THE ITEMS

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

SATURDAY JULY 19, 1902.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON.

The Popular Mechanics, published in Chicago, has a long and interesting article about Oregon that ought to be of advantage to this state. Here are some of the excerpts:

"Is San Francisco to be the future metropolis of the world and the state of Oregon one of the most populous and important states of America? Such a prediction was once made by a noted English scientist, and recent developments lead many to believe that there were good grounds for his theory. It looks as if Portland, Oregon, is destined to become the Liverpool of America and all the world is now turning its eyes on the state of Oregon because the new American possessions in the Pacific seem destined to work a new revolution in American commercial affairs. The trade with the Philippine Islands and Hawaii, carried on through Portland and San Francisco, is growing to enormous proportions. Alaska with its many sources of commerce is hourly growing in importance and our rapidly increasing trade with China is causing many eyes at this time to turn to 'the land of the setting sun.' Some mariners declare Portland, Oregon, to have the finest natural harbor in the world, and it may be that this is to become the great shipping center in our enormous trade with Alaska, the Pacific islands and the Orient. At any rate it is certain that Portland's shipping interests are bound to increase many fold and the prospects for her becoming a rival of San Francisco as an ocean port are not in the least remote.

"Oregon's splendid agricultural resources, her rich soil, healthful climate and advantageous location, make this state of first importance to the investor when considering the wonderful changes in conditions brought about by our recent wars, acquisitions and stupendous increase of trade.

"To the man in the east who is dissatisfied with the conditions which surround him comes the inquiry for that region where conditions may be found that are more promising for his success. The great consideration should be with every man, 'where can I produce a maximum of results with a reasonable expenditure of effort?'

"Nature herself, when she founded Oregon, furnished the answer to this query. It would be difficult indeed to find another section of country with no larger or more varied resources than Oregon."

Malcolm A. Moody, Congressman from the Second District of Oregon, comes home with the best record ever written by a Representative from this state. He has been diligent, intelligent, alert, insistent, and has been respected in Washington for his ability as a legislator. He learned quickly that the guerdon of success in life is work, work, work. And he worked and worked and worked for the people whom he was representing. He has no stain upon his record. He comes home to re-enter private life with the gratitude of all people who appreciate the man who is faithful to a trust, and who accomplishes things for his constituents. —Portland Journal.

Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Minnesota have all warmly indorsed President Roosevelt to succeed himself in 1904 and Senator Platt is authority for the statement that New York will do likewise.

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TO GET RID OF RABBITS.

A Prineville correspondent, in the Oregonian of the 14th, says:

For several years past what are known as black-tailed rabbits have made the life of the farmer anything but pleasant during the season of growing crops throughout the greater portion of this county. many schemes have been devised for their destruction, but all have failed. Last Winter there were a number of drives made near here, and a large number were destroyed; but no diminution of the rabbit forces was perceptible. Over in the Haystack country, where they have been the most destructive to crops, several hunting matches were pulled off this Spring resulting in the death of more than 3000 of these pests, but there remain enough of them to be a serious menace to the ripening fields of grain in that section.

A large number of the residents of the northern part of the county have been seriously considering the advisability of petitioning the County Court to place a bounty on the little pests, but this would not seriously retard the increasing hordes and would be a drain on the county finances. Therefore, for reasons of public economy, it is not to be thought of, and the matter of their extermination lies with the farmers themselves.

For some years past a number of the foremost farmers of the rabbit-infested territory have been experimenting on different lines with the end in view of discovering a poison which would be effectual but until quite recently they have been unsuccessful. Among others who have been prominent in this work is R. V. Jenkins, and from him is learned something of the operations of the rabbit poisoners.

