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COMING NEAR HOME

Land Frauds May be Unearthed in Wheeler County.

BUTTE CREEK CO INVOLVED

Methods of Company and U.S. Officials May be Investigated.

There has been a lull in the land fraud investigation for awhile but those in a position to know predict that the period of quiet will soon be followed by developments even more startling than those recorded before the holidays. It is now stated that there are more breakers ahead for Mitchell and Herman and that Congressman Williamson will be indicted with them for alleged crooked work in the Blue mountain forest reserve.

Local interest in this and Wheeler counties just now centers in the investigation which is said to be started against the Butte Creek Land, Lumber & Livestock Company, of Fossil. This company, of which ex-State Senator W. W. Stewer is president, H. H. Hendricks is treasurer and C. B. Zachary is general manager, has been under surveillance of special agents of the government for some time. They had a vast acreage of government land fenced for their own use until a year ago when they were forced to open their fences by an inspector but it is reported here that when special agent Alexander, of La Grande, went to Fossil last week he found the fences all up again. F. W. Ball, O. D. Bills and J. L. Combs, of Fossil, are now at Portland to testify before the grand jury regarding the practices of this company in regard to public lands. Speaking of this case the Portland Telegram says:

"It is not believed by those who profess to know that the government is after the officers of this company, but rather the government officials who may have aided them in any enterprise that was contrary to the statutes of the United States. This company owns a mill at Fossil, which is 100 miles southeast of The Dalles, and is said to have acquired claims by the location of 'settlers' and the payment of a small bonus as well as the expenses of securing the claim, for relinquishment from the 'settlers.' This is a matter for the grand jury to determine, however, and action may be taken tomorrow or the day after."

Mr. Hendricks, the treasurer of the B. C. L. L. Co., was formerly a U. S. Land Commissioner at Fossil but a little over a year ago he suddenly discovered that "a pressure of other business" made it expedient for him to resign the commissionership. It was understood at the time that the pressure came from the federal authorities rather than from his law practice and it has since been a current rumor that an indictment was found against him at that time but that it was kept smothered by some friend who was in a position to do so. Lately some speculative minds have connected that rumor with the recent summary dismissal of District Attorney Hall who was charged with obstructing justice and protecting certain people who were under suspicion. Comment has also been heard on the sudden change of heart of Senator Stewer who up till about that time had been a strong anti-Mitchell man but who suddenly became an ardent supporter of the senior senator. It is hinted that there may have been some connection between this flop of Stewer and the reported smothering of the indictment against Hendricks.

Educational Exhibit.

The following communication from the superintendent of the educational exhibit of the Lewis and Clark Fair is self explanatory. It is a matter in which every friend of education in the state should take an interest and we hope to see Gilliam county get together an exhibit of which every citizen may be proud. The letter was handed to us for publication by School Superintendent McArthur:

To Oregon's Educators:

The Educational department of the Lewis and Clark Centennial exhibition has adopted the following plan of exhibit, viz: To make a carefully and thoroughly graded exhibit from the kindergarten to the university. So far as practicable the exhibit will be arranged by counties. For purposes of organization the county will be the unit. Cities may organize as a unit within the county unit. The Educational Department recommends, however, a collective presentation of the work from different counties, except in cities having special supervision. The collective exhibit plan will require that material furnished by the different schools be assembled at some county center, arranged, labeled and shipped by the county organizations. Papers that best illustrate county plan of exhibit will be placed in exhibit cabinets, others will be bound at the expense of the State Commission.

The arrangement will be by subjects and grades, beginning with the lowest grade. A typewritten statement or outline of the work to be exhibited in cabinets is essential to a correct understanding and presentation of the exhibit. Exhibit cabinets are to be purchased by exhibitors. This department recommends that these cabinets be kept at some convenient county location after the Exposition closes and become the center for the reception of meritorious work which may be supplied from time to time to the end that the exhibit idea may be made a useful adjunct for encouraging excellence of pupils' work.

It is the desire of the Department that the Oregon educational exhibit shall honestly represent the real work of the schools in the best way possible. Local Industries should form the foundation for a large share of language and geography work. Grain farming, stock raising, fruit and vegetable culture become at once the choicest of topics for written work. Visiting observers are always pleased and benefitted by the stories children write of their own environment.

Our educational exhibit will come directly into comparison with that from such states as Massachusetts, New York, Missouri, Wisconsin and California, as well as our Northwestern states. We want the comparison to be such as will fully express the good work being done all through the state. Each school district in the state is cordially invited to send something for the exhibit. Local interest and local pride will certainly stimulate each to do its best.

R. F. Robinson,

Sup't Educational Exhibit.

P. H. Stephenson's store was entered by burglars Monday night of last week and a small amount of merchandise was taken. The thieves entered through a window on the south side of the building and left by the same route. A few pieces of canned goods and a few pairs of shoes were taken. The fellows evidently did not want money as no effort was made to tamper with the safe and a few dollars which had been inadvertently left in the cash register, the drawer of which was not even locked, was not molested. The affair was kept quiet for a few days in the hope that some clue to the identity of the thieves might be secured.

