

BABY CROP SHORT IN THIS COUNTY

Says state Board of Health in annual report issued on Dec. 31st.

The state board of health has just issued a report covering the year closed by December 31, 1908. The report may seem a little belated but that is due to the manner in which information in the health department is compiled and is always based on the preceding year.

Greatest interest centers in the births of the state and it is pleasing to note that Baker county is not at the bottom of the list, for according to the table of births this county had 101 boy babies and 84 girl babies born in 1908. Benton county had an even break as to sex, there having been 63 girls and 63 boys during the year. In Clackamas county the girls exceed the boys by two — 97 boys, 99 girls. Curry, Gilliam and Grant counties are left blank in the report and this is to be construed that either no report was kept in those counties or else no babies were born, the latter condition being one to be seriously regretted if true. If the stork has boycotted these three counties some action should be taken by the next legislature and a reward might be offered that would induce the old bird to hover in that region for a little while each year at least. — Baker City Herald.

B. Gaffney of Fossil returned from Portland last Saturday where he had been attending the harnessmakers convention.

S. B. Barker returned to Portland Monday morning after spending a week and a half in Condon looking after his extensive business matters.

Rev. Skipworth passed thru Condon Monday on his way to The Dalles from Fossil where he took part in the revival meeting there last week.

Frank Knox of Fossil was a passenger for Portland Monday.

Oscar Kelsay passed through Condon Saturday evening on his way home from Portland. He was accompanied by Mrs. Kelsay.

I. D. Phillips of Clem was a business visitor here the latter part of the week.

Geo. Clarke left for Rock Creek Saturday where he will be employed on E. C. Rogers' ranch.

J. L. Hughes took 7 head of horses to Pendleton Saturday which he sold in that city.

A. K. Weatherford and wife visited their daughter, Mrs. Cochran here the latter part of last week, returning to their Rock Creek home Saturday.

Chas. H. Williams, was at Arlington the latter part of last week where he installed a new piano for Ed Clough. While in Arlington, Mr. Williams took orders for two more of the instruments.

Jas. C. Cooper, who has been the mail clerk on the Inland Limited the past year, has been transferred to the main line and left for Portland Monday morning to begin his new duties. Mr. Cooper's many friends in this city will be glad to hear of his promotion. Mr. Cooper, wishing to keep in touch with all the happenings of Gilliam County made us a pleasant call before leaving and renewed his subscription to the leading paper.

A SCOTTISH LEGEND.

The Story of the Knight With the White Feather.

TWO COURAGEOUS WARRIORS.

Heroic Alexander Hume and His Still More Heroic Fellow Soldier and Protector—The Sad Sequel to the Battle That Was Lost.

The heraldic arms of the Scotch town of Selkirk show a woman seated on a tomb, on which is also placed the Scottish lion. The legend told about the arms is this: King James IV. of Scotland, who was about to invade England, needed recruits for his enterprise. The town clerk of Selkirk, William Brydone, tried his best to aid his king by persuading his fellow countrymen to enlist in the royal cause. So earnest was he that he is said to have moved over a hundred lusty Scots to join his standard. Among these was one of the name of Alexander Hume. This man was a shoemaker of the town of Selkirk. He was strong, stalwart, bold and an excellent workman. Brydone was very glad to welcome him, as he reckoned him quite the best man of the hundred, and his comrades, who were also brave men and true, cheered him as he appeared among them, such confidence had they in his wisdom, prudence, valor and strength.

Hume's wife, Margaret, was a fine young woman and very fond and proud of her brave, strong husband. Now, Margaret did not at all like this proposed invasion of England. She felt that it would mean great trouble to the Scotch people, who would certainly be vanquished by their strong enemy, and the thought came to her that her own brave husband might perhaps lose his life in the struggle. She therefore used all her best efforts to keep him at home. She pleaded in vain. Alexander was firm. At last she held up to his face their little five-months-old daughter and asked who would look after the child if he should die and who would keep her from misery and misfortune.

Hume loved his wife and child, and these appeals brought the tears to his eyes, but they did not break down his resolution, which he had girt about him as armor. Nothing could move him to become untrue to his king and country.

Finding that no entreaties could move him, Margaret at last gave way to anger and told him that his eager desire to be thought the bravest man of Selkirk would not supply the child he was bound to work for with a bite of bread. She said even more than this. Her tones grew higher, and one word led to another, as you know it will, until the couple parted in anger, he to the field of battle and she to remain at home.

Alexander had not gone far before it flashed across the mind of his wife that perhaps she might never see him alive again. Unable to control herself, she flung the child into its crib and rushed out of the house. She must see her husband again and get from him one parting glance or word of reconciliation. She hurried through the town, she sought everywhere for him, but he was nowhere to be seen. He had gone off with his comrades. The poor wife wept bitterly. Her grief was deep.

Hume and his fellows were soon engaged in battle. He displayed the greatest bravery. Wherever he went numbers of the enemy fell. In every direction upon the field of battle he was seen. His companions kept well up to him, and in particular one man who had lately joined the party. This man fought with a courage equal to that of Hume himself, keeping continually beside him and defending him in many perils. Once when an Englishman from behind drew very near to the Scot this soldier struck the cowardly fellow to the earth just as he was inserting his spear between the clasps of Hume's armor. Hume called to the brave fellow and demanded his name, even in the midst of the fight, but the stranger said that that was no matter.

This generous soldier wore a leather jacket and an iron helmet, in which there was placed a small white feather. Wherever Hume fought on the battlefield there might be seen beside him the iron helmet and the white feather.