It is not generally known that rabbits are fond of salt, but such is the case, and therein lies the secret of their extermination. Throughout this county are numerous alkali "licks," where cattle and horses are wont to go and lick up the dust and incidentally get a quantity of alkali, which answers the purpose of salt in other countries. It was noticed that the rabbits were accustomed to use these licks the same as the horses and cattle, and from this fact it was reasoned that they would eat salt. An experiment was made with a small quantity and found successful; then the question arose as to what kind of poison could be infused into the salt that would prove the most destructive to the rabbits, and which would be the least liable to detection by them. Some have used strychnine, but the most effective seems to be paris green, which is also very cheap. The method by which the rabbits are caught with this bait is to place a quantity near their runways, on a board or rock. The poison must first be pulverized very finely, and then thoroughly mixed with the salt, which must be of the finest obtainable. If the poison is placed out in the evening one can go to the spot next morning and count the rabbits lying dead in all directions, and there is no end to them.

For the protection of domestic animals one may build a strong pen of barbed wire and then place the poisoned salt on a low platform of boards, or rocks, where it will not be absorbed by the soil. Then the danger of anything but a stray coyote, or an occasional hungry dog, getting poisoned is reduced to the minimum.

This method of exterminating these pests is so simple that a great many of the settlers are inclined to ridicule the idea, and it is slow of being adopted, but there is little doubt that it will come into universal use in the near future, and will be a God-send to all parts of the West where rabbits abound.

If the tastes of the rabbits in Australia and other of the English colonies are identical with those of local denizens it will be but a matter of time until they, too, will become a prey to the inventive genius of the American mind, and Oregon will score another victory in the battle of life.

What are you going to do to help make the Fair this fall a success?

THE MALHEUR COUNTRY.

Staff Correspondent to the Baker City Democrat: One of the best imaginable sections for successful live stock raising is in that celebrated region in Harney and Malheur counties lying far and wide around the three upper feeding streams which go to make the Malheur river, namely, the north, middle and south forks of the Malheur. Here we may find rich native grasses covering nearly all the area in hundreds of square miles. In places the nourishing bunch grass is now from one to one and one-half feet high. This grass and other sorts of fodder is of a quality which makes it no wonder that the beef produced in this section is unsurpassed for juiciness, tenderness and toothsome flavor and that the horses are world-beaters for speed and bottom in all round service for practical daily use.

The thrifty town of Drewsey, located on the middle fork of Malheur river, 50 miles from Burns, the Harney county seat, and 100 miles from Ontario, on the Union Pacific Railroad system, is the chief trading and supply point for a wide scope of surrounding country, lying within a radius of 30 or 40 miles all around. These well-to-do stockraising settlements are mainly located along the valleys of the three forks of Malheur river, Otis, Pine, Calamity and Wolf creeks, also in Agency valley.

Drewsey was incorporated as a city on August 4, 1899. The present population of the town is approximately 150. The city officers are: Dr. C. E. Staulee, mayor; J. D. Daiv, E. Olsen, R. B. Carey, A. J. Weatherly, J. A. Bartlett, D. Lamb, councilmen; W. D. Baker, recorder; J. C. Bartlett, treasurer; G. C. Carey, marshal.

The town has a daily mail service, Sunday included, being on the main stage road between Ontario and Burns. There is a large town hall, school house, city stone jail, $10,000 flouring mill, three general merchandise stores, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, two saloons, large livery barn and feed corrals, barber shop, etc.

In the school district there are 85 children of school age. There is a two-story school building covering 25x36 feet. The taxpayers have just voted bonds to construct a new and commodious school building to cost $3000.

The Odd Fellows' building is a spacious structure, covering 30x60 feet and two stories in height. The first story is used for entertainments, social dancing and public meetings. The upper story is lodge headquarters for Drewsey lodge, No. 147, I. O. O. F., having 55 members; Minerva Rebekah lodge, No 112, with 35 members; Drewsey lodge, No. 119, A. O. U. W., 25 members; Star Degree of Honor lodge, 60 members; Drewsey camp, No. 7815, Modern Woodmen of America, 25 members.

