

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

NOT SO BAD AS PAINTED.

Most Crops in Pendleton Section Are Turning Out Well.

Pendleton—Investigation of the condition of growing wheat in various parts of Umatilla county shows the damage sustained in the March cold spell was slight. Instead of many thousands acres to be reseeded, as at first reported, not more than 2,000 acres in the entire county have been reseeded. Many farmers secured seed wheat and vintrol, in many instances paying fancy prices for bluestem, which was scarce, only to find that their grain was not injured or only slightly. The only section where there was any loss was the northwestern part, where the soil is light and there was comparatively no snowfall. The scare was due to the fact that the tops of the grain in some places was frozen, but this is considered a benefit instead of an injury by many, as they say that it has caused the grain to stool out more than otherwise.

The fruit is also coming out nicely and the damage will not be nearly so great as was feared. The peaches suffered most, but there will be a partial crop and unless a later frost occurs there will be a full crop of all other varieties of fruit.

TWO CENTS AN ACRE.

Estimate for Coming Year by Secretary of Waterusers' Association.

Klamath Falls—Secretary Applegate, of the Klamath Waterusers' association, in his annual report to the stockholders' meeting here, April 7, stated that the receipts of the association to March 31, 1906, were \$6,728.66, while disbursements were \$6,851.20, leaving a deficit of \$122.54. Principal expense was filing and recording deeds, etc., \$1,405.20; salary of attorney, \$1,500; salary of secretary, \$1,200, and directors' per diem and expenses, \$603.19.

He estimates expenses for the coming year at \$3,000. As there are about 150,000 acres subscribed to the association, the assessment per acre will only be about 2 cents. There are about 20,000 acres of private land under the project as yet unsubscribed.

Favors Spelling Reform.

Salem—State Superintendent Ackerman is a firm believer in the reformed spelling, so much talked about by Andrew Carnegie. He says that there is only one way to bring about the reformation speedily and effectively, and that was for the newspapers of the country to agree to adopt the new mode of spelling. Should this be done, Mr. Ackerman says that the country at large will accept the new form and forget the old inside of one year. He said that the National Educational association had adopted the new form.

Initiative Printing Bill.

Salem—There has been much speculation as to the probable expense entailed upon the state by the initiative measures which have been proposed for the people's adoption at the June election this year, hence the following figures, obtained from the secretary of state, will be of interest showing the amount thus expended: Paper, \$1,017; printing, \$3,472; binding, \$1,610; total, \$6,099.

Postpone Booth-Kelly Indemnity Bill.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has wired Senators Fulton and Gearin to have the senate postpone action on the Booth-Kelly Lumber company's indemnity bill, authorizing the company to select lands in lieu of its holdings in the Klamath Indian reservation, until a copy of the bill is received and the matter investigated by state land authorities.

Curry Healthiest County.

Wedderburn—Curry county is one of the healthiest in Oregon. This county boasts only one physician, showing that it is a desirable place to live, even if it is off the map of homeseekers. No epidemic of any kind ever visits this place, and the physician is not often needed.

Discovers Black Diamond.

Wedderburn—While panning in the creek near Langlois, this county, W. E. Elliott discovered a black diamond. The stone is as large as a kernel of corn, and has all characteristics of the diamond. It shines at night and is an excellent glass cutter.

Money for School Fund.

Salem—Receipts of the State Land board from sale of public school lands, deferred payments and interest on loans amounted to \$27,636.65 for March. This sum has been paid to the state treasurer to be added to the permanent school fund.

REALLOT WENAHU RESERVE.

Sheepmen Jubilant Over Confirmation of Reconsideration.

Pendleton—There is joy among sheepmen of Umatilla county over the news that the Wenaha reserve will be redivided, for it is understood that the allotment is to be made again. Several days ago J. E. Smith received a letter from Ranger J. M. Smith, inviting the Oregon men to meet at Walla Walla April 27 to consult regarding the division of the reserve. It was supposed that the meeting would be merely to hear complaints, and that little or no good would result to the Oregon sheepmen. However, Dan P. Smythe, secretary of the Umatilla county association, has been informed that the reserve was to be redivided.

When the Wenaha reserve was first allotted among stockmen several months ago Oregon men complained bitterly because in making the division the Oregon part of the reserve had been practically given over to Washington growers, thus cutting off many Umatilla county men from their summer ranges.

There is a general belief that a more equitable division will be made this time, as the Umatilla county men will be on hand to assert their rights.

Perry Gould, president of the Umatilla county association, has called a meeting of that body April 26, at which time a line of action will be agreed upon.

Oregon's Boundary Dispute.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford and State Engineer Lewis, after visiting Astoria to look up evidence in the boundary line suit pending between Oregon and Washington before the United States Supreme court, are more thoroughly convinced than ever that Oregon is in the right. Mr. Lewis contends that congress must have been guided in fixing the boundary line by the latest government surveys of the mouth of the Columbia river. By stipulation, oral evidence will be taken before a notary.

Land and Lot System To Be Used.

Astoria—County Assessor Cornelius has decided to use the land and lot system in preparing the 1906 assessment roll in place of segregating the property under the names of the various owners, as has been the custom heretofore. Mr. Cornelius believes the new system will result in a great saving to the county.

Governor Would Sign Protest.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain says that he does not think the United States quartermaster's office should be moved from Portland to Seattle, because Portland was the more central point. The governor expresses willingness to join in a protest to the secretary of war against the proposed change.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 68c; bluestem, 68c; 69c; red, 66c; valley, 68c.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$27.50; gray, \$27 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50@24 per ton; brewing, \$24@24.50; rolled, \$24.50@25.50.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, choice, \$17@18 per ton; common, \$13@14; valley timothy, \$8@9; clover, \$7.50@8; cheat, \$6@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$12.

