

NEW LANDS READY

MINIDOKA PROJECT TO OPEN ABOUT JULY 1.

Over 70,000 Acres of Rich Sagebrush Land in Southern Idaho to Be Thrown Open to Settlement This Year—Immense Electric Power Plant Will Be Installed and Electric Lines Will Cross the Project.

Boise Capital News says of the project of the Minidoka government project in southern Idaho: "It is turned into the canal on the south side section project, which includes areas of land, under the government year. It is completed at all the work at time, which the contract, men and building of the sites from who are now of several land ka progenerate electricity, y electric intervals be used to over canals and turn it will be con- which water the land.

The newest feature in Idaho and is side towards irrigating those ated so high above that they have in worthless except for uses, and considered im- water.

Minidoka project is one of the most valuable of its kind ever attempted in this state, and being built on the same lines as that of the Cattle-Boise project. It will irrigate completed, 70,000 acres of some best land in the state. About this amount is already under water and is included on that part of project which lies to the north of the Snake river.

In the center of this tract are a number of thriving towns namely, Rupert, Minidoka, Heyburn, Jackson and Acequia. Rupert is located in the center of the tract and therefore all the other towns are tributary to it. There are few towns of any importance on the south side of the project at the present time, but it is expected that as soon as the water is turned on communities will rapidly spring up.

Will Generate Great Power. One of the biggest electric power plants ever erected in the state is now in the course of construction 13 miles northeast of Rupert on the Snake river. It is estimated by the government engineers that 50,000 horse-power can be generated at this point of the river and that this will be sufficient to furnish power for light, transportation and fuel to the various towns on the tract as well as to every ranch house, and also supply power for the operation of the electric pumps to elevate the water to the land located above the tract.

If the plans of the government materialize this power will be transmitted just as soon as the power plant is in operation and plans will be immediately taken up to build electric lines over both sides of the river. It also may be possible to transmit power to points outside of the tract.

Over 1200 Farms. There are 1200 farms of the regulation unit of 40 and 80 acres on the north side of the tract and this unit will also be the same of those farms set out on the south side. The ranches on the north side are all occupied and farmed by easterners who recently came into the country eager to obtain land which is watered by the government project.

Many of the farms are modern in every respect and the nature of the soil, which is of volcanic ash underlain with fine sand, makes it possible through irrigation, to produce marvellously large crops. By dry farming alone one of the ranchers of the tract raised 50 bushels of wheat to the acre and it is claimed that this will give some idea of the amount of wheat that can be raised on irrigated land.

CUT UP YAKIMA RANCHES.

Old Farms Are Being Sold in 10 Acre Fruit Tracts.

The first of the old established stock ranches of the Naches valley has been cut up into 10 acre tracts and is put on the market today, says the Yakima Republic. The ranch is that known as the Morford place. It has been purchased by C. S. J. E. and the Yakima Commercial Journal.

For years this land has yielded abundant crops of hay and other farm products of the more staple variety. Now it is to give homes to many people instead of being owned by one party. The ranch comprises 160 acres of the best farm property in the Naches valley. It is abutted by the Yakima & Valley railway and is in close proximity to the lower Naches school house and church.

Farmers of the Naches are jubilant at sight of the exit of the old hay and stock ranches. It means that the valley will be doubled in population and that the country will present a vale of small and well kept homes.

This is the second big tract the Commercial company has platted in the Naches valley during the last year. The other tract was the old Fechter & Janeck ranch. It was not

WANT CHEAPER CARS.

Carsten's Packing Company Seeks Relief From Railroad Charges.

A Salem dispatch says: The Carstens Packing company of Tacoma has communicated with the railroad commission to solicit the aid of the commission in this state in securing more favorable rates for livestock between California and Washington.

Within the states of Oregon and Washington the railroads will furnish single-decked cars for livestock without extra charge if double-decked cars are not available when the order is received. This advantage is also granted between California and Oregon, probably because of the Oregon-California system of the Southern Pacific, for it is not a general rule in interstate commerce.

The rule does not exist as between California and Washington. This is very much in favor of Oregon packers, because much livestock is brought to both Washington and Oregon from California. An extra charge is imposed if it is necessary to substitute two single-deck cars for one double-deck car.

The Washington packers want the Oregon railroad commission to assist the Washington commission in bringing the matter before the interstate commerce commission so that the rule of substituting single-decked cars for double-deckers without extra charge may prevail in all interstate carrying.

NEW ROADS FOR RESERVATION.

