

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

FULL OF SUGAR.

Good Report on Klamath Country Sugar Beets.

Klamath Falls—Frank Ira White of the Enterprise Land & Investment company has just received reports from the department of agriculture relative to samples of sugar beets raised on the Enterprise tract. The beets were taken from the same tract as were those sent to Professor Knibely some time ago, but were fully matured, while the others were not. Professor Knibely's test showed from 17.40 to 19.35 per cent pure sugar, while the department test is one or two per cent higher, with a very high degree of purity.

These beets produced 8,286 pounds to the quarter-acre tract, or nearly 17 tons to the acre.

The department of agriculture in a letter to Mr. White says Klamath county's sugar beets are of the most excellent quality and that prospects are bright for the industry in this county.

Signs of Oil at Bonanza.

Bonanza—The possibilities of developing oil wells in this immediate vicinity are now more encouraging than at any previous time. In boring a well for a new livery stable in this town a strata of black oil sandstone was struck and specialists have pronounced it an unmistakable sign of the existence of oil. Several other places in Klamath county, especially in that portion surrounding Bonanza, show signs of oil. The prospects are good and the development of the same may result in the discovery of one of the richest oil regions on this coast.

Fruitgrowers Plan Meeting.

Eugene—The Commercial club promotion department has decided to join with the Lane County Horticultural society in sharing the expense of the proposed mass meeting of fruitgrowers and citizens, to be held here Saturday, January 4. Prominent speakers will address the meetings and the people throughout the county will be asked to send in questions which they would like the experts to answer. The committee in charge has selected Dr. D. A. Paine to act as chairman of the mass meeting.

Hood River Apple Crop.

Hood River—Complete returns from Hood River's 1907 apple crop show that the growers will receive in round numbers \$200,000 for their product, notwithstanding the money trouble, car shortage and reduced crop. This is approximately what the Hood River crop brought last year when it was in the neighborhood of 20,000 boxes more, and is accounted for by the fact that the apples brought a much larger average price. The entire crop is now placed at 110,000 boxes.

More Traveling Libraries.

Salem—The Oregon Library commission held its regular session last week at the commission's rooms in the state house. W. B. Ayer and Miss Isom, members of the commission, were in attendance, besides the governor. It was decided to buy 25 more traveling libraries, making 90 in all, that will be placed in circulation as a result of the commission's first year's work. It was decided to establish an exchange station for Eastern Oregon at Baker City.

Colonizer at Klamath.

Klamath Falls—George L. McDonough, colonization agent of the Union Pacific railway, who is expected to arrive in Klamath Falls next week, is now at MacDoel, the new Dunkard town on the California Northeastern railway in Butte valley. He comes to Klamath Falls to become familiar with colonizing possibilities here. He will be accompanied by a Dunkard elder, D. C. Campbell, of Colfax, Wash.

Sawmill in Christmas Sock.

Marshfield—The new office building of the big planing plant of the C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing company was opened and dedicated Christmas Eve. Festivities were held and many citizens attended. The office building is now completed and in use. The mill proper will be finished and ready for operation in February.

Select by Conventions.

Salem—In answer to an inquiry from Chairman G. A. Westgate, of the Republican state central committee, Attorney General Crawford has rendered an opinion in which he says that delegates to the national conventions and candidates for presidential elector must be chosen at conventions and not under the direct primary.

Shut Down on Keno Canal.

Klamath Falls—The reclamation service has closed down on the Keno canal on account of the wet weather, keeping only the derrick gang and the engineering corps. The shutdown was made necessary on account of the wet weather.

INCREASE IN TILLABLE ACRES

Umatilla County Shows Big Gain in Five Years.

Pendleton—Umatilla county's rapid development is shown in the recent summary of the taxable property in the county, recently furnished the secretary of state by Assessor Strain. This summary, compared with the one made five years ago, shows the number of tillable acres as increased by 90,000. The total number of acres of arable land in the county at present is 46,000. The number of acres classified as non-tillable is given at 588,144.

The figures for the latter do not, of course, include the forest reserves and other government land not subject to taxation. The amount of non-tillable land in the county is constantly increasing, also, by reason of the fact that so much government land is being taken up and deeded to settlers.

The increase in the number of tillable acres is due in large measure to the different irrigation projects which are being completed. This is not the only source of increase, however, as thousands of acres of land in the western and southwestern parts of the county are now plowed up and growing wheat that a few years ago were considered worthless for anything more valuable than range for stock. Much of it was given over entirely to sagebrush and jackrabbits. The Pilot Rock and Birch creek countries have experienced the greatest development in this line.

