

# THE ITEMS

SATURDAY JULY 18, 1903.

## Destruction of the Range.

Oregonian News Bureau, Washington, July 12.—"The one factor which has contributed more than any other to the depiction of the ranges is the development of hay production on irrigated land in the range region," observes Mr. W. J. Spillman, agrozoologist of the Agricultural Department, in transmitting to Secretary Wilson the report of his assistant, Dr. David Griffiths on forage conditions and problems in Eastern Oregon and Washington and Northern California and Nevada. "As long as stock was compelled to subsist the year round on the range, the limited supply of winter feed rendered it impossible to support enough stock to make serious inroads on the more abundant summer growth," he continues. "The forage plants of the ranges were thus permitted to make seed. But with the advent of hay for winter feed, the amount of stock that could be handled increased till in many places the summer growth of the range was entirely consumed, leaving no chance for the production of seed. As a result, many thousands of acres of land that formerly furnished abundant pasture are now devoid of any growth that stock will eat, while plants of no value, and which are not disturbed by the grazing stock, have spread rapidly over the areas.

Dr. Griffiths, who writes the report just issued, spent a large part of the past summer in traveling through the range country of the Northwestern States. On his journey he made many stops to study range conditions, and personally interviewed every stockman along his route, and in this way gained much valuable information. While on this trip Dr. Griffiths encountered a great diversity of climate, elevation and soil conditions, and found many evils that should be corrected; but in the main, he concludes, as have other experts before him, that the public ranges of the stock region of Oregon and Washington are being destroyed by overgrazing. The report is very full, occupying 51 pages, and being illustrated with 16 half-tones, showing the conditions of the various ranges. The various ranges are taken up and discussed in detail.

"The condition of the feed in the 11 e Mountains of Oregon," says Dr. Griffiths, "was variable. This is due entirely to the method of handling the ranges. In the vicinity of the mountain settlements, where sheep are excluded, the condition of the grazing lands is much better than in the open country.



In the good old days the sexton announced a death in the community by a stroke on the church bell for every year of the life that was gone. People expected, then, to live to old age, and speculation at the first tap of the bell took a narrow range including only those who had lived the allotted time. There is no reason why people should not have the same expectancy of age to-day, except for the neglect and abuse of the one organ on which all the other organs depend—the stomach.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery enables men and women to be strong and healthy, by curing diseases of the stomach (and other organs of digestion and nutrition), which prevent the proper nourishment of the body.

"I had been sick for two years with indigestion and nervous debility and had taken medicine from my family doctor for a long time without much benefit," writes Mrs. W. H. Peabody, of Lockport, N. C. "Was induced by my husband to consult Dr. Pierce by letter. You advised me to take 'Golden Medical Discovery' and 'Favorite Prescription,' which I did, and, to my great surprise, after taking six bottles I was cured."

The Medical Adviser, in paper covers, is sent free for 21 one-cent stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

The 'dead lines' established by the ranchers, usually on the watershed of the valley, although not always rigidly maintained, have done much to preserve the original vegetation, for it is not as closely eaten off by cattle, a few of which are possessed by every rancher, as by the immense flocks of sheep which are driven into these mountains from all directions. The great stretches of desert range almost surrounding these mountains furnish abundant winter pasturage for sheep, but the summer supply for growing lambs in the mountains is comparatively limited. The Blue Mountains have been the battle ground of conflicting stock interests which have striven for the past 20 years for the major share of the free grass. The homesteader, by protecting small tracts about him, has improved conditions wonderfully in limited areas. But those areas which are not subject to individual control have been so closely pastured that there is no more feed in some localities than on the desert below.

