

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

GOOD WAGES IN HAYFIELDS.

Klamath Basin Farmers Pay \$2 Per Day and Board.

Klamath Falls.—Laboring men can do well in Klamath basin. Haying has brought on a tremendous demand for men of brawn, and wages started at \$2 a day and board in the hayfields. Mason, Davis & Co., contractors on the canal, promptly met the wage with the additional inducement of an eight-hour day, and farmers generally realize that an eight-hour day in caring for a crop of alfalfa would hardly do. It is a bumper crop of hay that is being cut in this county, too, and many ranches report that tonnage of from four to five tons is not unusual.

With all of this vast production, appearances indicate that good prices will be realized, as there are more animals to be fed than ever before. Especially will the demand for hay suitable for horses be called for in large quantity for the animals employed in constructing canals, laterals and other portions of the government work and building the railroads reaching this way for the tonnage the valley is to produce. The government has decided to build the second unit of its canal without asking for further bids on the work and will immediately proceed to equip the additional camps necessary for that work. The wages of men at the government camps has been increased to correspond with that offered by farmers and the contractors.

Work on the canal system is now going ahead rapidly. D. C. Henny, supervising engineer, who succeeded J. B. Lippincott on this project, is acquainting himself thoroughly with the work that has been done and that is outlined for immediate construction. He has spent most of the time on the work since his arrival from Portland.

Barley Stands H at Best.

The Dalles.—Headers are running all over the county in the farming sections, and the grain is being stacked ready for threshing. As yet no threshing machines have started, but several will begin this week. As harvest advances, it is shown that the wheat crop is better than was thought a week ago. The quality of spring grain is inferior. None of the spring grain is No. 1. The fall wheat is of good quality, but most farmers estimate that their fall wheat will not yield over 15 bushels to the acre—about half a crop. Barley is the best crop this season, having stood the hot weather better than wheat or oats.

Have 72 Per Cent of Offices.

Salem.—Out of 342 county offices in the state the Republicans hold 249 and the Democrats hold 88, while only two are filled by Independents, one by a Prohibitionist and one by a woman who has no political party designation. One office is vacant. The Republicans hold 72.8 per cent of the county offices and the Democrats 25.7 per cent. The Independents elected secured the office of surveyor in two counties and the Prohibitionists elected a coroner. The woman elected is Miss Emma Warren, who was elected school superintendent of Clatsop county. No one was elected coroner of Wheeler county.

For New Woman's Building.

Albany.—After holding a meeting of the board of regents of the Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis, the members of the board came to Albany last week and at an adjourned session in this city awarded the contract for the new woman's building, to be erected on the campus, to H. Snook. The contract price is \$69,000, that being the lowest bid by \$2,000. The building will be constructed of the granite from the quarries at Detroit, the eastern terminus of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, and the building stone at Yaquina bay.

Harvesting Begins in Linn.

Albany.—Harvesting has begun in Linn county. While some damage to spring grain has been reported, as a result of unusually warm weather lasting for several days, these reports are the exception rather than the rule. Fall sown grain was damaged but little, and an excellent crop will be garnered. Late sown spring grain will improve considerably yet under the influence of the cool weather now prevailing. Haying is practically over, and the baler will add the finishing touches before the fall rains set in.

New Combine Attracts Attention.

Athens.—A combine harvester has been purchased by John Walter which will be the first of its kind to be used in this section. The machine is propelled by a 20-horse power engine, which runs all of the machinery, taking only a sufficient number of horses to draw the machine. The separator and cutting machinery is operated entirely independent of the draft. The feature that most interests farmers is that of doing away with many horses required by other combines.

BEST IN UNION.

Iowa Expert Says Dairying Conditions Excel His State.

Salem.—That Oregon can produce butter cheaper than any other state in the Union and that Oregon creamerymen are nevertheless figuring on importing cream from Minnesota, were startling assertions made at a dairy-men's meeting here last week.

Professor McKay, of the dairy department of the Iowa State Agricultural college, was the principal speaker. He said that although his state produces more butter than any other state, he freely acknowledged that this is a more advantageous region for dairying, for the reason that the climate is less subject to such extreme conditions. He said Oregon should not import a pound of butter, but should be an exporter when that product can be shipped to New York for 2 cents a pound and to Liverpool for 2½ cents. He urged the extension of dairying as a means of retaining farm fertility.

Director James Withycombe, of the Oregon experiment station, said that the dairy products in this state, this year will have a value of \$5,000,000 and in a few years dairying will surpass lumbering, which is now our greatest wealth producing industry. He said that one creamery operator is figuring on importing cream from Minnesota, and deplored such a condition, when the Willamette valley will produce 10 to 15 tons of green corn feed or 30 tons of green alfalfa per acre.

Dairy Commissioner J. W. Bailey spoke in a similar strain, saying that he has seen hay offered for sale this year at \$2.50 a ton in the field and yet the farmer had no stock to sell.

Higher Price for Hops.

Salem.—On news that the English and German crops have been seriously injured transactions in futures have been reported at 12 cents. It is estimated that about one-half of the Oregon crop for 1906 has been sold, and George L. Rose predicts that the market will open at not less than 15 cents. Crop estimates vary from 95,000 to 125,000 bales for Oregon this year. Latest local advices from England place the probable English yield at from 200,000 to 300,000 cwt., as against 700,000 cwt. last year.

