

HARNEY COUNTY PROTECTS COYOTES

(From The Oregon Woolgrower of February 5).

Of more than slight importance to the sheep and wool growing industry of Oregon is the news coming from Harney County, in response to petitions of prominent business men of Burns, has ceased payment of funds to cooperate with the State Livestock Sanitary Board and the U. S. Biological Survey for controlling predatory animals.

From an article contributed to the Times-Herald of Burns and appearing in the issue of January 31, 1925, we gather that it is the consensus of opinion of prominent business men of Burns and of practically all homesteaders of Harney County that the wholesale poisoning of valuable fur bearing animals, coyotes in particular, as being carried on by Government hunters employed jointly by the State and Federal Government, must cease at once. We are told in this article, which indeed is a rare contribution to modern fiction, that the fur industry of Harney County is the leading one and that it needs protection rather than destruction. It appears that it is the belief of the prominent business men of Burns that the raising of coyotes in Harney County is a clean cash business and that as a result of the multitude of coyotes raised in this county fur buyers pay out to individual trappers about \$100,000 per year and the business interests of Harney County apparently are not going to do anything that will take away from them or their homesteaders this source of income which, to a poor homesteader, comes as a windfall at a time of year when the "wolf" is at the door.

The contributor of this article, supposed to be an attorney of Burns who is employed by the trappers to protect their industry, states that the annual loss to sheepmen of one per cent of their flocks is not sufficient reason for their paying taxes for hired trappers. This statement is in keeping with most of the others made in the article and is a pure misrepresentation. As a matter of fact, the one per cent loss on the sheep of Harney County from predatory animals per annum would amount to enough to employ ten times as many trappers as are now employed by the cooperating agencies in that county. Moreover, the damage done by a coyote, figuring an average life time, amounts to \$50.00 according to an estimate made by the bureau of biological survey. With our friends in Harney County protecting the coyote so that the homesteaders can trap him and sell his fur for from \$4.00 to \$8.00 when by so doing the sheepman and the homesteader himself may be damaged to the extent of \$50.00, a policy is established which if persisted in will not only bankrupt that section but will likewise hold back the ultimate control of predatory animals in the state of Oregon.

In addition to the fact that we are interested in the sheep and wool growing industry of Harney County, we are also concerned lest the coyotes that are encouraged to breed or propagate in Harney County should forget that they are the boom of the

Wyoming Wins National Trophy by Voting



The state of Wyoming scored the greatest percentage of gain in votes at the national election last fall and won the trophy offered by Collier's, The National Weekly. Photo shows Governor Nellie T. Ross receiving the award as it was unveiled by her son, Bradford Ross, a boy scout.

homesteader and the basis of his bread and butter and by accident cross over into adjoining county lines where coyotes are not so well thought of and more vigorously sought after. Outside of the interest that we feel for the sheep and wool growing industry of Harney County we are perfectly willing that all of the coyotes possible be raised in order that homesteaders, who admittedly cannot make a go of homesteading and who cannot compel stockmen to buy them out at fabulous prices, may have some means of supporting themselves—provided Harney County officials will agree to keep said coyotes within the limits of Harney County.

To be perfectly frank and to the point, we deem the position taken by so-called leading business men of Burns to be not only positively absurd and foolish but preposterous and very dangerous. Under such a plan the homesteader himself is often the heaviest loser. Coyotes are no respectors of persons. The homesteader's pig or lamb or turkey provides him with a means of bodily comfort quite as much as the lamb belonging to the sheepman and the loss is greater in proportion. The aggregate decrease in gross returns from the sale of farm produce in any county in Oregon through foraging by coyotes is enough to pay the total state cost of all forty hunters now being employed by the Livestock Sanitary Board.

The hunter system in effect in the State of Oregon is not only getting results as is attested by the objection being voiced by the trappers through their attorney in Harney County, but it is also the economical and correct method. Those who criticize the Government hunter invariably over-estimate the cost of catching coyotes by these trained men who work through traps and poison. There are very few hunters on the payroll of the Livestock Sanitary Board who are not more than self-supporting during that period of the year when furs are salable. If it costs the State something to get the coyotes at that time of year when furs are not salable it is worth the money and is a sound investment so long as the cost is less than the damage done by the coyote caught.

It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the per head cost of catching coyotes by the hunter and poison system because it is believed that only about one out of three coyotes destroyed is secured as evidence by the Government hunter. That the system is proving satisfactory is shown by the fact that every county in eastern Oregon this year, outside of Harney County has made ample appropriations for matching state funds to continue it. Wherever cooperation has been forthcoming from sheep growing counties that the work is not being conducted in an effective and economical manner. Indeed, in some counties, notably Lake County, more money has been received from the sale of furs than was put up by the county court in the first place.

