith, of Oregon City; W. M. Gregory and J. G. Kelley, of Portland.

### Institute Postponed

School Supt. Rigby writes The Times-Herald that the local institute scheduled for today in this city, had been postponed until a later date. This was determined upon after a consultation with the teachers of the public schools and high school.

It is the desire of Supt. Rigby to get as large an attendance of both teachers and parents as possible, and as every one is now busy preparing for the holidays it was considered best to wait on that account. Another good reason for its postponement is that Supt. Churchill, of Baker City, has signified his willingness to be present and assist in this institute, but found it impossible to come until after the holidays.

The superintendent was assisted by both Rev. Irwin and Rev. Minaker in a local institute at Drewsey last Saturday. The attendance was not large owing to the fact that the people did not understand that the institute was for the benefit of the patrons as well as the teachers.

The date of the local institute here should be announced before hand in order that those interested in educational affairs may make arrangements to attend.

### Hart Discusses Railroad Evils

A Baker City dispatch to the Telegram, says: "If a Railroad Commission is established in Oregon, made up of the right men and clothed with sufficient power to regulate conditions prevailing here, I see no reason why it would not prove a good thing," said Senator J. N. Hart, who represents Baker, Malheur and Harney counties in the state assembly. Senator Hart refused to commit himself to the proposition of a commission, saying that there were two remedies for the existing railroad evils, the establishment of a commission and direct legislation, but he appears to lean toward the former if taken up along certain lines.

Senator Hart says the railroads are abusing their privileges in Oregon, and that some kind of regulation must be provided by the coming legislature. He says the fuel famine, the closing of the Eastern Oregon lumber mills and the injury to the stock and grain interests by the shortage of cars all point to the necessity of providing some relief. This relief, he is inclined to believe, will be found in a state commission if it is established under proper conditions.

### Oregon Eastern to be Bullied

Mandates of the circuit court of appeals have been received at the United States Attorney's office affirming the decision of the lower court in three cases brought by the Government against the Oregon & California Railway Company, involving the rights of settlers to homestead claims in Oregon.

The lands involved are included within railroad grants to the old Oregon Central Railway Company, which later became the Oregon & California. The Government alleged that the company was in possession of patents erroneously issued on the ground that the rights of settlers to the land had intervened.

The law provides that settlers residing on unsurveyed land, as was the case in the present instant, shall be allowed 90 days from the time of survey, in which to file homestead applications.

It was alleged in the suit brought that the railroad had gone ahead and made selections within its grant to which patents had been issued, before the 90 days had expired, and that the patents issued were in several instances in conflict with the prior rights of settlers.

Action was then brought to cancel the patents, and the lower court found for the settlers. The railroad company appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals and that tribunal affirmed the rights of the settlers.

Aody Hunter arrived in Bend last Friday and has been spending the week at the home of his brother, Joe Hunter. He brought with him a load of apples from Hood River—40 boxes—and found a ready market for them.—Bulletin.

Job printing—The Times-Herald

### MUST GET CLOSER TOGETHER

A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT WORKS A HARDSHIP.

The Retailer and Consumer Should Make a Change in Business Methods for Their Mutual Benefit.

If home people would take more interest in the general upbuilding of local institutions, encouraging new and legitimate enterprises and work together in all matters pertaining to the public good, the betterment of society or the development of the country, we would all be better off. We should take a lively interest in the general affairs of our community and county and be broad enough to give the other fellow a respectful consideration. We should bear in mind the fact that none of us are big enough to stand alone—we need the good will and support of our neighbor if we would prosper.

Loyalty to home is commendable and should be practiced by every people in every walk of life. Local institutions should be given the preference in every instance. What if it does cost you more to buy from the home merchant? Isn't he entitled to a profit? Doesn't he buy your produce, help to maintain the schools, churches, city and county government? Doesn't he extend you credit for months and months? Does the average individual stop to think how much capital the merchant in the interior has invested, that he has to order his goods from six to ten months ahead of the season and that the whole sale houses must have their money within sixty days at the longest? Is it right, then, to take your cash and go elsewhere after receiving accommodations at home?

People should also bear in mind that the business men of the home town are constantly working for the advancement of the country; not a move is made to bring about better conditions, not one public enterprise is launched for the benefit of the community in general, but that the business men of the home town are at the head of it and see it through at their personal expense. They are continually contributing toward charity in one way or another, they are ever watchful of the interests of their customers, assist in the disposition of their stock, wool or other products and are always pleased to see the general public prosper.