The reduction of a sedge mountain meadow to an almost bare surface, where nothing is to be found but stunted plants of knotweed and burnet, is a condition much to be deplored, and is certainly not conducive to the best interests of the stock industry. In sheep territory it can be stated that there are few shrubs, aside from the snow bush and a few of the phloxes and gillias, in these mountains which are not browsed; and the timber does not grow too thick for sheep to graze in. Even the second growth of pine is browsed in many places. The writer then devotes some little space to a description of the native range plants found in the Blue Mountain region. The numerous pastures in the vicinity of the settlements, he adds, are used almost entirely for winter grazing, the stock feed up the open ranges during the summer season. Where not pastured too late in the Spring, these were in good condition, but very often they have been overstocked. In Oregon, as in other states, where the range has been overgrazed, the native grasses have largely given way to plants of no forage value, particularly on ranges in the humid belt.

Dr. Griffiths was much impressed by the immense undertaking of the French-Glenn Livestock Company, which has started in to reclaim the great swamps along Dunder and Blitzen River. South of Malheur Lake, this stream spreads out over the bottoms and covers an area eight to ten miles in width, and 12 to 15 miles in length. This region is now a huge tule swamp, where there is much feed around the edges, and cattle even work their way out into the swamp for long distances, but it is during the winter, when the ice is able to bear the cattle up, that the greatest amount of benefit is derived from it. At the present time the returns from the swamp are small. Besides this feature of small returns, the losses in the Spring are very heavy. Cattle are usually so weak at this time of the year that when the ice begins to give way, they mire in large numbers and have not the strength to wade out.

The intention at present is first to cut a channel for the river, and then construct laterals as occasion demands for the purpose of draining the area. When this is accomplished it will be necessary to devise a method of irrigating this drained land properly. The construction is so planned that the channel cut for the river will unite with a large irrigating ditch covering a sagebrush flat. The water is simply turned on this sagebrush land at present, and what may be allowed to develop. Later this area will no doubt become a valuable alfalfa meadow and be irrigated systematically from the drainage waters derived from the swamp.

When this swamp, which is to a large extent, a mass of peat, has been placed under control, the best crops to grow there will have to be selected. There is little doubt that the most profitable will be forage crops. The behavior of timothy

and red top all through this region under little or no cultivation makes it quite certain that these grasses will find an important place in the crops grown here in the future.

## SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

California has 62,000 acres of prune trees. Oil fuel is used exclusively in the 16 melting furnaces of the new Philadelphia mill. The temperature in these furnaces can be raised to 1,000 degrees.

It is said that the flint which forms the substratum of London is nothing but petrified sponges. An examination of the fossil sponge or flint shows its structure.

The stick insect of Borneo, the largest insect known, is sometimes 12 inches long. It is wingless, but some species of stick insects have beautiful colored wings that fold like fans.

Several factories have been built in Germany for the manufacture of "forest wool" out of pine needles. It is used for making underclothes and for stuffing mattresses and furniture.

One of the most important industries attaching to the cheap power now produced by Niagara is the electrical tearing apart of the molecule of common salt resulting in the formation of caustic soda and bleaching powder.

A portable street light of great illuminating power is the device of the Westminster county council for lessening accidents from London fogs. A cylindrical tank 18 inches in diameter and two feet high is charged with 25 gallons of petroleum, and compressed air forces vapor from the oil into a standpipe provided with a burner. On igniting the torch flares up 18 inches to two feet, with a power of 1,000 candles.

Leroy Beaulieu, a well-known economist of Paris, has declared that the leisure class of men will have to work for their living in 1952. He made this interesting statement in a lecture on the conversion of the French three and one-half per cent. debt into three per cent. bonds. He said that the rate of interest is constantly decreasing, and predicted that in the next 25 years capital will be glad to get two per cent., and that 50 years hence such first-class securities as government bonds and railway securities will bear one per cent. interest, "which," said the lecturer, "will compel all except the very large capitalists to work for a living, and the leisure of the class of people now called well off will be abolished."

## BIRD CATCHING.

The Natives of India the Most Expert in the World.

