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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER
Thursday, October 7, 1915.

A RURAL CREDITS LAW.

Newspapers in the Southwest and in the Western section of the country generally, are freely discussing the prospect of rural credits legislation, at the next session of Congress draws near. Congressman Henry of Texas, who has heretofore championed a \$500,000,000 bond issue for the relief of cotton planters, is making a demand for rural credits law, the chief plank in the platform on which he is canvassing his state as a candidate for the United States Senate. It was Mr. Henry who introduced the first of the rural credit bills in the House, very soon after the convening of the special session of Congress April 15, 1913.

The fight for rural credits to be made by congressmen representing the cotton states will depend, to a considerable extent, upon the condition of the cotton trade at the time Congress meets. Should conditions then be normal, or near normal, their fight for rural credits will be much more aggressive than one for some special legislation for the relief of cotton planters. Should the cotton situation be desperate, however, the fight will be made for special cotton legislation to afford quick relief, and that for a rural credits law, applying to the entire country, will not be so earnestly pressed. The outlook for rural credits legislation is not, accordingly, either dark or bright. There is hope of a normal cotton situation during the winter, but this is not an assurance. Any aggressive support of such legislation may have to come out of the West and Northwest, if the Democratic House majority, which comes mainly out of the South, is in a complacent mood because the chief staple of its section is moving freely at good prices.

The joint House and Senate committee appointed during the closing hours of the last session has not been called to meet during the long recess, although the purpose of its appointment was that it should meet as often during the vacation as might be necessary for gathering all needed data bearing upon the problem, and preparing a bill for introduction. Its inactivity may or may not indicate that the administration is not favorable to the rural credits law. Mr. Glass of Virginia, a member of the committee, and often an administration mouthpiece, asserts that the new banking system makes a rural credits law unnecessary. The president denied this in one of his messages to Congress. But Mr. Wilson has often shown his ability to change front.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

LET US REAP THE BENEFIT.

The artesian water developed by the Newlons in Morrow county, was not an accident as many such discoveries are, but was the result of persistent effort of three years of hard work in the sinking of many wells to determine the true geological formation of this section of the country. Their success in producing this valuable well has been phenomenal insofar as they have had to overcome what would be to many, insurmountable obstacles.

There is just one other thing that the Newlons are as much interested in as in getting water for the wonderfully rich section known as "the Banana Belt" and that is, that the people of Morrow county should reap the benefits as far as possible from this discovery.

Mr. Newlon learned only last Sunday that there was a company forming to take over large tracts of this land. This company will of course be made up of speculators, and this is what the Newlons are trying to keep out, and as they are in a position to get the choicest of this land for the bonafide settler or developer at approximately \$8.50 per acre, on very easy terms, those interested will not miss it by making an early selection for their future homes in the Banana Belt of Morrow county.

The Oregonian started something a little over a year ago, when it created the Monday Crawfish. Since then we have witnessed the arrival of the Saturday Evening Alibi, which has made Rex Lampman as well as the Oregon Journal famous, the Portland Telegram's Monday Mutter, and now our own section of the journalistic field is represented in this particular line of endeavor by "The Weekly Bulldogger," in the columns of the

Pendleton East Oregonian. It reflects the spirit of the "Let 'er Buck" city.

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION.

It would be interesting to know exactly what is going on in Russia. A few weeks ago we learned, all on the same day, that the Czar had removed Grand Duke Nicholas from the command of the armies that face the German invaders and had sent him to the semi-exile of the Caucasus; that the Liberal party was in control of the Duma, and that the leaders of that party, besides insisting on many administrative reforms, intended to bring about a change in the cabinet, and the dismissal of Premier Goremykin. Next came word that, in spite of the protests of the Liberal majority, the Czar had prorogued the Duma. Are we to believe that these things point toward a change either in the foreign policy or in the internal organization of Russia?

It is never easy for the Western peoples to understand the workings of the Russian mind and of the Russian political system, and it is especially hard now when we are kept in ignorance of much that would ordinarily be made public. Some observers take the removal of the grand duke from the high command to mean that the Czar tires of war, and that he is beginning to listen to the pro-German party, always strong at Petrograd, which is urging Russia to avoid further defeat and despoliation by making a separate peace.

But there is as yet no real evidence that that is the case. It is more probable that the grand duke's downfall is the result of a cousinly jealousy on the part of the Czar, and of a widespread enmity on the part of influential persons whom the autocratic soldier has offended. He has shown military capacity of a high order, both in offensive and in defensive warfare. His reverses do not appear to be his fault, but his enemies have made them the occasion to break down his authority.

But Russia is not likely to make a separate peace, unless its statesmen have lost all power of vision. Such a peace would deliver the empire from much present suffering and humiliation, but at a cost of its future influence in Europe. It would mean the surrender of every historic Russian ambition, and the abandonment of the Balkan Slavs to German and Turkish control. If the Czar were weak enough to make the surrender what would his people say?