Yakima Indians Will Have 386 Miles of New Highways.

County Engineer McIntyre has made a plan showing a new system of roads on the Yakima reservation and when a map has been drafted it will be submitted to the department of the interior for approval, says the Yakima Republic. The plan provides for 386 miles of roads along section lines and covering practically all of the territory of the reservation which is, or eventually will be irrigated.

At present the roads on the reservation are but 30 feet wide and the county authorities are anxious that the roads be widened out so as to conform with the other roads of the county which are 60 feet in width and which are laid out on section lines. It is considered that the change should be made prior to the opening of the reservation, which is expected next spring. If not, the change is likely to involve troublesome and expensive condemnation proceedings against white settlers who may purchase holdings and who would resent having to give up strips of their land for road purposes.

The plan outlined by the county engineer meets with the approval of Superintendent Jay Lynch, of the reservation, and he will recommend its adoption by the department.

CONVICTS ESCAPE.

Trusty Takes Advantage of Opportunity to Run Away.

Richard Fritsch, a one year and a half man at the penitentiary, made a successful escape yesterday afternoon about 5:30 while having the liberty of a trusty cleaning up the premises of the superintendent's cottage just outside the penitentiary fence.

When last seen, Fritsch was steady at his work, and just how he managed to slip out of sight of the officials cannot be learned, and owing to the fact that he was a trusty, no guard was deemed necessary, which advantage he took advantage of. Several of the prison employes were scouring the circus grounds last evening in search of the fugitive, and Warden Curtis took the second train out of here about 10 o'clock for the purpose of keeping a thorough watch in case the escaped man should be on the trains leaving for points south, but nothing was found of him and it is believed by the prison officials that he is yet in this city.

Fritsch was sentenced to one and a half years for obtaining money by false pretense, and he had the half year yet to serve. He was committed from Jackson county.

To Make Rain in Sherman.

A telegram from Charles M. Hatfield, Crows Landing, California, which was received by W. M. Barrett the first of the week, brought the news that Mr. Hatfield will be on the ground by or before May 11 to commence his rain precipitating operation. Mr. Hatfield did not succeed in fulfilling his entire contract in the given length of time this year in California. His success, was however, great enough that the farmers felt like remunerating him to the amount of \$1000. The farmers in the neighborhood of Crows Landing are looking forward to a bumper crop the coming season.—Wasco News.

Natches a "Spotless City." Yesterday was clean-up day at Natches City, says the Yakima Republic. All day long thirty men and eleven men with teams worked on Natches avenue. The street was freed from rocks and graded thoroughly. The residence district was raked and trash burned. Men, women and school children contributed their efforts from early morning until late last evening. Today the city appearance is greatly improved and the little village which comprises some of the most energetic and public spirited men and women of the Yakima valley, resembles the fabled "spotless town."

OPEN YAKIMA LAND

INDIAN RESERVATION TO BE SETTLED UPON

The Portion of Yakima Land to Be Thrown Open Comprises 1,145,000 Acres of Every Character—Wapato Project to Be Extended—Portion to Be Settled Upon Can Be Irrigated.

The Yakima Republic says of the opening of a portion of the Yakima reservation to settlement: The most important part of the work preliminary to the opening of the Yakima reservation has been completed, earlier than was expected here, by the selection by the department of the interior of the lands to be withdrawn from entry for the Wapato project.

The officers of the local United States land office have received notice from the department of the lands withdrawn and this shows that the government contemplates the extension of the Wapato project over an additional area aggregating over 50,000 acres and including all of the most desirable land from the north and eastern boundaries of the reservation as far south as Fort Simcoe and embracing the area which could be irrigated from the Simcoe and Toppenish streams.

Vast Increase in Irrigation. Not only does this decision of the department mean the vast increase of the irrigated area of Yakima valley land but it also indicates that the date of the opening of the reservation may not be so far distant as was generally supposed, and that the government may be able to throw the reservation open, as originally intended, late this fall, or, at the latest, early in the spring of next year.

The principal work which had to be accomplished prior to the opening of the reservation was the surveying and classification of the lands and in this department the fixing of the boundaries of the land to be irrigated under the Wapato project was the most important part.

There are 1,145,000 acres of land to be opened to settlement and this area embraces lands of almost every class—homestead, desert and stone and timber lands. A part of the territory has not been completely surveyed yet but this work is in progress and should be finished during the summer.

BAND OF SHEEP DROWNED.

Wyoming Owner Loses 800 Head in Heavy Rain Storm.