Each Farm to Be Named.

Grants Pass—Among the business transacted at the Josephine County Fruitgrowers' union at its last meeting was the adopting of individual letter-heads and letter paper, upon which will be designated the name of the fruit farm and the brands packed by the grower. It was thought best for each member to have some appropriate name for his fruit tract, and by inserting it upon letter sheets it would also give prominence to individual effect, and at the same time give the union greater notice and strength, which would more favorably attract the buyer to this locality.

Railroad Buys Laidlaw.

Laidlaw—The rumor has been rife in this community for some time that the Laidlaw townsite had been sold to the Mount Hood Railroad company, but until now these rumors could not be verified. The verification comes from the fact that the abstracts of title are now being prepared at Prineville preparator to a formal transfer of the property to the purchasing company.

To Indict Nevada Sheepmen.

Pendleton—Through the efforts of Dr. W. H. Lytle, state sheep inspector, indictments will be returned against P. Anderson, a millionaire sheepman of Nevada, for bringing flocks over the state line into Oregon without first giving notice to the state sheep inspector.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 82c; bluestem, 84c; valley, 82c; red, 80c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$28; gray, \$28.

Barley—Feed, \$27; brewing, \$31; rolled, \$30.

Corn—Whole, \$32; cracked, \$33.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$16; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$20@23; clover, \$15; cheat, \$15; grain hay, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$15; vetch, \$14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 35@37½c per pound.

Veal—75 to 125 pounds, 8½@9c; 125 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 pounds, 5@6½c.

Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 6@6½c; packers, 6@6½c.

Poultry—Average old hens, 10c per pound; mixed chickens, 10c; spring chickens, 10c; roosters, 8c; dressed chickens, 12@13c; turkeys, live, 15c; dressed, choice, 18@19c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 12½@13½c; pigeons, \$1@1.50; squabs, \$2@3.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, candled, 35c per dozen.

Fruits—Apples, 75c@82¢ per box; peaches, 75c@81¢ per crate; pears, \$1.25 @1.75 per box; cranberries, \$9.50@12 per barrel.

Vegetables—Turnips, 75c per sack; carrots, 65c per sack; beets, \$1 per sack; beans, 7@9c per pound; cabbage, 1c per pound; cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen; celery, \$3.25@3.50 per crate; onions, 15@20c per dozen; parsley, 20c per dozen; peas, 11c per pound; peppers, 8@17c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; radishes, 20c per dozen; spinach, 6c per pound; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1@1½c per pound; tomatoes, \$1.50 per box.

Onions—\$1.75@1.85 per hundred.

Potatoes—50@65c per hundred, delivered Portland; sweet potatoes, \$2.75 @3 per hundred.

Hops—1907, 5@7c per pound; olds, 1@2c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 18@20c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29@30c per pound.

STUDY FORESTRY.

Students at Oregon Agricultural College Gathering Tree Seeds.

By E. A. Lake, Oregon Agricultural College.

The students in forestry at the Agricultural college are making their first collection of seeds of native trees and shrubs for use in the establishment of a forest tree nursery and arboretum. The purpose in view is not only that the work shall be instructive to the student in the study of seeds and seedage, silviculture and dendrology, but that the plant shall be a source of data to the whole state upon the growth, habit, resistance and general character of the trees and shrubs of Oregon, so far as is possible to grow them upon the same site and similar conditions.

Not only are local seeds being collected but seeds from the home districts are coming in from friends of students and the institution. This kindness on the part of those residing in the more distant and mountainous parts of the state is highly appreciated, as it enables the class to obtain a much greater variety than otherwise would be possible with the time and means at the command of either students or institution.

Owing to the fact that the course is but one year old, only the general and preliminary phases of the subject have been considered by the students in the work. The O. A. C. Forest club, an organization of those interested in the forests of the state, is now discussing forest fire laws, their enforcement, efficiency and improvement. Each student is assigned a phase of the topic in hand and in due time reports his findings to the club. Prominent timber, mill and lumbermen upon invitation discuss various topics before the club, as transportation, timber preservation, forest conservation, re-forestation, improved methods of lumbering, U. S. forest service work and similar topics.

Later the advanced students will take up work looking to the solution of some of the very practical problems now before the wood users of the country.

The great problem of what to do with the waste, including the standing timber that is injured by insect and fungus foes, will be one of the first to be investigated as soon as the equipment of the department will permit.

