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The Great Harney Country  
Covers an area of 6,428,800 acres of  
land, 4,694,061 acres yet vacant subject  
to entry under the public land laws of  
the United States.

VOL. XXII

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, JUNE 19, 1909

NO. 31

## WILL LAY CORNER STONE

### Odd Fellow Building Ceremony to be Held on Morning July 4

## THE GRAND MASTER TO PRESIDE

### Red Letter Day in History of Harney Lodge, No. 77 and Sylvia R. D. Lodge, No. 43--Invitations Sent to Neighbor Organizations to Participate--Program Not Yet Arranged.

H. E. Coolidge, Grand Master of the I. O. F. of Oregon will preside at the laying of the corner stone of the new Odd Fellow building in this city on July 4. Both Harney Lodge and Sylvia R. D. Lodge have sent invitations to neighbor lodges asking them to join in the ceremony and it is probable a large delegation of Odd Fellows will be present.

The ceremony is of particular interest to fraternal organizations and means the beginning of a new era for Harney Lodge that has long been desired by the membership. It is a most worthy undertaking and the building when completed will be a credit to the city and to the little city of Burns. It will be well constructed of stone, the foundation being the best ever constructed for a building here and capable of holding a four story building. The building will be but two stories at present and the first floor will be used for stores with plate glass fronts.

The program for the corner laying has not yet been completely outlined. Coming, as it does, on our National birthday may take on a more or less patriotic character than otherwise. Arrangements will await the word from the Grand Lodge office.

It is hoped to have every Odd Fellow in Harney county present and all are urged to come to Burns on that date as it will form a part of the celebration and arranged so as to not conflict with any other entertainment that may be scheduled for that day. The Grand Master will pay Harney Lodge an official visit while here to which all Odd Fellows in good standing are particularly invited.

More will be said of this matter next week.

## SUMMARY OF LATE SCHOOL LAWS

School Supt. Hamilton is very anxious that school patrons should become familiar with the changes in new educational acts passed during the last legislature and at his request we publish below a summary of those acts that all may know of what they are. Too little known of these laws and since distribution of school laws is limited in each district and they have an opportunity to see the following will be of considerable interest to those interested in educational work:

First, the Hawley act: Every district in the state must maintain at least six months of school a year. The county court of Harney county must levy a tax for all purposes, that will produce an amount which will aggregate at least \$7 for each child of school age (4 to 20 years). If a district's share of this sum does not amount to \$300 then the county court must levy upon the property of such district a special charge enough to produce the balance between such district and \$300, provided that such levy does not exceed a mill tax. If the district's share of the county school fund is less than the amount raised by a five-cent special school tax does not amount to \$300, then the county court must transfer from the general county fund to the district fund of such district an amount that will equal the deficiency. (See Section 25.)

Second, the Philpott act: This act provides for a change in the manner of apportioning the county and state fund. As the law has been the county superintendent has apportioned the money in October of each year giving to each district and then distributing the same according to the number

## INDEPENDENT PACKING PLANT.

Preparations are being completed by leading stockmen of the Pacific coast, to establish an independent packing plant in Portland and a site will in all probability be selected adjoining the Swift plant on the Peninsula. According to those in charge of the project a \$2,000,000 corporation will be the result of the work now going on and which has been carried on very quietly for about two years.

J. A. Robinson, James and Harry Mitchell, California capitalists with immense cattle interests, are stated to be in charge of the movement, although many local people are asking that a certain amount of the capital stock be assigned to them. The Mitchells are both well known all over the country and are the largest cattle shippers and feeders in the entire country west of the Rocky mountains. It is understood that they have planned the independent packing concern in order to more thoroughly regulate prices here and see that the producer of livestock gets all the monies he is entitled to.

Along with the announcement of the independent packing project comes the practically confirmed report that Schwartzchild & Sulzberger, who are now operating the old Zimmerman plant in south Portland, have given up their option on the property there and are at present preparing plans for the erection of a huge and modern plant on the Peninsula. This too will be located in the vicinity of the Swift plant and work will likely be started shortly after the visit of Mr. Sulzberger, who is expected in this city to personally inspect the property within a very short time.—Portland Journal.

## HOW ABOUT THIS?

The Miner has been complemented upon its work in boosting the county, not that we have done any hot air work but have stated a few facts now and then regarding the resources of Grant county. In presenting the opportunities that we enjoy here we prefer to be conservative and would rather understate the resources than give a wrong impression.

The residents of this county are being made acquainted with the wrons of booster literature by interviews with disappointed homeseekers who are returning from Harney county. In a great many instances the immigrant is responsible for his own disappointment. He has failed to adjust himself to the new life. He has formed erroneous ideas of the country to which he has gone. He is not capable of seeing the real advantages of Harney county and refuses to change his plans of living. But in many instances there has been gross misrepresentation.

It makes no difference how great are the resources of a country it is impossible to guarantee satisfaction to any one because human nature is so fastidious. Generally speaking anything that is new and strange is not liked and Harney county is very strange to one who is not accustomed to desert land, rim rock, and mountain range. Grant county is different too from what many immigrants are accustomed to but not to such an extent as the country south of here.

If the settler will insist on a location where soil, water, climate and timber can be had he should be satisfied with his new home. He must not expect to raise corn, or do exactly as he did in Iowa, or the Willamette valley and he must not be a pauper when he arrives. He should give himself a year or two for trial before he condemns the country.—Prairie City Miner.

## Stomach Troubles.

Many remarkable cures of stomach troubles have been effected by Chamberlain's stomach and liver Tablets. One man who had spent over two thousand dollars for medicine and treatment was cured by a few boxes of these tablets. Price 25 cents. Samples free at all good dealers.