At last the battle ended in defeat for the Scotch, who scattered in all directions. Hume, who, with other soldiers, was obliged to lie concealed in the forest for some time, took the first opportunity of inquiring after his faithful attendant. But all his inquiries were without avail. He could not trace him. Nothing could be learn of him but that he had disappeared when the fight was over.

Alexander Hume hurried to his cottage. He was anxious to see again his beloved wife and bestow upon her the kiss of reconciliation. When he reached it he listened at the door, and his heart beat fast. He had kind words to say to her from whom he had parted in anger, and his deep wounds needed dressing. He lifted the latch and walked in. All was still. No wife came to meet him; no child's cry met his ear. On looking round the room he saw seated in an armchair the knight who had fought so bravely beside him in the battle, wearing the same leather jacket, iron helmet and white feather. That person was Margaret Hume. She was dead and clasped in her dead arms the little child.

Be conciliatory and considerate if you hope to win conciliation and consideration.—Ward.

NEW SURVEY ON JOHN DAY RIVER

Is believed to herald new railroad line—O. R. & N. thought to be back of move.

Surveyors, supposed to be in the employ of one of the railroad companies, are working in the canyon of the John Day River, in Eastern Oregon, according to reports from Croy, a point on the John Day in Gilliam County, says the Heppner Times.

The work of the surveyors has been traced along a point east of Willow Creek along what is locally known as Alkali Canyon, thence crossing Rock Creek about seven miles above its confluence with the John Day, to Scott's Canyon to the John Day River and up the John Day beyond the mouth of Hay Creek for a distance unknown to the observers of that locality.

The preliminary survey is well up the Canyon wall, about 250 to 300 feet above Croy, and provision is apparently made for a tunnel from Rock Creek to Scott's Canyon, and for another from the John Day River to Esaw Canyon, in order to avoid a long loop.

The identity of the interest behind the surveying party has been the cause of much speculation in that locality. The John Day river has been looked upon as a possible means of access to Central Oregon, but the main objection to its choice as a route has been that the river rises in the Blue mountains, in North-eastern Oregon. It flows westerly in direction for many miles before it turns to the north and drops into the Columbia River. To get into Crook, Lake or Harney counties via the John Day River either a pass through high spurs of the Blue Mountains would have to be made or the mountains skirted to the west.

Tributary to the John Day, however, are rich agricultural and timber resources, now unserved by railroads, in Wheeler and Grant Counties. Rumor in Eastern Oregon has heretofore named the John Day River Canyon as a means of access for both the Milwaukee and North Coast Railroads to Interior Oregon.

The John Day River, for a number of years, has also been discussed as furnishing a feasible and shorter route through the

Blue Mountains than now followed by the O. R. & N. thru the same, and it is suggested that the new Harriman system is behind the new movement. This theory would explain the reason for the construction by the Oregon Short line of 25 mi. of railroad from Vale up another "Willow Creek" to Brogan, work on which is now under way.

The construction of the Brogan road was announced as a branch line to serve an irrigated country, but the district to be tapped is said to be too small in itself to justify railroad construction. The branch line is along the general route of old surveys made up Willow Creek to the Blue Mountain divide. This

survey skirted Iron Side Mountain, a peak in the Blue Mountain range, thus getting over the divide to the upper reaches of the John Day River, and thence down the John Day.

There is a multiplicity in names of minor streams in Oregon. The Willow Creek up which the Brogan branch of the Oregon Short Line is building flows southeasterly into the Malheur river. The Willow Creek mentioned in the reports from Croy, rises in the vicinity of Heppner and flows northward into the Columbia. The Heppner branch of the O. R. & N. is built up the latter creek.

Still another Willow Creek flows through Madras westerly into Deschutes river. It is up

this stream the Oregon Trunk line whild after leaving the Deschu Canyon.

Croy located about 20 miles south the mouth of the John Day river. Rock Creek flows into the John Day a few miles south of Croy, both from the east. A newly reported surveying activity begins in O. R. & N. territory.

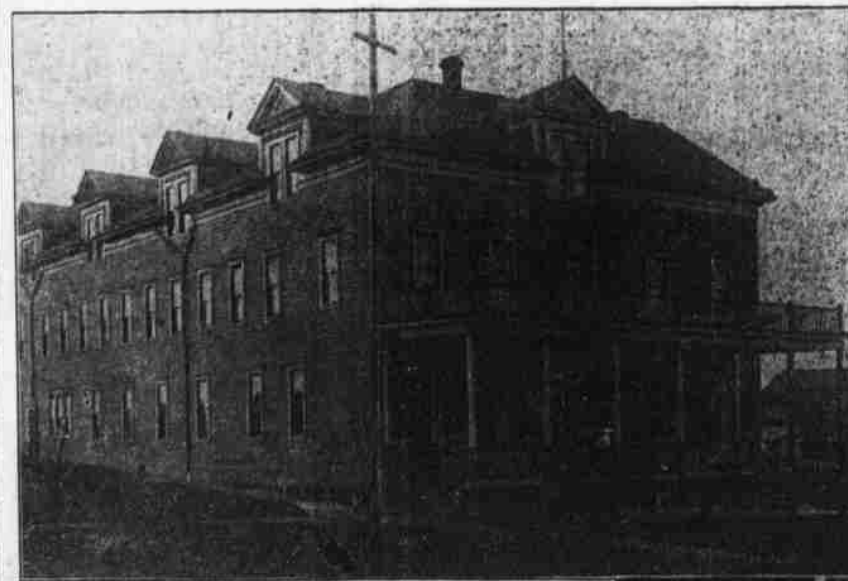
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