The statement is made upon good authority that fifteen per cent of the mature timber on the western slope of the central region of the Cascade is wholly lost through fungous diseases, and that another fifteen per cent is graded as cull. Beetles, borers and minor foes do considerable further damage, and it is safe to say that the sum total of these losses must amount to millions of dollars. It is reasonable to suppose, in the face of recent results in agricultural practices in our own country, to say nothing of the modern forestry practices of Europe, that the major part of this loss could be turned to gain through the intelligent investigation of the troubles and the application of modern measures for combating these foes of the forest.

Other great problems are those relating to taxation, re-forestation, utilizing mill waste, improved methods of harvesting the crops, disposing of the debris and weed trees, timber technology and the preservation of lumber.

These problems together with many more it is the purpose of the college to help solve through the department of forestry, as well as train men to take hold of the practical work and problems of our forests and thus insure the best possible use of the tree crop.

Publications for Farmers.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 116.—Irrigation in Fruit Growing. By E. J. Wickson, M. A., professor of agricultural practice, University of California, and horticulturist of the California experiment station. Pp. 48, figs. 8. A statement of the relations of irrigation to fruit production, and of irrigation methods as they have been demonstrated by Pacific coast experience.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 138.—Irrigation in Field and Garden. By E. J. Wickson, M. A. Pp. 40, figs. 18. This bulletin discusses the subject from the standpoint of the individual farmer, and contains instructions on the determination of ditch levels, the measurement of small streams, sources of water supply and their use, the distribution of irrigation water, methods of applying water, the choice of an irrigation method, and the time for the application of water.

Bulletin No. 147.—Report on Drainage Investigations in 1903. By C. G. Elliott, drainage expert, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 62, pls. 5, figs. 12. Price 10 cents. This is a report of the work done by Mr. Elliott during the year 1903. It includes discussions of plans for drainage near Fresno, Cal., in the Yakima and Ahtanum valleys, Washington, in the Grey Bull valley, Wyoming, in the Missouri valley and in Hancock county, Iowa, and of drainage as a preventive of hillside erosion in Georgia.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Saturday, December 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate today passed a bill suspending during the year 1907 the requirement that miners shall do at least \$100 worth of work annually during the period in which their claims are being perfected.

Cullom introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution limiting the terms of the president and vice president to six years and prohibiting re-election for a second term.

A number of other bills and resolutions were introduced. After being in session 45 minutes, the senate today adjourned until January 6.

A bill providing security to depositors of banks and for the prevention of hoarding of currency, was introduced today by Senator Owen, of Oklahoma. It fixes a tax upon all deposits and from the fund thus created provides for the payment in full of all depositors when a bank is declared insolvent. The secretary of the treasury is directed to maintain a fund of \$100,000,000 in treasury notes, which may be loaned on bonds to 90 per cent of their value. The bill provides that advances from it shall be charged for at the rate of 6 per cent for the first four months and thereafter at the rate of 8 per cent.

Senator Burkett reintroduced his grazing bill of last session. It provides for the leasing of the public domain to cattle owners for the maintenance of their stock, giving, however, settlers the right to enter and to locate upon land at any time.

Washington, Dec. 21.—After being in session about 20 minutes, the house of representatives today adjourned until January 6. The proceedings were enlivened by a brief but fierce speech by Gaines of Tennessee, who criticized the house for its inaction and for taking such a long recess at a time "when we should have gone to Wall street and throttled the thieves and turned back to the honest people their hard earnings."

Gaines was preceded by Hepburn of Iowa, who protested against what he said was the indiscriminate way in which committees were given authority to sit during the session of the house, thereby causing members to be immune from arrest in case it became necessary to secure a quorum.

Both Williams and De Armond were upon the floor, but took no notice of each other.

Oregon Men Appointed.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The president sent the senate the following Oregon nominations just before the holiday recess: Land office receivers—Albert A. Roberts, La Grande; Fred P. Cronemiller, Lakeview; Frank Davey, Burns. Land office registers—Frank C. Bramwell, La Grande; John N. Watson, Lakeview. Consuls—Maxwell Blake, of Missouri, at Dunferline, Scotland; George B. Killmaster, of Michigan, at Newcastle, New South Wales; John H. McCunn, of Wisconsin, at Glasgow, Scotland; Maxwell K. Moorhead, of Pennsylvania, at Acapulco, Mexico.

Open Land of Spokanes.

Washington, Dec. 26.—To facilitate the opening of the unallotted portion of the Spokane Indian reservation, Representative Jones and Senator Piles have asked the Indian office to send an inspector to Washington to conclude negotiations with the Spokane Indians under which congress can authorize the disposition of all land remaining when allotments are completed. It is hoped that an agreement can be speedily reached so that legislation opening the reservation to entry can be passed this season.

