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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

CANAL DEED IS CLEAR NOW

No Further Obstacles to Construction of Cut by Government.

Salem—The Cello canal commission, composed of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, has signed the deed conveying to the United States the right of way for the construction of a government canal between The Dalles and Celilo.

At the request of the government officials, the state has several times made corrections in conveyances in order to remove defects from the chain of title, and now the commission feels confident that the title is perfect and that there is nothing, so far as the right of way is concerned, to prevent the government from proceeding with the construction of the canal.

The canal right of way cost the state \$74,000.

The Portage Railway commission, which is composed of these same officers, held a meeting and received the report of the engineer in charge of the work on the portage road. The report shows satisfactory progress, though it is stated that a "walking delegate" appeared on the scene last week and induced the workmen on the piledrivers to strike for a nine-hour day at the same pay received for a ten-hour day. As a consequence the bridgework was retarded.

The greater part of the grading and bridgework has been completed, and one and three-quarters miles of track have been laid. Four cars of steel rails have been received and the track-laying will proceed rapidly. To all appearances, the road will be completed, by the appointed time, May 15. There are now at work 29 teams and 136 men.

Reseeding Done in Wasco.

The Dalles—Farmers whose crops were damaged by the severe weather of February have about finished reseeded, and the new-sown grain is coming up nicely. It is estimated that about ten per cent of the fall-sown grain in the county froze out, and had to be reseeded. This has been a heavy expense on those whose grain was frozen, and as spring sowing never yields as good crops as fall sowing, unless the season is unusually favorable, the wheat crop this year will be somewhat shorter than that of 1904, although, so far, the weather has been most favorable, and crops are making an excellent growth. The season is at least a month earlier than last year, which will enable the gardeners and orchardists to market their crops early, and thereby get the advantages of high prices that always prevail early in the season.

Assessment Soon to Begin.

Pendleton—The deputies appointed by Assessor Strain to take the assessments and the state census will commence their work immediately. The work will be continued, but the values of the property will not be placed by Mr. Strain until late in the season, when he learns what stand the assessors of counties having railroads will take regarding values. Mr. Strain is in favor of placing the values of all property at their true worth. Umatilla county would thus show a property statement of nearly \$30,000,000.

Halsey Ships Lots of Eggs.

Halsey—During March the three mercantile houses of Halsey exported 10,590 dozen of eggs. These eggs were all secured from farmers of the country adjacent to this city. The farmers received an average of 17 cents per dozen for the eggs, making a total of \$1,800 distributed among the farmers of this vicinity in exchange for eggs in one month. This is a record which cannot be equaled by any farming district of the same size in the state.

Clear Track for Grand Jury.

Salem—Judge Burnett has dismissed all trial jurors until May 22, the evident purpose being to give the grand jury time to complete its work of investigating the land fraud cases. The grand jury has thus far given most of its time to the investigation of numerous local cases and to the men who are supposed to have provided the rifles which Tracey and Merrill used in effecting their escape from the state prison in 1902.

Exhibit Independence Fruit.

Independence—At a meeting of the Lewis and Clark club the ladies decided to place an order with a Portland firm for 150 dozen of one-half pint jars. They will fill the jars with various kinds of fruit, which will bear the label of the Independence Lewis and Clark club. They will be given away to Eastern visitors to Oregon this summer.

Polk Pioneers to Meet June 10.

Dallas—The executive committee of the Polk County Pioneer association met in Dallas and set June 10 for the annual reunion of the pioneers of Polk county, the meeting to be in Dallas. J. D. Smith, of Dallas, was elected secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the death of J. W. Lewis.

SPEND \$15,000 ON ITS ROADS

Marion County Plans for Better Highways with Farmers' Aid.

Salem—"The people of Marion county will contribute \$10,000, \$15,000 or perhaps as much as \$20,000 in labor for the improvement of the public roads this summer," said County Judge Scott, as he finished preparing a number of blank agreements for use in road districts where the property owners are circulating subscription papers.

"The county court has decided to spend its surplus road funds in those districts where the people contribute work, and it is very evident that this year will see more progress in road building than in any previous year in the history of Marion county. Our plan is to use what money is necessary in the building of bridges, and in the repair of roads in a few places where county work is of immediate necessity, and the balance of the fund will be divided among the districts. We do not know yet what rate of distribution will be adopted, but the amount distributed will be enough to encourage the enterprise of the people in road building by contributed work."

In the immediate vicinity of Salem work to the amount of at least \$7,000 will be done, and it will probably much exceed this amount. The business men of Salem have subscribed \$2,000, and the county court \$800 more, and to this the farmers will add \$4,200 or more in contributed work. In nearly every part of the county agreements are in circulation for the purpose of ascertaining what donated work can be secured. The initiative has been taken by the farmers, and the county court is giving whatever help and encouragement it can to the movement.

Mount Hood Road Rates.

Oregon City—The Clackamas county court has fixed the charges that shall be made over the Mount Hood toll road. In arranging the schedule of charges, provision is made for automobiles, for which a charge of \$2 each will be made. In addition to automobiles the schedule includes the following items: Four wheeled vehicle, drawn by one span or yoke, \$2, with 40 cents for each additional yoke; vehicle drawn by one horse, \$1.25; saddle horse, 75 cents; pack horse, 40 cents; horse or mule, loose, 15 cents; cattle, loose, 10 cents per head; sheep, goats and hogs, 2 cents.

Lumbering Picking Up.

Sumpter—The lumbering business in this section is picking up. The Oregon Lumber company has started its logging camps up along the line of the Whitney and Tipton branch of the Sumpter Valley railway, and all are running full blast. Service's sawmill, located on Deer creek, six miles below Sumpter, has started sawing on 2,000,000 feet of logs. This mill is expected to run five months on present orders. The Sumpter Lumber company is operating its planing mills, but has not yet made arrangements for cutting its logs at the mill south of town.

Sheep Conditions in Baker.

Baker City—Miles Lee, representing Koshland Bros., has bought 100,000 pounds of wool at 16 cents. This cleans up the advance purchases of clips to be made. It is expected that shearing will commence in this county about May 20. Lee is paying 50 cents a fleece cash to bind his contract. Lambing in Baker county is just beginning, and it is estimated there will be about 105 per cent increase. Sheep are in good condition, the winter has been mild, and there is now plenty of green grass for the flocks.

Blue River Exhibit Ready.

Eugene—The exhibit of ores from the Blue river mines for the Oregon display at the Lewis and Clark exposition, will be shipped from the mines to Eugene at once, and transported immediately to Portland. With what has already been shipped from there, the exhibit of the Blue river mines will amount to a carload. D. H. Weyant, who is the official ore collector for the state mining exhibit, has been here to see to the shipping of Blue river exhibit.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, \$5@80c per bushel; bluestem, \$1@93c; valley, 88c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@29 per ton; gray, \$27@28 per ton.

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

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½@18c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 21½@24c.

Potatoes—Oregon fancy, \$1@1.15; common, 80@90c.

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

Hops—Choice 1904, 23½@25c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 20@22c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 15@18c per pound; mohair, choice, 31@32c per pound.

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