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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

PROTEST TO GOVERNMENT.

Removal of Land Office to Portland is Bitterly Opposed.

Oregon City—There will be vigorous opposition offered to the proposed removal of the land office from this city. The claim that the removal of the office to Portland is being made for economical reasons is not accepted as genuine by Oregon City people, who think they see in the plan a move preliminary to the consolidation of the government's land business in this state in a central office with headquarters at Portland. At present there are six land offices in the state, those other than in this city being located at The Dalles, La Grande, Lakeview, Roseburg and Burns. At any rate it is believed here that a consolidation of the Oregon City and Roseburg offices could be effected to the improvement of the service. But so far as the move being in the interest of economy, Oregon City people laugh at the idea. The Oregon City office now occupies a suite of five rooms, for which a monthly rental of \$30 is paid, and it is argued that similar rooms could not be had at Portland for several times that amount. In addition it appears that accommodations must be provided for the land office at Portland, all available room having been otherwise appropriated in the government buildings. In their present quarters the officials of the Oregon City land office have no extra room and could not transact the business of the office in more limited quarters. The land office here is the first land office that was established in Oregon, and one of the first created west of the Mississippi river.

Relics From Jackson County.

Medford—The curious and interesting relics found in an Indian grave on the farm of J. H. Ring, Jackson county, a few days ago, will be sent to Portland, as a part of the Jackson county display at the Lewis and Clark fair. In the grave, besides the skeleton of the brave, there was found a decayed plainsman's blanket, a U. S. army coat, the buttons of which bore the dates of 1837 and 1847. Three Mexican dollars of the stamp of 1840 were also found. Then there was a scalping knife, beads of all sizes and hues and other articles taken by the brave from unfortunate victims of Indians during the early days.

Bronze Statue of Sacajawea.

Portland—The clay model for the statue of Sacajawea has been shipped from Chicago to New York, where the bronze casting will be made. Miss Alice Cooper, the sculptor, has achieved a most remarkable success in her work. After the exposition the statue will be presented to the city of Portland. The cost of the statue will be \$9,000, of which \$7,000 has been subscribed, all but \$200 of this amount coming from persons outside of Portland. July 6, Sacajawea day, all children under 15 years wearing Sacajawea badges will be admitted to the fair grounds upon payment of 10 cents.

Heavy Rains on Arid Land.

Irrigon—This whole section has received such a drenching as the oldest inhabitant never heard of at this season. The precipitation of that week exceeds three week inches, and the entire section east of the Cascades and west of the Blues is soaked down to the gravel. This means wonders for the wheat belt in Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla and the Horse Heaven countries, and to Irrigon it means that people need not resort to irrigation for many weeks. Settlers have already put out over 150,000 trees this spring.

To Open Oregon Belle.

Ashland—Ashland mining men say that soon the Oregon Belle mine will be added to the list of Southern Oregon producers. Development work has been done for some time past, but a mill will soon be erected and complete working done. Mr. Gunnell, one of the owners, has just returned from the East, where he succeeded in making arrangements to finance the property, and complete development will be rushed. A 10-stamp mill, with all necessary machinery, will be placed on the property at once.

Fleeces Average 12 Pounds.

Pendleton—Charles Cunningham has 35 men shearing sheep on his ranch south of here, near Pilot Rock. Thus far they have sheared 10,000 and have 11,000 to shear. His sheep are pure bred Merino and are yielding, on an average, fleeces weighing 12 pounds each. Mr. Cunningham contracted all of his clip to the Union woolen mills for 17 cents a pound early in the season.

Will Run a Long Tunnel.

Silverton—The Lewis & Clark Mining & Milling company has let a contract for their 300-foot tunnel, to be increased to 500 feet, and the work will begin at once. Last year this company equipped the mine with modern machinery and now this new contract will thoroughly develop the ledge.

LITTLE WHEAT IN UMATILLA.

Only One Large Lot of 40,000 Waits Coming of Assessor.

Pendleton—Assessor Strain reports but one lot of wheat of any consequence in the county to be assessed this year. This is 40,000 bushels belonging to the Balfour-Guthrie Warehouse company in this city. All other large lots have been disposed of long ago and most of it shipped from the county.

The Puget Sound warehouse reports the purchase of a small lot of 1,600 bushels of wheat from Oliver & Co., grocers of this place, but aside from that there are practically no sales. Some of the farmers who had seed wheat saved over from last fall, which they did not need to use, are offering that for sale, and some small purchases have been made.

Estimates are that not over 75,000 bushels remain in the county, and all those are in small holdings. Those who have not sold will likely hold over until another year, as the prices of late have been declining instead of advancing.

TO CONTROL FRUIT PRICES.

Growers' Associations Arrange for Single Selling Agents.

Hood River—In order to prevent overstocking of the fruit markets, the fruit associations of Hood River, Puyallup and Vashon propose to unite in having one representative salesman each at Helena, Butte and Great Falls, and also at other points east.

At local points it is proposed that one broker shall act for the several associations. Fruitgrowers are determined as much as possible to fix prices in each of the different markets. Jobbers and commission merchants will handle the fruit on a fixed basis, and as soon as any market is likely to be overstocked, the representatives will advise the shipping associations to divert the shipments elsewhere.

Test Standard Ores.

Sumpter—D. L. Killen and E. F. Warner, of the firm of Killen, Warner & Co., mining promoters, are now at Denver, where a test is being made of the ores of the Standard group, in the Quartzburg district. This firm has financed the Standard, and expects large returns from the immense body of ore opened on the property. The object of the test is to decide upon the character of the reduction plant to be installed at the mine this season for the proper treatment of the ores. The Standard is one of the many properties shipping ore to the smelter here.

Cottage Grove Mill May Start.

Cottage Grove—It is rumored that the Long & Bingham sawmill, which was recently sold to Eugene and other parties, will soon be started up. A few meetings have been held between the interested parties, and it is the expression that the mill will start up in the near future. This mill was run successfully for several months, as the timber was taken from the territory crossed by the O. & S. E. Railroad. George H. Kelly, of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company, and W. E. Brown, of Eugene, have been investigating the matter.

Free Ferry to Lure Trade.

Independence—Opposite Independence, on the Marion county side of the Willamette river, is one of the most populated hop sections of the state, and it is the purpose of the people of this place to attract this trade by providing the residents of that section with a free ferry to this point. At the last meeting of the Independence Improvement league it was reported the owners of the present ferry were willing to dispose of the present one, and it is the intention to buy it, providing a price can be agreed on.

Oregon Stock in Good Health.

Salem—With the exception of mange in one band of horses in Eastern Oregon, in which case two head have been killed and the rest are being dipped, the general health of stock in this state is good. This is according to the verbal report made by State Veterinarian McLean to the Domestic Animal commission.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 86@87c; blue-stem, 93@94c; valley, 87c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@29; gray, \$27@28, per ton.

Hay—Timothy, \$14@16, clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12 per ton.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½¢ per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½¢@30c. Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 90¢@1.1; common, 65¢@80c.

Apples—Fancy, \$1.75@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.25.

Hops—Choice 1904, 23½¢@24c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 19@20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@17c per pound; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

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