A correspondent writing from Casper, Wyo., to the Cheyenne Tribune, says of a serious loss of sheep in that vicinity: The only serious loss of sheep in this vicinity during the past winter is reported by Robert Crosswaite, who recently sheared a band near Casper. The sheep were in poor condition and were caught in a heavy rain storm while on their bed ground.

The band consisted of about 1800 head and were bedded in a narrow draw at the bottom of a range of hills. The rain water drained into the draw flooding the ground and the efforts of the herder and campowner to move the sheep out of the pocket were unavailing. The animals huddling together in the draw in which the water was rapidly rising. A little over half of the band was saved, the remainder, about eight hundred head, being drowned.

Mr. Crosswaite also reports the only sale of wool thus far reported in the state. He mentioned the clip from the above mentioned band, about 13,000 pounds, to a Chicago house to be sold on commission, the firm advancing 10 cents per pound on the shipment, which was something less than a carload.

There have been but few other losses reported in this vicinity, due in the main to severe frosty nights following heavy rains upon shorn sheep. The losses have been so distributed among the shepherds that the individual loss is insignificant, the sheep which succumbed being the poorest of the flocks.

ENTIRE FAMILY MISSING.

Husband, Wife and Children May Have Drowned.

That E. E. Porter and his entire family, consisting of Mrs. Porter, 6-year-old son and a babe of two months, have been drowned in the Willamette or Columbia rivers is feared by a brother of the missing man. Embarking in a steam launch, Porter accompanied by his wife and children left Portland for the lower Columbia river about six weeks ago to look at a small sawmill plant he contemplated buying.

Not a member of the family has been seen by any of their relatives since, although on leaving Porter did not expect to be absent long. No tidings of any sort have been received from them. Every inquiry of the brother has given no clue as to their fate or whereabouts.

SMOOT DECLARES TIMBER IS BEING WASTED

Utah Senator Defends Policy of Forestry Department.

The speech in opposition to the forestry service was made by Senator Heyburn of Idaho in the senate while the agricultural bill was under consideration. Warner of Missouri, continued his speech on the Brownsville affair, but it was not concluded.

Heyburn suggested an amendment excepting Idaho from the states in which the secretary of agriculture may give permits for the exportation of timber from the forest reserves. He ridiculed the chart of the forestry division, which was swung on the wall of the senate chamber, marked with statements as to the number of years the forests of various parts of the country would last. The forestry division he says, was launched into a realm of prophecy in a way that would require greater wisdom than that possessed by the sages of old, when it was declared that a certain section would be short of its forest in 20, 30 or 40 years, they forgot that, he says, lumber grows, and he declared that the timber supply is as great today as ever in the world's history. There is, he says, no danger of a timber famine.

Senator Smoot took exception to the statement that the world's timber was as great as ever. Heyburn retorted that the senator from Utah might consult the map on the senate wall as a guide, he possessing the "spirit of prophecy" which he (Heyburn) did not possess. Smoot said he could prove, not by prophecy, but by figures, that the timber of this country is being rapidly destroyed and that there is not anything like the amount of timber in this country that there was 20 or 30 years ago.

TRAMPS KILL BRAKIE.

Hurled to Death from Flying N. P. Train.

While attempting to eject five tramps from a blind baggage car on Northern Pacific train No. 15 early this morning, John Pryor, brakeman, was thrown from the car by the hobos between Connell and Hatton and, striking on his head, was killed instantly. The hobos boarded the blind baggage at Hatton and Pryor climbed over from the front end of the smoker to eject them.

Pryor was missed when the train reached Connell and the hobos were arrested and sent to Pasco, where they are now in jail. They tell varying stories of the affair, but declare that Pryor fell by accident. This however, is contradicted by other testimony. The train ran back along the line from Connell and Pryor's body was picked up. The doctor who examined the body said that death must have been instantaneous. Pryor has relatives and many friends in Pasco.

For Municipal Ownership.

Municipal ownership of the electric light and water plants was the principal topic of discussion at the meeting of the city council Tuesday night, although many other important subjects were considered by the city fathers in a lengthy session which continued until midnight when adjournment was taken subject to the call of the mayor, says the Kennewick Reporter.

Three councilmen and two private citizens, Jas. Crowell, J. A. Rose, W. A. Hawes, O. L. Hanson and George F. Richardson were appointed as a committee to secure estimates on the cost of the present light and water plants the figures to be presented to the council at its next meeting. This action was taken in response to a petition of the citizens declaring that municipal ownership of these public utilities was a necessity and calling upon the council to thoroughly investigate the possibilities with a view to submitting the proposition to the voters.