Engineers to Tour Coast.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Colonels Leach and Lockwood of the board of United States engineers, will leave for the Pacific coast on January 9, beginning with California, and will hold public hearings on a number of projects, including Oregon undertakings. People will have the opportunity to present the local needs of their communities. Both the officers are loyal supporters of coast developments. It is suggested that Portland prepare to present necessary works for its section.

No Action in Bristol Case.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Members of the Oregon delegation in congress met and informally discussed the Bristol case but no action whatsoever was taken. The matter may come up for more formal discussion later but no announcement of plans has been made.

Taft to Talk Politics.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Secretary Taft will make his first political pronouncement since his return from abroad at Boston, December 30, in a speech before the Merchants' association.

Congressman Calderhead Ill.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Representative William A. Calderhead, of Kansas, is critically ill with double pneumonia at his apartment in this city.

RIXEY TELLS ALL ABOUT IT.

Brownson Claimed Authority Over Hospital Ships.

Washington, Dec. 27.—That a serious breach exists between the bureau of navigation and the bureau of medicine of the navy, involving the question of the responsibility of the latter bureau, was made apparent in a statement issued by Surgeon General Presley M. Rixey, of the navy, in which he touches upon the circumstances leading up to the probable selection by the president of a medical officer to command the hospital ship Relief over the protest of Rear Admiral Brownson, chief of the bureau of navigation, who has sent his resignation to the president. While disclaiming exact knowledge as to the cause of Admiral Brownson's resignation, the surgeon general's statement leaves little room for doubt that the controversy he reviews was a potent factor.

General to Retire.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Brigadier General Charles S. Smith, on special duty at the proving grounds at Sandy Hook, N. J., has been placed on the retired list of the army by operation of the law on account of age. General Smith is the junior brigadier, having only been appointed to that grade in October last. He is a native of Vermont, but was appointed to the military academy in July, 1862, from Illinois. At the time of his promotion to the grade of brigadier general he was in command of the Sandy Hook proving grounds, with which station he had been identified for many years.

Send Sympathy to Taft.

Washington, Dec. 26.—One of the first dispatches laid before Secretary Taft on his return to the War department was from Manila, P. I., telling of the organization under a new charter of the Banco Espanol Filipino and the election of directors. The dispatch added: "Deem it first duty to express our deep sympathy with you in your bereavement and assure you of our gratitude for your earnest and successful support. We shall use our best efforts toward realization of your policy for advancement of our country."

Greene and Gaynor Lose.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Supreme court of the United States has denied the petition for writs of certiorari bringing to that court the cases of Benjamin D. Greene and John F. Gaynor, who are under sentence to pay a fine of \$575,749 and to undergo terms of imprisonment of four years each on the charges of embezzlement and conspiracy in connection with Captain Oberlin M. Carter's scheme to defraud the United States in connection with harbor improvements at Savannah, Ga.

Urge Brownson to Talk.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Line officers in the navy are urging Admiral Brownson to publish correspondence relative to his resignation, holding that Rixey's statement was really inspired at the White House. It has developed that the acceptance of his resignation was announced 15 minutes after it had been given to Secretary Metcalf to take to President Roosevelt.

New Presidential Postoffices.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Following are among the postoffices which will become presidential January 1: Oregon—Bandon, Clatskanie, Echo, Gresham, 1,100 each; Lents, 1,000; Vale, 1,500. Washington—Burlington, Chehalis, Mabton, Rockford, 1,100 each; Raymond, 1,400; Friday Harbor, 1,000. Idaho—Malad City and Parma, 1,000 each.

Hoquiam Mills Resume.

Hoquiam—One of the best Christmas greetings to reach the people of this city was the news that the mills of this city will resume operations immediately after the first of the new year, running full time. Large orders have been placed with different mills of this city, and the manufacturing plants will continue working until spring.

Medals for Panama Service.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Medals of a suitable character are to be given to all citizens of the United States who have served the government on the Isthmus of Panama for two years and who during that period have rendered satisfactory service.

New Money Order Offices.

Washington, Dec. 26.—On January 1 the following postoffices will become domestic money order offices: Oregon—Beaver, De Moss Springs, Eddyville, Murphy, Norway, Wren. Washington—Stratford. Idaho—Cherry Creek.

Hawaiian Officials Confirmed.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The senate has confirmed the nomination of Walter F. Frear to be governor of Hawaii and of Fred S. Hartwell and S. M. Ballou to be chief justice and associate justice respectively of that territory.