Edison Phonographs and records for sale at Lunenburg & Dalton's.

## OIL IN MALHEUR COUNTY

### Vale Paper Reports Striking Flow in Well Near That Place

## EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE HERE

### Geological Conditions Would Indicate Malheur Oil Field is but Continuation from This Higher Altitude--Local People have Greater Confidence and are Encouraged From This Report.

Local capital and promoters of the oil and gas field in Harney Valley feel considerably encouraged by a report from Malheur county that a small flow of oil has been struck in a well not far from Vale. If such is the case we may feel assured of oil here, since geological conditions are similar and in fact our section would indicate even better prospects for oil than the Malheur district since it is generally conceded by experienced men that the Malheur prospects are croppings from this higher field.

The fact that traces of oil have been found on the water of shallow wells in this section for years and also that gas has been encountered in several together with the formation in which they are found is evidence of the existence of oil. Whether in commercial quantities only demonstration will prove. At any rate it is worth prospecting and the local organization is confident that oil will be found. They have confidence in the field and are going to make a thorough test.

In a recent letter to the Portland Journal Addison Bennett says:

"I had the sandstone surrounding three sides of the valley pointing out to me. I had the geological conditions explained to me and all of the conditions going to show the presence of oil and gas made clear—or as clear as an unscientific mind can grasp such things. Of course these things all appealed to me—but the gas at the Leake well I saw burn and the oil on the surface water of the Haines well I saw with my own eyes. Such evidence was worth more to convince me that this valley is underlain with oil and gas than all of the geological conditions that any scientist could point out to me in a month."

No one can state positively as to the existence of any great quantity of oil here, yet every indication points to it. The Harney Valley Oil & Gas Co. has determined to see what is here and stock is now being sold on the market. Some of this stock is selling at 5 cents a share and many who believe there is something in the field are investing. Of course there is an element of chance, but no greater or as great as in some sections where surface prospects were not as favorable and where there are big paying oil wells today.

Col. Holabir remarked to the writer last week during his visit here that oil, like gold, was where you found it. Where there were prospects in either case it was worth investigating.

This field is certainly worthy of investigation and it is to be hoped thorough tests may be made in the immediate future as even a good strong flow of gas is an asset little appreciated by the man who needs cheap fuel and a means to reclaim his land.

The Oregon Idaho Development Congress, the press and the business men of this state are all working for railroad transportation and the development of Southeastern Oregon. If oil is found in commercial quantities it will bring about this result so earnestly desired. It will do everything in this respect.

## JOHN GILCREST PLEADS GUILTY.

John Gilcrest, superintendent of the Pacific Livestock company, pleaded guilty to one of four indictments charging him with illegal fencing of public lands, in the federal court yesterday afternoon. The indictment relates to the inclosure of some 10,000 acres of the public domain which has

been used continually by private individuals for grazing purposes during the past quarter of a century.

Sentence was reserved at the instance of United States District Attorney John McCourt until September. In the meantime conferences will be held between the prosecution and defense to decide whether the government will be willing to dismiss the remaining three indictments in view of yesterday's pleading.

The Pacific Livestock company is one of the largest land holders in the west, having thousands of acres of rich grazing lands in Oregon, California and Nevada. The Oregon property was formerly in the name of Miller and Lux. Lux is now dead and the ownership has been transferred principally to Miller.

Yesterday's pleading made it apparent that the land in the first place was enclosed with full knowledge that it was government property. This, however, was before Gilcrest became superintendent, 18 years ago. During his tenure of office Gilcrest has allowed the enclosure to remain as it was when he took charge. He avers now that he did not know the particular sections detailed in the indictment were government property, basing his plea on the fact that the properties of his company are so extensive that no one is able to give their exact boundaries or say just how many cattle are grazing thereon.

An average of 75,000 calves are branded each year and tens of thousands of cattle sold annually. Starting from Harper ranch in Malheur county beef cattle driven to Kearn county, California, an average of 15 miles a day, are never off Pacific Livestock company land the whole distance, except two nights.

Gilcrest stated this morning that he was perfectly willing to observe all the government regulation in regard to the enclosing of the public domain, and that as a principle, he is opposed to such enclosures. At the same time the government was ready to produce evidence to show that he was permitted the maintenance of these enclosures during a period of 18 years, sufficient time, it is alleged, for him to have familiarized himself with the boundaries of the property.—Journal.

## PORTLAND OR SAN FRANCISCO?

Our railroad "situation"—a matter of historic antiquity—seems to remain in about the same chronic condition. Despite the fact that Mr. Hill has announced that Central Oregon can not look to him for aid, the summer air is full of hopes. As a sugar coating for his pill, Mr. Hill added that all economic conditions warranted the belief that we would have transportation within five years, and this announcement we welcome as coming from authority.

From the other camp we learn that Mr. Harriman is about to make an effort to painlessly extinguish the Oregon Trunk project, which, it appears, may not be in a position to operate in the state because of legal complications connected with its Nevada made incorporations. If successful in this move, Mr. Harriman will remain a lonely victor, the sole occupant of the field. We who dwell in the "railroad reserve" are curious. What next? With no more difficulties, no antagonism, will the "Wizard" put into execution his antique promises of "immediate construction"? Surely he must do this or lose the last remnant of trust

## WANTED—Some more coyote and bob-cat hides.—A. Schenk.

## NOTICE.

All parties owing Lewis & Garrett, or Simon Lewis are hereby notified that all these accounts are in the hands of our attorney C. H. Leonard for collection and settlement. Persons indebted to us will please settle the same with Mr. Leonard at once.

## NO TRESPASSING.

Hunting is forbidden upon my place adjoining Burns. Trespassers will be prosecuted.

## FOR SALE—A good second hand Clarinet. Inquire at this office.

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