THE ITEMS

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

SATURDAY JULY 26, 1902.

A remarkable instance of the spontaneous expression of admiration occured last week when the President's name was cheered at the Missouri state democratic convention.

"Commence today to do today's work," said a man who sees the bright side of things. "Commence where you are with today's ability and today's light. Don't stop to pity those below, nor to growl at those above, but climb, climb, climb. Do your level best in the light of the unity of all things, all efforts, in the light of the distinction of each but the separation of none, and you will have done your best for those below and above you. Work today, remembering that as you gave so shall it be given you again."

If there is any chance to boom business, boom it. Don't be a knocker. Don't pull a long face and get sour in your stomach. Get a smile on you. Hold up your head. Get a hold with both hands, then pull. Bury your hatchet. Drop your tomahawk. Hide your little hammer. When a stranger drops in, jolly him. Tell him this is the greatest town on earth. It is. Don't get mulish. Don't roast. Just jolly. No man ever helped himself by knocking other people down. No man ever got rich trying to make people believe that he was the only good man on earth. You can't climb the ladder of fame by stepping on other people's corns. They are their corns, not yours, and they are tender. Keep off the corns.—Ex.

The citizens of this community should miss no opportunity to get a good railroad to this point from some point like Salt Lake or Winnemucca says the Eugene Guard. The whole state of Oregon is vitally interested in the development of the immense resources of Southeastern Oregon, which have been retarded or prevented from becoming known as they should for want of transportation facilities. Indeed, many look upon the vast territory comprising Klamath, Crook, Lake, Harney and Malheur counties as good for nothing except for producing sagebrush, alkali and jackrabbits, with now and then a patch that will support a few cattle or sheep.

Such is not the case, however. That whole country is full of resources, which only want transportation facilities to ensure their rapid development. There now being a strong probability of one of the great railway systems building across this stretch of virgin territory, crossing the Cascades by the Middle Fork pass then seeking the seaboard probably at both Portland and Coos Bay, the people should rejoice at the era of development it will surely open.

We know the railroad company is not doing this on account of its love for the dear people, but there may be rejoicing just the same. It is a good business proposition for the Missouri Pacific people. The business to be made along the line from here to Salt Lake in hauling passengers, lumber, grain, stock and other farm products, merchandise and supplies back, will in great probability be sufficient to sustain the road. In addition to this it will give the company an outlet to the coast and put it in position for profitably handling transcontinent business in competition with other roads. The early completion of such a road is earnestly hoped for.

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VALUABLE RANCHES IN HARNEY COUNTY.

Field Correspondence to Baker City Democrat: Twenty-two miles northwest of the bustling town of Drewsey, Harney county, and approximately 130 miles from the nearest Union Pacific Railroad point, is a valuable ranch region, superbly adapted to the raising for market of peerless beef cattle and all-around good horses. Wild grass on the rolling mountains, nearby pine, fir, and juniper timber, an abundance of pure water and thousands of acres of hay land along the numerous streams, combine to make up an ideal and extensive stock raising area.

A typical ranch is the 320-acre piece of C. S. Johnson. There is a superb outside range for Mr. Johnson's fat stock, timber is handy and water is plentiful. There is a comfortable house and spacious barn.

A large quantity of alfalfa and timothy hay is put up every season. In the grain line 70 bushels of oats and 40 bushels of wheat has been yielded to the acre. There is a partly bearing orchard of 250 assorted apple, pear, plum and other fruit trees. Here, at over 4000 feet above the ocean level, a thrifty garden yields a bountiful supply of vegetables. Raspberries, currants and gooseberries are supplemented by strawberries, which seem almost to be flavored by mountain dew. Eight miles lower down on the creek, which flows through the Johnson place, are a number of other good home ranches, including that of J. A. Williams. This is a neatly kept place of 480 acres. The hay crop of 200 tons could be readily increased to 600 tons yearly. The residence is roomy and comfortable and home supplies include produce from the garden and bushels of small fruit from the acre berry patch. Mr. Williams, like all ranchers of this section, is engaged in stock raising. His dairy, managed by his pleasant wife, supplies all of the butter used by the Hotel Bartlett, of Drewsey. Two miles from this ranch is the district school house. There are about 25 pupils in the district and well managed school terms have been the rule. There is a regular, well-attended Sunday school.