Convicts Make Escape.

Salem.—A loss of 10 per cent of the prisoners is the record of the Oregon penitentiary thus far this season in working convicts on the public highways. About 60 men are kept at work on the roads and at the state fair grounds. Six have escaped and are still at large.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat — Club, 70c; bluestem, 72c; red, 68c; valley, 71c; new club, 68c; new bluestem, 70c.

Oats — No. 1 white feed, \$32; gray, \$31 per ton.

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

Rye—\$1.50 per cwt.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.

Fruits—Apples, \$1.50@2.25 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; cherries, 6@10c per pound; currants, 9@10c; peaches, 75c@1.10 per box; plums, \$1.25; Logan berries, \$1.35@1.40 per crate; raspberries, \$1.40@1.50; blackberries, 8c per pound; gooseberries, 8c.

Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c per pound; cabbage, 1¼@2c; corn, 25@35c per dozen; cucumbers, 75c@1 per box; egg plant, 30@40c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12½c; peas, 4@5c per pound; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2½c per pound; spinach, 2@3c; tomatoes, \$1.25@3 per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions — New, red, 1¼@1½c per pound; new yellow, 1¼@2c per pound.

Potatoes — Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, 75c@1.50.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 17½@20c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21@21½c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; springs, 16@17; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 17@22½c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@13c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, 11@12c; olds, 8c; 1906 contracts, 12@13c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 17@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@8c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4½@5½c; country steers, 5@6c.

Mutton—Dressed fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8½c.

Pork—Dressed, 7@8½c per pound.

RED TAPE TATTERED.

Assistant Secretary Ryan Taken Initiative and Buys Sunnyside Canal.

Washington, July 20.—Acting Secretary of the Interior Ryan today approved the purchase of the Sunnyside irrigation canal in Eastern Washington, and authorized the payment of \$250,000 for the same to the Washington Irrigation company. The approval of this purchase removes the last obstacle in the way of the construction by the government of the Teton and Sunnyside irrigation projects.

Had this sale not been concluded today, the Washington Irrigation company would have withdrawn its offer and the government would have been obliged to abandon both its projects, or else enter upon prolonged litigation. Notwithstanding the fact that Secretary Hitchcock approved the Teton and Sunnyside projects more than six months ago and authorized the purchase of the Sunnyside canal at the above price, the owners of the canal have been unable to collect one cent from the government, because the secretary of the Interior has not approved the formal purchase, some of the government lawyers having found trivial objections which they believed should be corrected before the government paid for the canal. Mr. Hitchcock, on his counselors' advice, refused to pay over the money.

BIGGEST OF ALL DRYDOCKS.

Will Be Built of Concrete at Bremerton Navy Yard.

Washington, July 20.—Plans for the largest and best drydock in the world are being prepared in the bureau of Yards and Docks at the Navy department, to cost \$1,250,000 and to be constructed at the Bremerton navy yard, Puget sound, Washington. This amount is the largest ever appropriated for a dock, and the new dock will be able to take in the largest battleship, either in course of construction or in contemplation. The location has already been selected, and borings are being made to learn the depth of foundation. It is to be a concrete dock of the largest pattern and materials will be purchased on the Pacific coast if practicable.

The dock is to be so constructed that it can be lengthened if vessels of greater length should be built in the future. It will be 37 feet in depth over sill, which will provide for the docking of any vessel that can be built, unless some now unknown system of building is developed. The greater depth of the new dock is also designed to meet cases where a vessel has been injured and draws much more than the ordinary depth on account of the injury.

NATION ENTERS BUSINESS.

Japan Makes Great Stride Forward on Road to Socialism.

Washington, July 19.—According to advices received by the bureau of manufactures, the Japanese government has undertaken one of the greatest experiments in the world's history, which indicates a clear purpose to protect, supervise, develop and nationalize all Japanese industries. It is stated that the provision for the nationalization of railways was but a single step in the great plan of industrial nationalization toward which the country is fast approaching.

The movement for Manchurian nationalization has received careful attention, and it is now proposed that a company shall be formed by the government and private capitalists jointly for the purpose of operating the railroads, forests and mines in Manchuria.

If successful along the lines Japan is now working, it is said that the individuals and corporations of America that are striving for the trade of the Orient will discover that they are not competing for this trade against individuals and corporations of Japan, but that they are in commercial conflict with the Japanese nation itself.

Embezzles Igorrotes' Cash.

Washington, July 20.—The War department was advised today of the arrest in Chicago of Truman K. Hunt, who brought to this country a band of 50 odd Igorrotes from the Philippines. Acting under instructions from the War department, Hunt has been formally charged with holding from the dog eaters for 15 months salaries which he agreed to pay, and also with embezzling \$1,000, money they had made by selling souvenirs from their far-away home. Hunt was at one time governor of the Igorrote district.

Refugees Are Returning.

San Francisco, July 20.—It was estimated that within three weeks of the fire on April 18, fully 335,000 people left San Francisco. According to computations made today, just three months after the fire, there are now in San Francisco 365,000 people, with 50,000 more waiting in nearby cities for opportunity to return as soon as suitable accommodations can be had.

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