Will Confirm Class of 200.

Bishop O'Dea, who is expected in North Yakima Saturday afternoon, will on Sunday, either in the afternoon or evening confirm a class which will have in excess of 200 members, says the Yakima Republic. Those who took the first communion this year, last and the year before and those people who have removed to North Yakima after communion but before confirmation, will compose the class.

The hour of the service has not been determined and probably will not be until after the arrival of Bishop O'Dea, who is expected to reach this city Saturday afternoon. Clergymen of the church and members in Seattle a week ago commemorated Bishop O'Dea's jubilee.

Sunday at high noon mass will commence the forty hours' devotion here which will conclude Tuesday evening. It is altogether probable that other clergymen of the denomination will be in North Yakima at the time.

Winter Barley Heading.

Winter barley is now heading in the Lewiston flat section east of the city and will be ready for the harvest by the latter part of June, says the Lewiston Tribune. This is the report made yesterday by farmers from this section who are transacting business in the city.

The general crop conditions are reported to be very favorable for big yields and an earlier harvest of all grains is predicted because of the open winter and early growing weather. The acreage of all grains in Nez Perce county has been materially increased with the exception of wheat which is cultivated but

TO ADVANCE RATES

RAILROADS MAY MAKE GENERAL INCREASE.

Eastern Railroad Presidents Will Combine to Put Widespread Rate Advances Into Effect—Determined Resistance From Commercial Bodies.

An organized attempt by eastern railroad managers to effect a wholesale advance of freight rates has aroused widespread alarm and protest, says the Oregon Daily Journal. While no open action has been taken in the Pacific northwest in opposition to the movement, Oregon commercial bodies and shippers have not been inactive, and a determined resistance to the raise is being organized.

The eastern railroad presidents recently came into the open and have declared that they will carry the proposed increase into effect, and that the interstate commerce commission will be powerless to prevent it. The movement has reached a stage where an outburst of popular indignation is spreading over the country. Commercial interests are forming combinations to exert the united influence of the country's business men against the advance of rates.

A telegram received in Portland from Chicago advises local lumber manufacturing interests that the lumber shippers of the middle west and northwest are up in arms, and that united action will be taken. The railroad presidents have been asked to withdraw the advanced rates until October. A large meeting of shippers representing the entire western country, will be held at Chicago May 15.

It is admitted that the interstate commerce commission and state railway commissions have no powers that can be used effectively under present laws to prevent the railroads from carrying the proposed increase into effect. It was to prevent just such action by the railroad companies that the Fulton amendment was offered in the present congress.

This amendment to the interstate commerce law was originated by the lumber manufacturers and their attorneys. They proposed that no railroad should be allowed to increase an established rate until after the increase had first been submitted to the interstate commerce commission and the shippers given a hearing in opposition to the advance.

Had this amendment become a law the railroads could not carry the threatened general increase into effect until it had been threshed out before the commission and approved by that body, and then given a final hearing in the courts, where appeal could have been made by the railroads.

NEW APPLICATION BLANKS.

Land Office Receives Supply of New Papers for Entrymen.

The land office department through Frank C. Bramwell, register of the local land office, has made public an announcement which will mean much to the office itself, the newspapers of the state and the people who have to do with public lands in general, says the La Grande Observer.

The department of the interior has made a radical change in the form on which applications for homesteads, desert lands and timber and stone entries are made. Heretofore and since 1878, the form has had a few minor changes, all tending to shorten the wording of the application which is always printed in a newspaper nearest the land filed on.

After the 15th inst. the form will be much shorter, and all classes of applications must be made on the same style of blanks. Each class of land was customarily applied for on a distinct and separate form. Beginning with the 15th, however, one form will be used in all classes.

Considerable change has been made in the manner of publishing affidavits as well.

DRAPER SELLS BLOODHOUNDS.

Spokane Man Hunter Retires from the Business.

T. H. McDermott, a private detective who was formerly connected with the Inland Empire company, has purchased Sam and Brady, Harry Draper's bloodhounds, for a consideration of \$425. The deal was completed Monday, says the Spokane Chronicle. Mr. McDermott has already made arrangements with a number of sheriffs in outside counties so they will be able to secure the dogs in the shortest space of time and similar arrangements have been made with several of the railroad companies.

met the force of five that were to have begun at 1 o'clock this morning and together they marched into Kay's office and demanded a return to the old scale under which six of the nine received \$2 a day instead of \$1.75 as at present, and the other three made \$50 per month instead of \$40 as they do now.