The Bartlett hotel is an excellent establishment, hospitably conducted by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bartlett and their pleasant daughters. The City hotel, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ward managers, is a popular stopping place and is headquarters for the Kellogg stages, operating on the 150-mile route between Ontario and Burns. The principal merchandise stores are those of Daly & Robbins, Johnson Bros. and the postoffice store. The Daly & Robbins store building is a substantial stone structure and the stock of clothing, groceries and hardware is remarkably large and well selected. The pioneer blacksmiths are R. B. and H. A. Johnson, who have been in business here under the firm name of Johnson Bros. for ten years. They do general blacksmithing and wagon-making, also manufacture wheel hay bucks which are generally used in this section. This machine for quickly handling hay is operated by two or four horses. A patent has been applied for.

Among the numerous first-class live-stock ranches in the splendid region tributary to Drewsey are those in Otis valley. The ranch of William Altnow, ex-commissioner of Harney county, about seven miles from Drewsey, is one of the best of the Otis valley ranches. The Altnow residence and stone cellar cost $3000. The main barn has room for stabling 50 horses. Near the residence is the two acre reservoir. It is 16 feet in depth and is a handsome artificial lake. The water is used for irrigating the big ranch. At the ranch of L. N. Stallard, three miles from Drewsey, it has been proven that fruit trees and garden truck will thrive mightily in this elevated region when proper attention is devoted to them. Mr. Stallard has a young orchard in which two-year old apple trees will bear fruit this fall. He has an excellent lot of currant and goose berry bushes and a valuable garden of two acres.

For some 25 miles west of Drewsey, along the middle fork of Malheur river, on Pine, Calamity and Wolf creeks there are a considerable number of prosperous settlers. Pine precinct has about 50 voters. On the middle fork of the Malheur, three miles from Drewsey, is the ranch of S. W. Hamilton. The ranch has water from a nine mile ditch heading in the river. The Hamilton ranch has a large lot of hay land and there is a thrifty young orchard, large garden of potatoes, corn, beans, melons and so on.

For 23 miles due west of Drewsey there are ranches. At the western point, on Wolf creek, is the postoffice of Van, Harney county. The postmaster is George Howe. Mails are received from and forwarded to Drewsey three times a week, mail days being Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. S. S. Williams, of Drewsey, has the mail carrying contract. The obliging driver is Jack Prewett. Free delivery of mail is in vogue and U. S. mail boxes are scattered along the route to accommodate the various ranches.

At Van, Postmaster Howe and his interesting family reside in their large new residence on one of Eastern Oregon's most healthful and valuable mountain ranches. The ranch comprises 500 fenced acres, lying near the pine forest mountains, and holds a magnificent outside range. It is well watered by Wolf creek, a charming mountain trout stream. This season's crop will include a goodly amount of hay, also the grain from 50 acres of oats, barley, wheat and rye. A two acre garden will yield a fine lot of table supplies.

A. E. Millard is just ending a three months, term of public school. There are 24 pupils in the district. There is also an interesting Sunday school having an attendance of about 30 people.

It is probable that some of these rarely good ranches could be purchased for a reasonable sum. Water is plentiful and pine timber is abundant one to five miles distant. New comers might profit by investigating home-buying chances in this and similar nearby inland sections.

In view of the continual reports of a scarcity of farm labor in the western states, it would seem that a most practical philanthropy might consist of some means whereby the laborers in the congested centers of the east might be transported to the localities where their services are in demand.

President Roosevelt has recently emphasized his intention of "dealing with the trusts"; but the businessmen of the country have no fear that his method of doing so will in any way resemble the anarchistic demagogery of the democratic-populistic school of economists.

No more time should be lost in getting the Fair properly before the people. The sooner the committees are set to work, the better the results will be. Get right up and "talk out in meetin'."

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land office, Burns, Oregon, July 15, 1902.

Notice is hereby given that the following, named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver at Burns, Oregon, on August 20, 1902, viz:

Daniel Willetts.

H.E. Entry No. 1296, for Lots 3 and 4 and SE¼ NE¼, Sec. 1, T. 24 S., R. 31 E.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz:

Joseph Hill, Joseph Barnes, Hugh Martin, James Marion, all of Burns, Oregon.

WM. FOLEY, Register.

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