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Published in the Greatest Valley of Eastern Oregon.

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Harney Valley Items.

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Chas. N. Cochran, Editor and Manager.

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NO. 23.

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Meets second and fourth Monday of each month in Masonic hall, Voegtly building. Mrs. Maggie Levens, W. M. Mrs. Eunice Thompson, Sec.

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Meets at Brown hall every Friday evening. Visiting brothers fraternally invited. Thos. Sagers, W. M. Chas. N. Cochran, Recorder.

HARNEY LODGE, NO. 77, I. O. O. F.
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TULE CIRCLE, NO. 165, WOMEN OF Woodcraft. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Brown's hall. Mrs. Tully Jordan, Mrs. Ione Whiting, Guardian. Clerk.

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WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY MEN AND women to travel and advertise for old established house of solid financial standing. Salary \$200 per year and expenses, all payable in cash. No canvassing required. Give references and enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. Address Manager, 230 Canton Bldg., Chicago.

WANTED—SEVERAL PERSONS OF CHARACTER and good reputation in each state. In this county required to represent and advertise old established wealthy business house of solid financial standing. Salary \$1500 weekly with expenses additional, all payable in cash each Wednesday direct from head office. Horses and carriages furnished, when necessary. References. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. Manager, 219 Canton Building, Chicago.

FREE HOME-STEAD FRAUD

Fraudulent Taking of Public Lands.

The principal use of the homestead act as it stands today, says a recent article in Harper's Weekly, is for the fraudulent acquirements of cattle and sheep ranges and the building up of big land holdings by corporations of individuals who are protecting themselves against the gradual contraction of the free range. It seems incredible that men can be hired so easily to commit perjury. Each and every homesteader who takes up a claim with the idea of selling it to a company, or who takes it up to accommodate his employer, who wants to range his sheep or cattle to the exclusion of others, perjures himself from the time he makes the first application to the moment he accomplishes his final proof and receives his patent. The fraudulent use of the homestead law is due to the fact that five years' residence is no longer required to secure a title to the utter uselessness of the law to the settler in the arid domain, and to the laxity with which the requirements of the law are administered by the land office. No one familiar with the West will dare assert that there is any opportunity for the taking up of legitimate homesteads to anywhere near the extent manifested in the original filings made during the past 12 months. Thus it is that a law which, in its day, has been a boon of inestimable value to humanity has become a vehicle of fraud and a demoralizing influence upon the people of the newest states.

The desert land act was passed in 1877. Since that time there have been 36,951 original desert filings in the arid states, these filings covering an area of 9,140,517 acres of public land. Of all these filings but 10,912 have been proved up on and title conveyed by the Government to the individual, these final proofs covering 2,674,695 acres. During each year there have been between 2500 and 3000 desert land selections made, and between 500 and 900 final proofs accomplished. It is a conservative estimate to say that fully 95 per cent of the final proofs made on desert lands are entirely fraudulent.

As the law now stands any citizen of the United States can take up 320 acres of arid land, making a deposit of 25 cents per acre at the time of filing, and paying \$1 an acre more when title is secured from the Government. The law requires that before securing title the settler shall prove the ownership of sufficient water to irrigate this entire tract of land shall prove that he has expended at least \$1 per acre each year in improving the land, and that he has actually irrigated, within three years from the time of filing, every legal subdivision of his claim.

To honestly carry out the requirements imposed by this law a man must have an unquestioned water right of sufficient volume, and, as experience has proved, make an expenditure of at least \$10 an acre to put this water upon the land in sufficient quantities to raise a crop of some kind which would not otherwise have grown upon this claim.

The manner in which many of the final proofs are made upon these desert claims is almost incredible. In numerous instances no attempt is made to water the land at all, the principal effort being expended in the securing of

witnesses who will swear to a statement of alleged facts required by the Land Office before patent issues. Some individuals make a practice of furnishing testimony for those who desire to prove up fraudulently upon their Government claims. To ease the conscience of others, instances are recorded where water has been poured upon the land from a pail so the statement can be made by the witnesses that they have seen water upon the claim.

In the well known and populous valleys of the arid states there are hundreds of authentic cases where enough water to irrigate 40 acres has been used to obtain title to thousands of acres. Each claim has been proved up on by the use of this tiny stream, the stream being diverted from one claim to another in succession, as demanded by the witnesses who were to swear as to the reclamation of the land. It may be stated without exaggeration that nearly all of the large land holdings or ranches of the West have been built up by fraudulent use of the land laws, and notable by the fraudulent use of the homestead and desert land act. In the first few years of the operation of the latter law each claimant was allowed 640 acres, and under this law great valleys and plains were absorbed en bloc by individuals and corporations, who employed people to use their desert land rights all for the benefit of a single establishment. The amount of land which can be taken under the desert land act has since been reduced to 320 acres, but the same method is still being pursued in monopolizing the ranges and fraudulently requiring title to the public domain. A prominent Western Senator recently said: "The desert land act is the most iniquitous piece of legislation ever placed upon the statute books. In 90 cases out of 100 the provisions of the law are not complied with in securing title. In fact the law is flagrantly violated, and the title secured by the ranker perjury. How long, let me ask, can this work of acquiring land largely for the benefit of companies and corporations continue before our rich arid domain will pass beyond the reach of settlers and home builders?"