What does that great inarticulate nation think of the war, anyway? It is suffering much and enduring stolidly; but the Slav by temperament and past history is prepared for that. Those who have the best opportunities to judge think that the empire really has its heart in the war; that it understands the issues of the conflict, and that it is ready to make still heavier sacrifices if need be. The increasing power of the Liberals at Petrograd points in that direction, for liberal Russia dreads political subjection to Germany more than reactionary Russia could possibly fear it.

It is almost certain that the breakdown of the Russian campaign is owing in part at least to the same shameful peevishness and greed in high places that prevailed during the war with Japan. If that is true, the resentment of the nation may yet bring about startling political and governmental changes at Petrograd; but such changes are quite as likely to be followed by increased efficiency in the field as by the collapse of Russian resistance. That will even more probably be the case if the allies should win at the Dardanelles.

Finally, the world will watch with interest the attempt of the Russian Liberals to gain more justice and freedom for the Jews, the Poles, and the Poles within the empire. If the defeat of the Russian armies shakes the stolid internal policy of the Russian bureaucracy, the humiliation through which the country is passing will mark only a step, and, for all its bitterness, a necessary step, in the progress of the people.—The Youth's Companion.

NORTHWEST CLAIMS GRAHAM

I. D. Graham has resigned as assistant chief of the livestock department of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition to become editor of the Rural Spirit, at Portland, Ore. Mr. Graham is a welcome addition to the ranks of those who are working for better farming conditions in the Pacific Northwest. He was for nineteen years a professor in the Kansas Agricultural College and for several years was editor of the Kansas Farmer. He was the organizer of the Kansas Pure Bred Livestock Association and was one of the strong men in getting legislation favorable to the farmers.

Mr. Graham is well known to local readers of the livestock journals of national circulation, he being a regular contributor to several of them. He is enthusiastic concerning the possibilities of livestock in the Pacific Northwest, and pronounces the exhibits that he has inspected at the state fairs of Washington and Oregon as the equal of the best they grow in the corn belt states, where much of the foundation flocks and herds in Oregon, Washington and Idaho have been purchased. Mr. Graham has a national reputation as an authority along livestock lines and in his ripe experience as an educator the farmers of the Northwest have gained a splendid co-worker.

RED TAPE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

For a year and a half an investigation of the California-Oregon Power Co. has been going on at the hands of the Public Utility Commission.

Inventories of all the properties in many towns and the power plants on the Rogue River have been made, and then hearings have been delayed. For the past month hearings to determine rates for service have been had at the State Capitol, where lawyers of the power company and state and city attorneys have appeared.

All these hearings have cost the taxpayers a great deal of money and the public utility company has been put to great expense for witnesses and lawyers and inventories.

As these hearings have for their ultimate purpose fixing values of the properties and finally are to fix rates for the company to do business upon all development work has been suspended.

In the meantime the California-Oregon Power Company has been threatened with competition of a piratical character that has started to enter its field.

Public ownership projects have been launched in many communities to force down the rates of the California-Oregon Power Company, but so far none of them have materialized.

The Oregon Utilities commission finds the properties have a value in the opinion of their engineer of \$1,820,471 as cost of reproduction, and \$2,085,990 in the opinion of the company's engineer.

The hearing was made ridiculous by introducing testimony that the employees had a clubhouse at Gold Ray where among the restaurant equipment was found a set of wine and punch glasses.

It seems that a former owner of the plant did maintain a clubhouse for his friends in the Rogue River Valley, and later it was made a clubhouse for the employees by the present owners.

It can readily be seen how under a long-drawn-out red-tape hearing, if conducted never so fairly and with never so much good intent, has held up the development of these properties.

Instead of being able to borrow cheap capital and extend their lines to furnish cheap power to communities and irrigation companies and for private irrigation plants, a big investment has been killed.

State development demands a more practical system of handling public utilities unless the whole state is to be forced upon a public ownership basis as private capital will not come in under such a handicap, with no certainty that it can earn dividends.

The State Banking department pursues no such policies and banking is prosperous and new banks are being opened in different parts of the state and all are proud to have banks make money.

Suppose on complaint of citizens all the banks in southern Oregon were given a prolonged investigation and overhauling by the state banking commission for the purpose of ascertaining their value and fixing rates.

In the meantime, pending the investigation, their business would fall off, and some of them would have to close their doors, and no new banks would start up in business in Oregon.

But the State Banking department does not do that kind of business simply because it is not "good business" and would not be tolerated in any other line of investment except public utilities.

But the public utility has to make rates for service the same as the banker makes rates for exchange and on loans and its rates must be acceptable to the public or it cannot do business.

A power company must make special rates to power users, to farmers who want irrigation, to the women who use ranges in their kitchens and the rates must be low enough to produce customers.