What if it comes to a proposition of the home business man refusing credit at all and demanding cash with every order the same as outside concerns? Wouldn't he be justified under certain conditions? If he got the cash for every sale he made he could sell on a smaller margin but he would still have to make a profit and continue to have a big amount invested in an isolated section like the Harney country where it is impossible to get goods in during the winter months.

On the other hand, Mr. Merchant, are you in no way to blame for this state of affairs? Are you confining yourself to a strictly legitimate profit? Aren't you a little inclined to "gouge" on some things? Could you show any reasonable man that if he took into consideration his time and expense of going to railroad points for supplies you could duplicate his order for the same money? If your customer paid the cash for every purchase would you make a price that would justify his borrowing the money at 8 per cent for that purpose?

Let's be honest about this matter and find where the fault lies. The Times-Herald really desires to help home institutions and also desires that the consumer be treated fairly. There is something wrong with this or such a condition would not exist. We cannot help the merchant unless he helps himself. If The Times-Herald makes the assertion that one of its advertisers can duplicate outside prices with freight added, it wants that merchant to "make good," otherwise it can do very little to help him and each advertising is a detriment rather than a benefit. It takes business methods to induce people to buy from the home merchant—it is not a matter of sentiment—it must be shown as a business proposition.

### Claims of Settlers Upheld on Appeal

A press dispatch says: Mason, Davis & Company, of Portland, contractors of the first unit of the Klamath project, have secured the

first big contract on the Klamath Falls end of the Oregon Eastern Railroad, said to be for a stretch of 100 miles. Archie Mason, who has had personal direction of the work is now on the way to Portland to confer with his partners and officials of the railroad. It is stated, on what is apparently authentic information, and arrangements are being made for a vigorous winter campaign.

Awarding of the contract is evident that the intention of the management of the Harriman system is to complete the entire line from Natron to Klamath Falls during 1907, and make the thorough route by way of Weed a realization as soon as the line is finished to Klamath Falls, which will be about August.

The contract was given to the Portland firm some time since, but it has not been made public for reasons satisfactory to the railroad officials. Plans for labor are well formulated. Large quantities of forage have been purchased in order to keep stock now on the canal at work through the winter in this vicinity, and if the weather is favorable much progress may be made. Considerable stone work is to be done and will be let to contractors, it is understood.

### May Form Wool Pool.

American Stockman. There is a growing possibility that the flockmasters of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana may join hands and form a pool to dispose of their wool clips in an effort to cut out the middleman and obtain the full market value of the produce. Wyoming and Idaho have already agreed to consolidate their interests as soon as a feasible plan is proposed. At the annual meeting of the Wyoming association, which will be held on January 15 and 16, the matter will be discussed at length. Delegates from Idaho and Montana associations will attend this convention, and in all probability something will be decided upon. These are the largest wool producing states in the Union, Montana being first with about 36,000,000 pounds, Wyoming second with approximately 33,000,000 pounds, and Idaho third with about 24,000,000.

A combination of these three states and the pooling of approximately 93,000,000 pounds of wool would create a sensation in the wool market. If this enormous tonnage of wool should be stored for a season, and such a thing is not only possible but probable, the results would be far reaching. It would unquestionably mark the end of combinations among the buyers, for a time at least. The wool growers of the three states are financially able to carry out an arrangement of this kind, and they are already in the mood. Where there is a will there is a way, and it would not be surprising to see the above deal go through.

### Made Happy for Life.

Great happiness came into the home of S. C. Blair, school superintendent, at St. Albans, W. Va., when the little daughter was restored from the dreadful complaint he names. "He says: 'My little daughter had St. Vitus' Dance, which yielded to no treatment but grew steadily worse until as a last resort we tried Electric Bitters; and I rejoice to say, three bottles effected a complete cure.' Quick sure cure for nervous complaints, general debility, female weaknesses, impoverished blood and malaria. Guaranteed by City Drug Store Price 50c.

### NO TRESPASSING.

Hunting is forbidden upon my premises. Trespassers will be prosecuted.