Many of those who have availed themselves of the possibilities presented under the present code of land laws are men of high standing who would indignantly resent the idea that these were dishonest in any particular. It has become the custom for a man who desires to secure a lot of land to let it be understood that such land is worth so much per acre to him as soon as

Continued on Fourth page.

\$100 REWARD \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer one Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists, etc.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

THIS A PAPER ROAD?

What Is Oregon & Southeastern Scheme?

The Oregonian of the 24th says: There is a pretty well defined theory in railroad circles that the Oregon & Southeastern Railroad Company, which was incorporated the other day in New Jersey, embodies a scheme for a railroad to connect the Corvallis & Eastern Railway with the Central Pacific at Winnemucca, Nev. It is presumed that the recent talk of a line from Eureka, on Humboldt Bay, north-eastward to Weiser or Boise, was the immediate cause of the incorporation of the Oregon & Southeastern at this time. If this Humboldt Bay road should be built it would penetrate a country that could also be served by a line from the Corvallis & Eastern to Winnemucca, and the first road in the field would establish trade routes that might not be easily changed afterward. It is less than 350 miles from the present eastern terminus of the Corvallis & Eastern to Winnemucca, so the enterprise would not be out of proportion to the capital of the New Jersey corporation, \$1,000,000. The fact that something like \$1000 would be required for an incorporation fee in that state is looked upon as evidence that the people who are behind this project have a serious purpose in view. Their identity is carefully concealed behind the names of K. K. McLaren, Horace F. M. Gould and Evan J. Dudley as incorporators.

It is said that the C. P. Huntington estate is heavily interested in the Corvallis & Eastern Railway, which is plainly in a condition of arrested development. The Huntingtons recently got several millions from the sale of the San Francisco street-car lines, and must have much more than is required in the development of their trolley system in Southern California. Therefore, it is supposed that H. E. Huntington, who manages the estate, is favorable to carrying out at this time a long-cherished scheme of his late uncle to build across Oregon to Winnemucca, and thus make something of the family's present holding in this state.

B. J. Pengra, who was Surveyor-General of Oregon and a prominent citizen, devoted many years of his life to an effort to get a railroad on that route. He was largely interested in the Oregon Central wagon road grant, extending across the state from Eugene to the southeastern corner of the commonwealth. Any agency that would open that region to settlement and improvement would add vastly to the value of the wagon road grant. Mr Pengra had a plan for a railroad there. In addition to his wagon-road grant he wanted a railroad grant, and came near getting it. C. P. Huntington aided and supported him in this effort, and it was understood that he would handle the railroad end of the enterprise. That was away back in the '60s. The railroad grant was defeated through the substitution of Jacksonville for Springfield as its Oregon terminus, which would have made the road to be built for that grant a feeder for the Holaday line, rather than for the Oregon Central, a rival enterprise on the west side of the Willamette that was backed by S. G. Reed, J. C. Ainsworth and P. D. Thompson. The Holaday railroad enterprise looked to connection of Portland with San Francisco by means of the line parallel

with the coast, which would also give Oregon its transcontinental railroad outlet. Huntington wished to serve this country by the line projected direct from Winnemucca to the Willamette Valley, and he was willing to co-operate with the Oregon Central to accomplish that object. When the bill in Congress was so changed as to make it carry grist to the Holaday mill, Huntington and others lost interest in it, and it did not pass. That was in the last days of the railroad land-grant business. After that it was impossible to get a grant for a road from Winnemucca to the Willamette Valley, or any where else, for that matter.

In 1877 Mr. Huntington, in company with General Colton and Chief Engineer Montague, visited Oregon and made a thorough examination into the railroad situation here. On their way back they left the railway at Eugene and inspected the country from that point to Winnemucca. It is said that the conclusion was then reached that a railroad between Winnemucca and the Willamette Valley would be a profitable enterprise, and highly desirable for the Central Pacific. A complete survey was subsequently made, but the project never reached the stage of actual construction. Completion of railroad connection between Portland and San Francisco in 1887 removed the necessity for a line from Winnemucca to Oregon. But since then the development of the country and growth of traffic have reached the stage that many railroad men think will warrant the construction of the line from the Willamette Valley to Winnemucca, or to connection with some trans-continental road near that point.

It is not supposed that a Huntington scheme to lead the Corvallis & Eastern to an Eastern connection at Winnemucca would be exactly relished by the Harriman interests, because it would be something more than merely a line for local development. It would be after through business as well as way traffic. The Harriman line are now very well fixed for handling all the through traffic that may come to them. They don't need an independent line to take traffic from there at at Winnemucca or any other point for delivery where Harriman lines already reach. There is ground for the belief, however, that the Oregon & Southeastern will not bind itself to the Central Pacific at Winnemucca.

There was at one time a move to
Continued on Fourth page.

Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Don't Know It.

How To Find Out.
Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stains your linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back is also a convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

What to Do.
There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, fulfills every wish in curing rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to go often during the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists in 50c. and \$1. sizes. You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful discovery free of charge, and a book that tells more about it, both sent absolutely free by mail, address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper.

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