Members of Igo grange will give an entertainment and basket social at their hall at Alvile Friday evening, January 27. An admission fee of 25 cents will be charged, children under 12 years being admitted free. Baskets will be sold to the highest bidder. A dance will follow the entertainment, tickets being 75c. Excellent music will be furnished and a pleasant evening is assured.

The state legislature has organized with Kuykendall president of the senate and Mills speaker of the house. In the distribution of committee places Senator Bowerman, of this city, secured the chairmanship of the claims committee and a place on each of the following: Engrossed Bills, Irrigation and Revision of Laws.

Jim Burns has just received a fine lot of views which were taken by himself and a gentleman with whom he traveled over the Southern Pacific route to the St Louis Fair. Some of the views were taken in old Mexico and all are highly prized as souvenirs of the trip by Mr. Burns.

The Pacific States Telephone Co. has installed a new switchboard in the central office in Dunn Bros' store. It has the latest improvements and is a handsome piece of electrical furniture. The company now has 11 separate circuits in this city with some 30 subscribers.

W. N. Rinehart, a business man of Ashland, Oregon, was here for a few days during the week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Rinehart.

BURTON IS FORNIST

Chairman Rivers and Harbors Opposes Cello Canal.

LOOKS LIKE BAD FAITH

Inland Empire Producers Will Appeal to Congress and to the President

Chairman Burton, of the River and Harbor committee, has announced that he will oppose any appropriation whatever for the Celio canal at this session of congress, basing his objections on the ground that the jetty work at the mouth of the Columbia is expensive and that the state portage road which is about to be built will answer in place of the canal.

The announcement has caused much disappointment and chagrin to the people of the northwest and is meeting with a storm of disapproval. Oregon people assert that the United States government stands pledged to prosecute the work without delay that being the tacit understanding between this state and the general government when Oregon consented to accept the hitherto unheard of requirement to secure the right of way and donate it to the government. Oregon has fulfilled her part of that agreement to the letter and now her people insist that the government should keep equally good faith with them. It is understood the people of Oregon, Washington and Idaho will bring to bear every influence possible in an effort to induce congress and the executive branch of the government to override Mr. Burton's intention and to proceed with the work.

The criticism is also heard that Mr. Burton is either densely ignorant or supremely indifferent to the needs of the Inland Empire and that his late visit to this coast may have been more of a pleasure junket than a tour of investigation into the real needs of waterways and harbors.

It appears to be the intention of the producers of the Columbia river basin to do something to impress on Chairman Burton's mind that the Pacific Northwest is a part of the United States and that the commercial possibilities of the Columbia are second only to the Mississippi.

Kelzur Ridge.

Plenty of snow, thank you. S. A. D. Hurt is having a cistern dug. Mrs. H. L. Ellis is on the sick list this week.

Jess Barton has recently completed a house on his homestead.

B. F. Glazener is doing some repair work on his house and fences.

W. F. Allen was a visitor at the school in district 19, Monday afternoon.

No sir, news is not scarce in these parts at all. The time and patience of the writer are responsible for the short end of this batch.

Mrs. G. T. McArthur has resigned as teacher in district No. 20, but we understand the school will continue without a break under the direction of a teacher from west of the mountains.

Here are some of the things in which the Ridge takes the lead or stands close to all other sections of Gilliam county: The best farming land, the coldest weather in winter, the hottest in summer, the foggiest in foggy weather, the muddiest in muddiness, the largest Irish potatoes, the yellowest pumpkins, the fiercest dogs, the gentlest horses, the most coyotes and jackrabbits to the square rod, the greatest number of fat men out of every dozen, the highest dumps on the new railroad, and last but by no means least, the prettiest girls.

VERO JIM.

Endymion Lodge, No. 66, K. of P. entertained a large number of friends last Tuesday evening at a social given in the lodge room and the lower room of the hall. Dancing and cards were the amusements of the evening. At midnight an elegant supper was served at the Condon hotel. The Knights proved themselves royal entertainers.

One law which the present legislature should pass is that making the practices of moral perverts who live from the earnings of fallen women a felony. Washington now has such a law and the effect is said to be most salutary.

The Quality Store Lord & Company

The way the ladies have taken advantage of our
**BARGAIN DRESS GOODS
SALE**

shows they appreciate a good thing when they see it. We have a few choice patterns left.

WRITE FOR SAMPLES

We can please you in our lines of Men's and Boys'

**CLOTHING
Lord & Company
ARLINGTON, OREGON**

The Quality Store Lord & Company

YOUR WANTS

Can best be supplied from our large stock of
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
which is one of the largest in Gilliam County.
**Ask, Phone or Write for what
you need**

**KEYS & CUSHING
MAYVILLE, OREGON**

ALVILLE - CASH - STORE

**HEADQUARTERS FOR
GROCERIES - DRY GOODS - SHOES**

I have adopted a strictly Cash system of doing business, believing that will be to the advantage of myself and my customers, and invite your patronage on that basis.

G. E. WASSON