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### A Year of Blood

The year 1903 will long be remembered in the home of F. N. Tackett, of Alliance, Ky., as a year of blood; which flowed so copiously from Mr. Tackett's lungs that death seemed very near. He writes: "Severe bleeding from the lungs and a frightful cough had brought me at death's door, when I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, with the astonishing result that after taking four bottles I was completely restored and as time has proven permanently cured." Guaranteed for sore lungs, coughs and colds, at City Drug Store. Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

### WEST IS TOO OVERCROWDED

IDAHO SHEEPMEN PLAN TO GO TO VERMONT STATE

Movement On Foot to Ship Ten Thousand Sheep in New Pastures—Gone to Investigate Conditions.

The Salt Lake Evening Telegram says that the transportation of sheep from the overcrowded regions of the west to the sparsely settled tracts of the New England states, is a rather unexpected contingency in American history, but if the plans contemplated by a prominent sheepman of Soda Springs, Idaho, are carried out, we will be confronted with the unique situation of a westerner leading a pioneer movement to settle a portion of the east.

A substantial sheepman of Soda Springs, who is afraid that the overcrowded condition of the western ranges will soon ruin his business, is now casting "sheep's eyes" toward the wilds of Vermont for better pastures. He hopes by transporting his 10,000 sheep across the continent to escape the intense competition of the western business and to find a roomy country and peaceful condition within a few hundred miles of Boston and New York.

The promoter of the scheme passed through Salt Lake yesterday on his way to Vermont, where he is negotiating for the purchase of several thousand acres of land. If the deal is successful it will witness the strange spectacle of 10,000 western sheep seeking eastern range.

The immediate cause of this unusual project is the representations to the Idaho man by letter from his brother in Vermont of a peculiar condition that has arisen in the Green Mountain state within the last few decades. It is the desertion of the farm life by the young Vermonters for the busy, bustling life of the manufacturing centers. In other words, farm life is "too slow" for the young New Englanders and the farm tracts have been abandoned to the wilderness. The Vermont brother writes that former rich cultivated areas have become grass and bramble grown and that the forest is crowding back civilization and bringing back days suggestive of the times of Ethan Allen and Ticonderoga. He describes the deserted tracts as presenting ideal conditions for sheep, so that a sturdy citizen of the West finds himself pioneering a movement which can end in nothing less than the rescue of a portion of the East from the encroachment of the forest.

"Good grazing and hay lands," said the Idaho man yesterday, "can be bought in Vermont for the astonishing low figure of \$3.50 per acre. That is what I am offered 2,000 acres for, and after examining it, if I am satisfied with it, I think a deal will be made. No such offer as that for first-class pasture and hay lands are made anywhere. Conditions are too overcrowded for any such offers as that to lie long anywhere out of doors. On the other hand, according to my brother, offers of this kind are begging for takers all over rural Vermont."

### Measure Water in Northwest

A Washington press dispatch of last Monday, says:

The results of stream gauging work carried on in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho last year, by the hydrographical branch of the United States geological survey, have been made public.

The hydrographic work of the survey includes the collection of facts concerning the study of conditions affecting the behavior of water from the time it reaches the earth as rain or snow until it joins the ocean or the great navigable rivers. Gauging stations are maintained on important streams in all sections of the country at which daily readings of the height of the water on the gauge are taken and

recorded by local observers and current meter measurements are used for the computation of daily and monthly discharge of the stream and the results are published by the survey. The data have great value to engineers, by whom they are used in the computation of available horsepower, supplies for irrigation, etc. to cities or towns who may desire to use the streams as a source of supply for public water systems and to all communities interested in the industrial development of their natural resources as reliable information concerning the amount of water available cannot be obtained from any other source.

The surface drainage of Idaho, Washington and Oregon is accomplished chiefly by the Columbia river and its tributaries, though a few of the streams of eastern Oregon and southeastern Idaho discharge into the lakes of the great basin, and a western Oregon and Washington a number of streams of minor importance empty directly into the Pacific ocean. A knowledge of the flow of these streams is most necessary to the industrial development of the region.

The report shows the rivers of the three states in question to be in a most satisfactory condition. No falling off anywhere has been recorded. This remarkable condition of affairs is credited to the unusual heavy precipitation during the year.

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The Rev. Ira R. Hicks 1907 Almanac.

The Rev. Ira R. Hicks has been compelled by the popular demand to resume the publication of his well known Almanac for 1907. This splendid Almanac is now ready. For sale by newsdealers, or sent postpaid for 25 cents by Word and Works Publishing Company, 2201 Locust Street, St. Louis Mo., publishers of Word and Works, one of the best dollar magazines in America. One Almanac goes with every subscription.

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