New River Boat Ready.

C. A. Lundy of Kennewick was in the Express office one day last week and in speaking of the fast passenger boat that is now being built at Seattle for the up-river trade, says the Pasco Express. Mr. Lundy gave out that the boat would be a 180 horse power gasoline, 12 feet wide and 80 feet long, and that 75 passengers and baggage could be comfortably accommodated, besides the mail and the express which it contemplates carrying. The boat, which will be known as "The Kennewick," is guaranteed to make 15 miles an hour up stream, making it the fastest, by far, of any boat on the run, and where two days are now consumed by the freighters this little craft will make it in a day.

The Kennewick will travel from Seattle to Kennewick by its own power, making the ocean trip alone from Seattle to Astoria, and from there to Celilo falls, where it will be taken over the portage and from Celilo make the home run to Kennewick mission by the first of June.

Many Homesteaders at Boise.

Reports from trainmen and officials at the depot are to the effect that more emigrants are arriving in the city this spring than ever before and all seem to be seeking locations to engage in business to get lands under some of the irrigation projects now under construction, says the Boise Capital News.

It is evident from the number of strangers seen on the streets and from the reports of real estate dealers that the fame of Idaho climate, soil and opportunities are becoming known to the world and are attracting attention to the Gem state and particularly to the Boise valley, the greatest prune belt in the world. Many of the strangers interviewed are greatly surprised at the wonderful productivity of the soil, the delightful climate and the advantages here for investment.

Idaho Sunday School.

The report of the secretary of the Southern Idaho Sunday School association shows 216 Sunday schools in southern Idaho, with 1,922 officers and teachers, 13,868 scholars and an average attendance of 10,886, says the Boise Capital News.

Canyon county leads with fifty-one schools and 478 teachers and officers and 3,899 scholars with an average attendance of 2,553.

Ada county comes next with thirty-nine schools, 480 teachers and officers, 4,057 scholars, with an average attendance of 3,773, beating Canyon county in everything but the number of schools.

Custer county has but two Sunday schools with twenty-two teachers and officers and a membership of 100 and an average attendance of 80. Bear Lake county has the same number of schools with fifteen teachers and officers, and an average attendance of 68.

Consider Mining Bureau.

The governing board of the Commercial club will meet at noon today when steps will be taken relative to the matter of organizing a mining bureau, says the Lewiston Tribune. It had been arranged for the matter to receive consideration at the last meeting of the board, but no quorum was present at that time. The board has invited mining men to be present to express their views. It is probable that at the meeting today the subject will be referred to a committee, having authority to establish the bureau as an adjunct of the club's publicity work.

At the meeting today the governing board will also consider the matter of making a donation of \$100 to the Lewiston band to assist in the purchase of new uniforms. The matter of making a regular monthly donation to the band will also be acted upon.

Nathan Wolff's Estate.

Nathan Wolff left an estate valued at \$15,000, which will be inherited by his widow, Mrs. Esther L. Wolff, and their four children, ranging in age from 5 to 11 years, says the Oregon Daily Journal. Acting on a petition filed in behalf of the widow by Dolph, Mallory, Simon & Gearin, County Judge Webster this morning appointed Mrs. Wolff executrix of the estate. She is required to give a bond of \$15,000. The estate consists solely of the stock of jewelry and other goods kept in the pawnbroker shop at 165 First street, where Wolff met his tragic death. The widow is 5 years of age and the children are Alina, 11 years old; George, aged 8; Ruth, aged 7, and Jeannette, aged 5. Joseph Dinkelpliel, Jacques F. Reinhart and Herman Marks have been appointed to appraise the estate.

Salem "Cleaned Up."

Salem's first annual clean up day was even a greater success than the promoters had hoped, says the Salem Statesman. Streets, alleys, back yards and front yards, vacant lots and every place that harbored a collection of the cans or rubbish, received attention. The city presents a better appearance this morning in consequence.

Many of the merchants put as many men at work as they could secure, in cleaning up about their premises. The schools and colleges were dismissed and the young folks did excellent service.

The city was divided into four districts and the work was done systematically. Next year it is planned to organize the forces earlier and make the movement general.

North Powder Is in Fear of an Epidemic of Group and Diphtheria.

North Powder is in fear of an epidemic of group and diphtheria, ac-