The Oregon Woolgrowers Association has given strong endorsement to this method of controlling predatory animals for several years past. At the Twenty-eighth annual convention recently held in Pendleton the convention went on record as favoring the continuation of the work on a larger scale and asking the State Legislature for an appropriation of \$100,000 to be expended in cooperation with the State Livestock Sanitary Board and the Bureau of Biological Survey. This should be sufficient indication of the high regard in which the paid hunter is held by the sheep and wool growing industry

of Oregon and unless we are badly fooled in our estimate of the temper of the sheep and wool growers of Oregon it will be quite some time yet before their investment of \$50,000.00 is allowed to be deteriorated by the wide spread propagation of predatory animals in order that a few homesteaders, who are in debt to prominent business men, may have a means for winter subsistence.

TO PROPAGATE COYOTES

Harney County Court Refuses Appropriation for Hunters

The Harney County Court has recently refused to make appropriations for the continuance of the government hunters in the county, according to the Burns Times-Herald. It is said that the fur industry is of such importance in that county that the damage to stockmen by the predatory animals melts into insignificance and the action has been taken in recognition of the importance of the fur industry in the county.

It is said that a two-year closed season is being considered in Harney county for fur bearing animals in order that their numbers may be increased, and also a law regulating the trapping of coyotes so that only prime pelts will be taken. Stockmen look on the proposed measure with alarm.—Lakeview Examiner.

Florsheim shoes at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

FATHER O'CONNOR TO BURNS

Rev. J. A. O'Connor, who for the past several years has had charge of the mission churches at Vale, Brogan, Juntura and other interior points, has been appointed to a parish of his own and the monthly services in Vale and Brogan will be in charge of Rev. Fr. Stack of Ontario. Father O'Connor's new location is as pastor for the Church of the Holy Family in Burns, but it is more than probable that he will continue to conduct the work in Juntura as well.—Vale Enterprise.

RAILROAD CONTRACTORS LOAD OUT SUPPLIES

C. J. Brown, one of the contractors on the railroad grade of the Fred Herrick Lumber Co. in Silveas valley, loaded out with some four tons of grain the fore part of this week for his horses, also a quantity of powder. Mr. Brown is one of several who have contracts with the Fred Herrick Lumber Co. for railroad grade work. He has been doing some rock work during the winter but as the frost has gone out of the ground he will now be able to resume dirt work.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Lee Clark had the misfortune to cut his thumb with an axe severely last Wednesday while splitting wood at the home of his parents at Harney. The thumb was split on the end making an ugly wound. He came down to a physician to have it properly dressed, his mother and Roy Bunyard coming down with him.

F. H. Russell, representing a Chicago telephone supply concern, was a business visitor to Burns this week discussing equipment with Manager Graves of the Central Oregon Telephone Co. Mr. Russell said he had been making this northwest territory for several years but this is his first trip to Burns as heretofore he had not known how to get here.

Florsheim shoes at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

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Albert Johnson was in town this week from the Silver creek home visiting with his wife and children who are spending the school year in Burns where the two oldest are students in the Harney county high.

Stetson hats at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

If people want to see whether Burns is improving or not they should visit the several places of activity. For instance, the terminal grounds, the Standard Oil Co. site for its service station and storage tanks, or make a tour around the resident districts and see the dwellings that are going up or are in course of remodeling.

Walkover shoes at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

Milt Modie arrived home last Saturday night by train from Falcon, Nevada, where he had been in charge of feeding a large herd of cattle for the Pacific Live Stock Co. The stock were taken off the feed yards on the 15th of the month and Milt returned to his old stamping grounds in this county where he has worked with stock for 40 years or more.

Stetson hats at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

In honor of her sixth birthday little Alice Bogard was hostess to ten of her little playmates last Wednesday afternoon, February 25th. She received some nice presents on the occasion, among them a fine big doll with a doll buggy. Dainty refreshments were served by Mrs. Bogard after the children had played for a time.

Walkover shoes at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

The 40 day scrap between the legislature and Governor Pierce was extended into this week as it was more or less a draw at the end of the 40 days and evidently necessary to go on for a decision. According to the Portland papers it looks like the "Gov" has some of the best of it in the last rounds scoring a hit or two that counted. However, the "end is not yet" at the time this is put in type—in the end the taxpayer will pay the bill regardless of who wins.

Stetson hats at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

John D. Daly, president of the First National Bank of Burns, came over from his home at Boise Thursday, arriving on the train that night, and leaving the following morning on his return. Mr. Daly desired to remain longer but business engagements required his immediate attention at home. This was the quickest trip he has ever made to Burns and return during all the years he has been coming over, leaving home one morning and arriving back the following evening after attending the annual meeting of the stockholders of the bank.

Scared!



Geo. A. Parks, engineer in the Interior Department, who has worked in Alaska for 16 years, was "scared stiff" when appointed Governor of Alaska by Pres. Coolidge to succeed Scott C. Bond, whose term expires. Parks says he will "try."

Walkover shoes at Brown's Quality Store. 2-28

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Mr. and Mrs. "Champ"



Champion Jack Dempsey and his bride, Estelle Taylor, snapped an hour after they had promised "to love, honor and—'Gosh, we're happy," say they.