Apples—\$2@2.75 per box.

Vegetables—Asparagus, 8@12½c per pound; cabbage, 2½c per pound; cauliflower, \$2 25 per crate; celery, 75¢@90c per dozen; head lettuce, 25c per dozen; onions, 40c per dozen; radishes, 20¢@75c per dozen; rhubarb, \$1@1.25 per box; spinach, \$1 per box; parsley, 25c; turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, 65¢@75c per sack; beets, 85¢@1 per sack.

Onions—No. 1, 70¢@90c per sack; No. 2, nominal.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 65c per hundred; ordinary, 50¢@55c; new California, 5c per pound.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 20¢@22½c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 16¢@16½c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13¢@13½c per pound; mixed chickens, 12½¢@13c; broilers, 25¢@30c; young roosters, 12½¢@13c; old roosters, 10½¢@11½c; dressed chickens, 13¢@14c; turkeys, live, 16¢@17c, turkeys, dressed, choice, 20¢@21c; geese, live, 8¢@8½c; geese, dressed, 10¢@11c; ducks, 17¢@19c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, 7¢@10c; olds, 5¢@7c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 15¢@20c; valley, 24¢@26c per pound; mohair, choice, 25¢@29c.

Veal—Dressed, 3½¢@7½c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4¢@5c; country steers, 4½¢@5½c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 9¢@9½c per pound; ordinary, 4¢@5c; lambs, with pelt on, 10¢@11c.

Pork—Dressed, 6¢@8½c per pound.

LAVA COOLS AND ASHES FALL.

Naples Recovers From Panic and is Cheered by King and Queen.

Naples, April 13.—Frequent detonations are still heard on Mount Vesuvius, but faintly. The main crater is gradually enlarging. The most consoling news is that the lava is cooling on all sides.

Ashes are falling everywhere, houses are collapsing and burying their occupants. Roads near the volcano are no longer opened than they are closed again. The heaviest fall is now over Somma, Santa Anastasia, Ponticelli and other villages in a section opposite and distant from the city.

The people have recovered from the panic of yesterday, are less sullen and downhearted. It is largely due to the presence of the king and queen. They are mingling freely with the populace, doing everything in their power to alleviate the condition of the injured and mingling their tears with those who have lost friends or relatives.

The inhabitants of this city are enduring the yellow gray atmosphere of yesterday, which is even more oppressive than before. The popular costume of those who can afford it consists of an automobile coat, cap and goggles, which enables the wearer to maintain a semblance of cleanliness, but the people generally have to be contented with paper masks and raised umbrellas. The drivers of trolley cars are wearing masks of some transparent material under the visors of their caps. More shops were opened today and the city is slowly resuming its normal life.

The latest reports say that 243 houses have been damaged at Portici, 195 at San Giovanni and Teduccio, 432 at Resina and 1,000 at Torre del Greco.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of buildings demolished at Torre Annunziata. It is estimated that about 5,000 houses in all have been partly or entirely destroyed.

In villages on the Ottajano side of the mountain all the houses are damaged. At Nola desolation reigns, the place having been almost entirely abandoned.

A committee has been formed to collect funds and organize assistance for sufferers. It is presided over by the Duke of Aosta. The government heads the subscription list with \$100,000. The amount collected up to the present time is \$300,000.

Firemen have been sent from Palermo, Sicily, and other places to the villages in this vicinity which have suffered the most from the fall of ashes, to assist in removing the ashes from the roofs and relieve the exhausted soldiers.

Camp kitchens have been established and free meals are being served.

COAL TRAFFIC IS POOLED.

Eastern Roads Admit They Have an Agreement as to Rates.

Philadelphia, April 13.—That rates are fixed by the Traffic association composed of various coal carrying roads was the admission drawn from railroad officials at the final hearing of the Interstate Commerce commission investigation into the affairs and abuses of the coal trade. Through Joseph G. Searles, coal traffic manager of the Pennsylvania railroad company, who is also chairman of the All-Rail Traffic association, it was learned that this organization not only fixes the percentage of tonnage allotted to each road, but also establishes the rates.

Counsel for the commission produced the minutes of the meeting of the Tidewater Bituminous Steam Coal Traffic association, held on September 19, 1900. The records showed that a resolution offered by the Norfolk & Western company permitting that company and the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad to carry tidewater coal at the rate of \$1.25 a ton was voted down and that the rate was fixed at \$1.40 a ton. Mr. Searles admitted that there had been an agreement as to the tonnage to be allowed each road, and that, if one road shipped more and another less, a settlement was made. He adds that there had been no settlement since 1898. Mr. Searles denied that there was an understanding to maintain rates between all rail and all water associations for the purpose of preventing competition.

Wild Stampede for Gold.

Carson, Nev., April 13.—The reported strike of gold in Churchill county has stampeded Carson. Early this morning there was a string of vehicles and automobiles heading for Churchill county to reach the Cooney Springs strike. The town seems to have been almost deserted today in the pell mell rush. News comes from Virginia City and other towns that the stampede has affected them in the same manner. Tonight there are rumors of another strike within 20 or 30 miles of this city.

Castro Quits Temporarily.

New York, April 13.—General Cipriano Castro has retired temporarily from the presidency of Venezuela. General Juan Vicente Gomez, first vice president of the republic, is the present executive. This information was contained in an official cable dispatch received today from Caracas by Carlos Benito Figueroa, vice consul general in this city.

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