The whole tendency of the public utility commission, aside from spending \$100,000 every two years on red tape investigations, is to hinder the development of utilities and keep capital out of the state.

A radical utility commission would force the state and all its political subdivisions into public ownership enterprises that under the same kind of red tape political management would bankrupt the taxpayers.

In the meantime the good money of the taxpayers and the capital and revenues of the utility company are wasted on expensive investigations that will all have to be repaid by the light and power users.—Pacific Coast Manufacturer.

Preventable Injuries of the Eye.

Much has been done in recent years to protect the eyes of workmen from injuries, and the number of eyes thus saved has been considerable. Even with all these precautions however, accidents are bound to happen, but if the sight of an eye is occasionally lost through some unavoidable accident, we can feel that everything possible has been done to prevent it. How different are our feelings when we see an eye destroyed through some accident that could easily have been prevented. Many a mother has wept bitter tears of anguish knowing that she alone was to blame for the loss of the sight in her baby's eye, through her carelessness. If she had not allowed the child to get within

reach of scissors, pins, knives, etc., or perhaps if the child had not been allowed to run across the room with the doll in her arms, she would not have fallen breaking the doll's eyes and having her own eyes cut by the broken bits of glass. Many of these preventable accidents can be avoided by using a little care and ordinary common sense. Not alone in the care of infants, but with adults engaged in ordinary household employments as well a little extra precaution will often prevent serious results from apparently trivial accidents. For example, eyes have been irreparably damaged by flying bits of glass from a broken tumbler; by a tack flying into the eye, in laying a carpet; from a small bit of lime falling from a broken ceiling; from stooping in a dark room and striking the eye on the sharp corner of a table or chair. In fact, the possibilities of accidents of this sort are innumerable, where a little less haste perhaps or a little extra care, would prevent them.

Forest Notes.

Fire fighting in Oregon, Washington and Alaska, since July 1, has cost the government \$50,000. Most of the fires were prevented from doing any material damage to merchantable timber. The majority of them were confined to old burns.

The Forest Service has in Oregon and Washington a total of 4062 miles of telephone and 4028 miles of trail. These are primarily for use in fire suppression.

The Forest Service has, in Oregon and Washington, over 100 high lookout points constantly manned during the fire season. The best known of these lookouts is Mt. Hood.

An officer of the Forest Service has designed a portable telephone for rangers, which weighs only two and a half pounds. Connection may be made anywhere along the line with this instrument. Over one hundred of them will be used in Oregon and Washington next year.

Success has followed forest planting on the sandhills of Nebraska. Jack pine planted there by the government forest service ten years ago now have a height of over 15 feet and a diameter of 4 inches.

Only one modern sawmill is operated in the Territory of Hawaii. In Oregon there are approximately 759,000 head of sheep grazing upon the National Forests. This represents 43 per cent of the number grazed in the State.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, there were opened to entry on the National Forests of Oregon, upon individual application, 315 forest homesteads, covering an area of about 29,000 acres; and in National Forests of Washington, there were 812 forest homesteads opened to entry, covering an area of 3,899 acres.

Results obtained from land classification work on the National Forests demonstrates the fact that practically all farm land has been excluded from the Forests.

According to figures compiled by the Government, water powers in the state of Oregon are capable of developing 3,500,000 H. P. and in the State of Washington 5,000,000 H. P. In Oregon there are already developed 156,185 H. P. and in Washington 408,000 H. P.

Relic of Prehistoric Days.

Messrs. Finalyson and Roddick, who operate the Quartz Gulch placers east of town, at the foot of Canyon mountain, brought into town the other day a very interesting relic. It is a petrified ivory tusk. The tusk is in two pieces, one piece about 12 inches long and the other about 18 inches. The two pieces do not fit together, but evidently belong to one tusk, the middle part having been broken from the other parts and as yet not located. One of these pieces was found a year or two ago embedded in the ground at a considerable distance below the surface. It was washed out while panning for gold. The other piece was found near by this season. The middle piece likely remains in the ground. Whether this tusk belonged to a mastodon or an elephant is not known, but it is evident that some monarch of the forest roamed over Canyon mountain ages past, leaving this relic as mute evidence of his existence.—Canyon City Eagle.

Library Will Serve Lunch.

The ladies of the Library Association announce that they will serve sandwiches, cake and coffee at the library room of the City Hall next Wednesday afternoon. It is promised (and the ladies always make good their promises) that you will get all you want to eat for twenty cents. Here is an opportunity for the general public to help a good cause along and at the same time get more than value received for your generosity. Remember the date—Wednesday afternoon, October 13, from 2 until 6-30; the place—Library room.

Dr. Hunlock Improving.

Dr. E. R. Hunlock, for a long number of years a resident of Heppner, informs his friends here that he is slowly recovering from the effects of an operation which he underwent several weeks ago at the Mayo brothers hospital in Rochester, Minn., for the removal of a goitre from his neck. Dr. Hunlock is now in Portland.

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