

THE COURIER.
 W. J. WIMER, Publisher.
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
 One Year (in Advance) \$2.25
 Six Months " " " 1.25
 Three Months " " " .75
 Single Copies 10c

Rogue River Courier.

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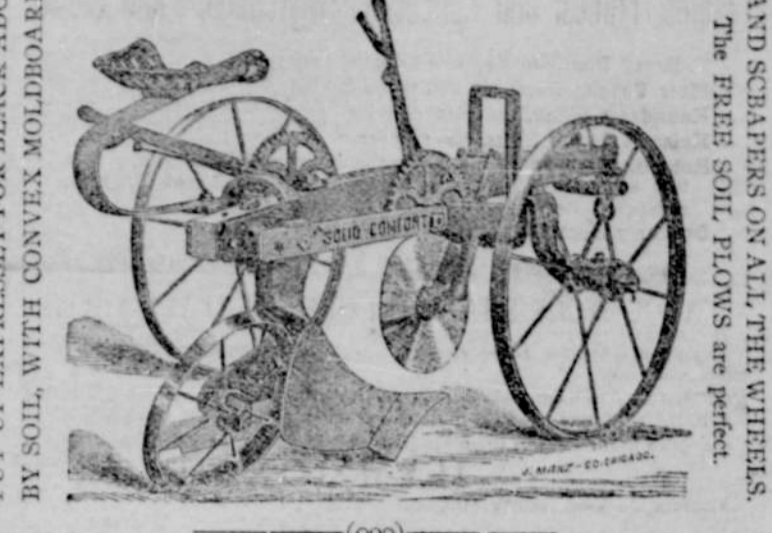
An Independent Paper, Devoted Especially to the Interests of Southern Oregon.

VOL. 3. GRANT'S PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OR., FRIDAY APRIL 15, 1887. NO. 3.

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LETTER FROM LAKEVIEW.
 Spring Opening—The Cattle and Stock Interest—A Cattle Man Interviewed—Whole Herds Lying Dead—A Fatal Year to Cattle Kings—Montana's and Idaho's Fearful Suffering—Big Snow Flakes—Burning Furniture to Keep Warm—A Remedy Suggested for Cattle Men—Notes by a Courier Reporter.

Ed. COURIER:—
 "Spring silent comes across the distant hill Like some fond specter, she is so still."
 So sang brave old Donald and so say we all, for March throughout has been a succession of sultry days such as are seldom witnessed, even in more favored localities. Everybody seems to have taken kindly to the sudden arrival of Spring and entertain her in the most happy manner, and indeed they should; for the beautiful, hot sultry days of the past month have given all an opportunity to "bask in the warm sunshine of her smiles," and say with your correspondent, "Spring has come and winter storms can hurt no more."

I have just received some important items from a party of cattle men just in from Idaho. They are here on urgent business and the story they tell of the suffering from cold, snows and hunger, not only of stock, but white men and Indians, are simply horrible. One of them called your correspondent aside and made the following statement: "This year eclipses all previous years. The severe weather started in soon after the holidays; but from Jan. 6th to the 11th, the degree of cold was something frightful. Mercury thermometers were often congealed and spirit thermometers were kept busy jumping from 40° to 60° below zero. Half a dozen times has the notch 60 been touched and once this season 62½ below zero has been scored on the Saskatchewan plains. But the authorities on weather in the country are the Indians. The oldest members of the Modoc tribe say there have been but few such winters. About 30 years ago there was a terrible winter; the snow lay six feet deep in the Yellowstone country, and the Indians were compelled to remain at the old trading post near Keogh, Montana, snowbound for two "moons." This year the snowfall is unprecedented. In some localities it is anywhere from ten to fifty feet deep, and on a level throughout the National Park and elsewhere, it is from 8 to 12 feet. Out on the prairies of Idaho, Montana and Dakota, on a dead level, it is from 18 to 40 inches. Of course such a heavy fall must bring more or less suffering and death."