There is something almost supernatural about the dexterity of the natives of India. A bird is seen perched on some overhanging bough. Very well, then, the native, with his enticement, creeps underneath and takes up his position, motionless, breathless, a living statue crouching down among the grass. In his hands are a bundle of reeds, one of which is tipped with bird lime. To this he adds another at the lower end, and another and another. Slowly the rods grow, so slowly that the unsuspecting victim does not notice that every second it is creeping nearer and nearer. Length after length is joined, until the bird sees for the first time a tall reed quivering slightly in the breeze. There is nothing terrifying in this. The next instant the reed flutters against the gay plumage of the victim and the waiting Indian springs to his feet with a cry of exultation. As a rule, however, the bird is soon released again. The native carries his treasure into the town, and finds out one by whose religion the lives of birds are sacred. He then demands the little creature's ransom with a threat that unless immediately paid the bird shall be killed. The bargain concluded, he lets the frightened creature go, pockets the money and sets to work to capture it again.

## VALUABLE COLOR TEST.

How the Course of Water in German Rivers Was Determined.

A color test on a large scale occurred recently near Geseke, Germany. The Voimede, the Waid and the Heder are three brooks which have their source near Geseke, and according to tradition their waters had subterranean connection with the Alme, a mountain stream whose bed is some five miles distant. Millers located on the lower Alme, says the Philadelphia Times, dumped refuse in certain eddies of the upper portion of the stream, and the millers on the Voimede, the Waid and the Heder claimed that by doing this the water supply of the latter streams was materially diminished. To determine the connection about four pounds of potassium fluoresceinate was dumped into one of the Heder. This substance is marvellously powerful, and a solution containing one part in 10,000,000 shows a distinct fluorescence in transmitted light. Twenty-five hours later the Heder took on a beautiful dark green color, showing conclusively the connection between the two streams. An experiment at another point showed with equal clearness that there was a subterranean connection between the Waid and the Voimede, though in this case 44 hours elapsed between the depositing of the dye stuff in the Alme and the appearance of the coloration in the other streams.

As Usual.  
At school one always stood the first.  
The other boy had taught to say:  
Yet he is worth a million cost.  
The smart boy clerks for two a day.  
—Hilak-to-his Ledger.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO,  
LUSCAS COUNTY.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of One Hundred Dollars for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

A. W. Gleason,  
Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean is the only weekly newspaper published in Chicago in connection with the great daily papers. It contains a judiciously selected summary of the news of the nation and world, the best stories, home, farm, woman's, and other special departments, and fair, patriotic, able editorials, written from a Republican viewpoint. It is by far the best general newspaper of the Western States. The regular price for the Weekly Inter Ocean is \$1.00 and for the Harney Valley Items \$1.50, but subscriptions will be received at this office for the two papers in combination for one year for only \$1.50.

## LIQUOR PETITION

To the Honorable County Court, Harney County, Oregon:

We, the undersigned petitioners, residents, taxpayers, and legal voters of Wild Horse Precinct, said county, and State, most respectfully petition your Honorable Court to grant a license to Chas. Rignold to sell spirituous, malt and venous liquors in less quantities than one gallon in said Precinct for a period of three months beginning on the Second day of September 1903:

Names.	Names.
Geo. A. Smyth,	Erlend Carlson,
Tice Shull,	N. J. Lewis,
A. Stone,	L. C. Chamberlain,
L. B. Carroll,	Chas. Turner,
Frank Larson,	J. C. West,
F. Miranda,	John Smyth,
Jas. Mignet,	Chas. Thomas,

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will on the 2nd day of Sept. 1903, make application to the County Court of Harney County, State of Oregon, for the granting of the license mentioned in the above petition. Chas. Rignold.

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

U. S. Land office, Burns, Oregon, July 5, 1903.  
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 15, 1903, viz:

Daniel W. Jordan,  
hd entry No. 818, for the SE 1/4, Sec. 9, Tp. 25, S. R. 23 1/2 E. W. M.  
He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon said cultivation of said land, viz:  
J. L. Siz, William L. Clark, Frank Heine and Lloyd Johnson, all of Lewen, Oregon.  
W. S. FARR, Register.



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