The Pine Creek ranch is owned by the Pacific Livestock Company, whose ranch property and 60,000 cattle in Oregon alone represent a value closely approaching three millions of dollars. The Pine Creek ranch has a fine garden, good residences, barns and corrals and yields choice hay. Not far distant the P. L. S. Company owns three smaller ranches, having a total of 640 acres of hay land and controlling a broad extent of range for thousands of cattle and horses.

People in this section are hoping that some of the thousands of acres of the late cattle king, Abner Robbins, who recently died from spotted fever, will be sold in home-sized parcels to newcomer settlers. Robbins was indeed an eccentric man, but tales are told of his large-hearted kindness. Perhaps the man's life on the rough stock range, in preference to anything but occasional association in his nice home at Union with his refined wife, may have been caused by his scorn of much that is false and masked in this gilded age. At any rate, Robbins was close to the margin of being a regular, sturdy old hermit. Worth a half-million of dollars, he roamed the range like his cowboys and took apparent comfort when in his dingy cabin. But he was indeed a shrewd Yankee, having come west from Boston as a sailor, mined in California and finally drifted into the paying livestock business. Robbins was by trade a shoemaker, but as a hardy Western pioneer and rustler, he aided in conquering the wilderness. In spite of stories of his oddities, he had generous traits. One of many similar incidents shows his kidness and charity to his friends. It is related that one of his favorite vaqueros, after celebrating in the true spendthrift style of the average cowboy in a certain town, exhausted his cash and forged Robbins' name to a check, which he sold promptly. The speculating cowboy at once fell into the stern hands of the law and was in a fair way to see the inside of the Oregon state prison, when Robbins appeared on the scene and stopped all proceedings along the line of criminal prosecution by the statement, "I will settle all bills and damages in this case, since this boy is not bad at heart and has served me well until his head became muddled and he was forced to raise funds to see his celebration over."

But Robbins' thousands of acres of choice range and ranch land is said to be coveted by the Pacific Livestock Company and much of it may be bought by this energetic company.

Southeast of Harney valley is Crane Creek, a small stream in the mountain and plateau region of Oregon's greatest livestock section. Along the creek for a dozen miles is an elongated, narrow valley at an elevation of almost 4500 feet above sea level. In this valley are nine ranches and claims. The most upper ranch is that of David Cary and sons, Clarence Cary and John Cary. They own a broad expanse bottom land and have a fine outside range. They have about a round thousand head of cattle. The ranch is fertile in the extreme, and, notwithstanding the great elevation, ice forming on the night of July 6, a big crop of hay and oats is raised every year. The garden, too, thrives surprisingly, one item last year being a yield of 6000 pounds of prime cabbage.

People in this section would like to have better mail service, that is, by the establishment of a steady postoffice, not an office moving from house to house, as has been the case recently.

Other splendid paying ranches are the Venator and Peterson places on the south fork of Malheur river. Mr. Peterson and family occupy a spacious $3000 residence, surrounded by a bearing fruit orchard. The ranch produces a great lot of hay and grain and Mr. Peterson is one of the wealthiest livestock owners in Harney county.

Nothing would better please people of this region than to have the lands of the Willamette Valley military road company thrown open to settlement. The company owns each alternate 640 acre section for miles and miles along each side of the road. It is asserted that the whole proposition is an ancient graft and that the land has not been justly earned by the company. At any rate, there is no doubt that settlement of much of the best of this now unused land would result in providing homes for hundreds of people.

The announcement that the President is preparing to secure legislation which will permit of federal supervision of the trusts has robbed the democrats of their last campaign issue. It is not surprising that they are seeking to discredit it.

The people of Kansas are striving to save their superbundant wheat crop by harvesting on Sundays, while they answer objectors with the argument that the Almighty does not suspend the growing or ripening process on the first day of the week.

John W. Gates, who tried to corner Chicago grain the other day, did turn an honest little penny of about a-million and a half dollars. This was not as much as Mr. Gates had hoped to make out of the speculation, but it is thought that it will enable him to keep the wolf from the door.

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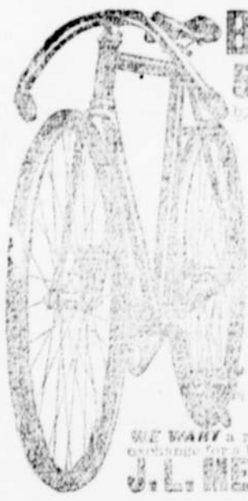

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