My informant makes the statement on oath that while snow-bound at Matt Coleman's ranch, Jan. 26th, the flakes of snow which fell were simply enormous, several of which measured 13½ inches square and 7½ inches thick. For miles the ground was covered with such flakes and they presented a remarkable appearance while falling. On being asked by the COURIER representative to state the exact condition of the stock interest, the gentleman continued: "You can say, sir, that the present winter marks, without a doubt, an epoch in cattle raising in the northwest. It is doubtful if this country has seen for twenty-five years any season more severe." "About what is the average loss of stock up to the present time?" asked the COURIER, sharpening his No. 2 Faber. The old gentleman reflected a moment and added: "Well, the losses of cattle up to March, mind you, average throughout the Territory, probably not less than 30 per cent; and although the outlook has an improving aspect, yet hundreds of thousands more must succumb ere the snow entirely disappears. The extreme temperature combined with lack of grass and hard crusted snow two feet deep has exhausted even the hardiest and strongest animals on the range. Many thousands of foreign cattle, too, were driven into the Territory last summer. Among these, unacclimated and worn out by driving, the havoc has been fearful."

"What opinion have the stock men and ranchers of the present condition of their stock?" continued the Faber manipulator. The cattleman pulled out a small memorandum book adding that, as he was in the hands of a newspaper man, his form would be pressed until all information on that point was exhausted, continued: "You see, stockmen who have recently ridden the ranges are very reticent; but occasionally a whispered report is heard from a reliable source revealing a horrible state of affairs. In some places hundreds of cattle have been found dead strewn along the borders of a single corral. A rider just in before I left claims to have counted thousands of carcasses in a trip of six days. Cattlemen of sound and conservative opinions assert their belief that the average loss will be fully

65 per cent for the whole territory, under the most hopeful issue of affairs. Sheep men are suffering too almost the same extent, despite the extra shelter and feeding their bands get." "What steps should be taken in your opinion, to avert the terrible loss of cattle in future, sir?" asked the scribe. "Ah! that's just what I was coming to. I'll tell you," said the old gentleman, driving his hands deep down into his pockets, resuming a somewhat serious air. "Stock raising on the rustling plain must cease and stock farming take its place. The days of the cattle king are virtually over here as elsewhere. Territorial papers are already urging a change in the system of raising, both on the ground of pecuniary policy and humanity to the stock itself. Their arguments will receive especial respect at the present moment, for a few well known raisers have for a year or two past practised the feeding system, and the contrast between their experience and the general ruin of the rest during this season points a moral that we must read and ponder. In a few years, sir, the vast ranges and their wealthy kings, the round-up and the festive cow-boy, all the romantic features of cattle raising in the far West will have become but traditions, and in their stead will reign the prosaic but humane, thrifty and successful methods of the Eastern cattle farmer."

"Those are my ideas," said the old gent, "but if you want to hear more on this matter I'll just call my partner who is over there." I was then introduced to Mr. Dalton. He stated in substance as follows: "Yes, there were over sixty persons to my own knowledge who were lost and frozen to death. Dan Lowry was lost and wandered for six days with nothing to eat in the worst blizzard ever seen. Stepping aside to blanket a horse, he got lost and was picked up by cow-boys a week later dead. A man named Taylor had both hands and feet frozen in the same blizzard and died a day later from blood poisoning. Two miners were buried beneath an avalanche of snow on Sheep mountain in January, sinking them thousands of feet below and crushing out their lives without a moment's warning. At the mining camps on the other side of Billings, Montana, several cases of men and women freezing were reported and confirmed. Stage drivers on routes in Montana, Idaho, Nevada and a part of Eastern Oregon had the roughest experiences of their lives. They were, indeed, the heroes of the storm. The frightful experiences of Fox and Montgomery on the Benton stage, bound for Helena a month ago, will go down in history as the worst of the kind; every other case of trial and suffering on such routes pale into insignificance before this. They had no food or drink for forty hours. When a short time out from Glendine the stage was caught in a blizzard and one of the horses frozen to death. The driver barely escaped. A sheep herder was found in Idaho near the Springs with face down, frozen to death. The Indians seem to have caught it harder than any other humans in the country. Out of a band of over 75, 38 died from starvation and exposure. While we were crossing the line into Oregon after leaving South Montana, I believe a small band was reported covered by snow drift in the Owyhee basin. Many of the Indians kept from starving by eating the cattle that died in the snow drifts. Yes, some authorities say the sheep industry in those parts is nearly wiped out, except where shelter and food were provided. Of course we bring the first news from that unfortunate section since the terrible storms, and it took us six weeks to make the trip. Hay is worth \$70 per ton, which is more than the face value of the steers and it does not pay to feed. Yes, all along our route until we reached Oregon, wood was and is scarce and high. For instance, willow poles sell for \$7 to \$12 per load, while water-logged cottonwood sells for \$14 and scarce at that. Several instances are reported where families burned their furniture to keep from freezing, and fences, barns and outbuildings fed to the flames for more warmth. Instances of this character were numerous just north and east of here last month." At this juncture Mr. Dalton finished his narrative and left your representative to reflect on northern blizzards, neglected cattle, frozen Indians, etc.

Land is being rapidly taken up for settlement in Oregon; not a day passes but from one to three are here looking up and selecting locations. Next fall will witness the result of this present activity. The general character of the land hereabouts is just as good hay and grain land as can be found anywhere.

Francis M. Drem.
 The police force at Redding on the 4th inst. raided that town, driving the bawdy house inmates out of the town.

New Land Office Rules.
 GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
 WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 1887.

Rules to be observed in passing on final proof papers in pre-emption and commuted homestead cases.
 I. Where final proof or any part thereof is taken before the day advertised, require new advertisement and new proof in whole or in part, as the case may require, to that which was taken out of time.

II. Where final proof or any part thereof is taken after the day advertised, require new advertisement and new proof in whole or in part, as above provided, unless on day advertised due notice had been given of postponement to a day certain by the officer taking the proof, and the proof be taken in accordance with said postponement. Facts of postponement and notice must be certified by the officers taking the last proof.
 III. The entire proof must be taken in accordance with notice given. If the testimony of either claimant or witnesses is taken at a different time or place than that advertised, require new advertisement and new proof as to such defective testimony.
 IV. When witness not named in advertisement is substituted for advertisement witness, require new notice and proof covering the testimony of substituted witness.
 V. The certification of naturalization papers or other court records should be received only when made under the hand and seal of the clerk of the court in which such papers appear of record, but where a judicial record is shown to have existed and is now lost or destroyed, proof of the same may be made by secondary evidence, in accordance with the rules of evidence, governing such proof.
 VI. When final proof is taken by an officer not named in advertisement, it may be accepted if otherwise sufficient, provided that the proof is taken at the time and exact place designated in the printed notice, and provided the officer advertised to take said proof shall officially certify that no protest was ever filed before him against claimant's entry.
 VII. The number, cause, and duration of all absences to be satisfactorily accounted for.
 VIII. When proof is made before register and receiver and certificate does not bear the date of said proof, require of register and receiver explanation thereof, and if the delay was caused by failure to tender the money at date of making said proof, require final affidavit, with corroborating proof, to cover date certificate was issued.
 IX. When proof is made before any other officer, allow the necessary time only for a prompt transmittal of the papers to the district land office, and if any longer interval is shown between date of proof and date of certificate (if proof is otherwise sufficient) require affidavit of continued residence and non-alienation to cover date of final certificate.

Wm. A. J. Sparks,
 Commissioner.
 Approved Feb. 21, 1887:
 H. L. MULBROW, Acting Sec.

From the Prisoner:
 D. S. K. Buick has been appointed a member of the State Immigration Board, to look after the interests of Douglas county in that connection.
 Douglas county has not had a prisoner in the county jail since the last term of court held the first week in January, until this week, and not more than one or two for a year. Our crime calendar is less than any other county in the State.
 This office has an application from a party in Kentucky for a block of agricultural lands sufficient for 25 families. Persons having such property for sale should lose no time in bringing in a description and price thereof to this office, where they can find a buyer.
 It is expected that the train time will change about the first of May, so as to enable closer connection and shorter time to be made between San Francisco and Portland. To shorten the time between Portland and Ashland it is probable that through trains will leave Portland in the evening, thus making the daylight run over the mountain portion of the road south of "Roseburg." Under that arrangement the trains would leave Ashland in the forenoon, instead of at night.—[Tidings.]

James L. Onderdonk, editor of The News, returned yesterday from a visit to his old home in New York City. During his absence Mr. Onderdonk participated in a family reunion at which were present his mother and all her surviving children.—[News.]
 The American screw steamer Mexico was wrecked near Victoria recently.