

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

SAVES STATE \$5,000.

Result of Private Investigation by State Land Commissioner West.

Salem—By conducting a special investigation on his own account, State Land Agent Oswald West saved the state some \$5000 last week. Last spring the State Land Board sold a section of newly surveyed land at auction and the successful bidder offered \$14.25 per acre. The land was heavily timbered and was favorably located. As soon as the sale had been made it became known that several persons had filed homestead claims upon the land and claimed to have made settlements before the land was surveyed. If they made actual settlement before survey they could hold the land and the state would lose it, being entitled to lieu land instead. As the land is valuable and had been sold at a good price, Mr. West undertook to establish the state's title. He made inquiry as to the persons who filed the homestead entries and from what he learned of the occupation and place of abode he had reason to doubt whether they had made settlement at the time alleged by them. He learned further that the man had been voting in Albany during the time they claimed a residence back in the mountains. With this information in his possession he met the homesteaders with the suggestion that they cease to assert a claim to the land. They demurred at first, but when West gave them a hint of the evidence in his possession and backed this up by filing contents in the General Land Office, they came forward with relinquishments, thus leaving the state with clear title to convey to the purchasers at auction sale.

Mr. West's experience shows what can very often be done in the way of overthrowing homestead entries made by speculators if some one interested will take the trouble to investigate the facts regarding the entry and the term of residence.

STOCK OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT.

Mild Winter in Malheur Has Enabled Cattle to Keep in Condition.

Ontario—Now that there is prospect for a "break-up" in the weather, stockmen are beginning to discuss their prospects for 1924. The heavy loss of stock last spring on account of the weak condition of the animals, occasioned by scarcity of hay and feed, combined with the high price paid for hay last fall and the low price of stock caused gloomy forebodings as to the year 1924. But the winter has been mild, allowing the stock to consume the hay without waste, and to put on flesh rapidly, so that when spring opens they will be well prepared to pull through the mud to do their feeding on the new pastures. There will be good reasons to expect large increase with little loss.

The mildness and short duration of the winter weather will result in considerable hay left uncut and to be sold by the stockmen to other buyers. With 1923 hay on hand the ranchers will sell the new crop of hay at a lower price than last fall. The cattlemen are expecting an advance in prices, so that with all these conditions in their favor the future is much brighter than it was last fall.

SELLING GRAND RONDE APPLES.

Many Carloads are Now Going East—Good Sale in Oregon.

La Grande—The fruit growers of the Grand Ronde who did not dispose of all their apples in the fall are now disposing of them in large quantities at from 35 to 40 cents per bushel for the Eastern markets. The Blue Mountain Fruit Company, of La Grande, now has a large force of packers at work, and many carloads are being shipped East, while many of them are being sold in Oregon. The Oregon apples are in great demand in the Eastern markets.

Many of the fruit growers in the valley are preparing to set out young apple trees this spring, and most of them are of the winter varieties, including the Jonathans, Roman Beauties, York Imperials and Yellow Newtowns. L. Oldenber, one of the biggest fruit growers near La Grande, set out 3500 young trees last fall, and the remainder of the order, 2000 more, will be set out in the spring. This amount will cover 120 acres.

Will Build Mill at Paradise.

Enterprise—James Winters, who lives in the Paradise country at the extreme north end of this county, was in Enterprise recently, stating that persons in his vicinity are making preparations to build a new flouring mill at Paradise in the coming spring. They expect to have the mill completed by harvest time. This will be a great convenience for the people of that section, as they have been heretofore compelled to haul their grain 40 miles on a wagon to get it to a mill, some bringing it to Lostine and Enterprise, while others haul to the mills at Asotin and Lewiston.

Wallowa Herds Depleted by Cold.

La Grande—Reports come from Wallowa County that a number of sheep have been lost from the herds in that county this winter on account of the cold, and in some places the cattle have suffered intensely. There have been no reports as yet of the loss of sheep or cattle in Union County, and in many places in the valley cattle have had good picking the greater part of the winter. The farmers all report an abundance of dry feed, and the cattle never was in better condition than they are this winter.

Plows are Started.

Pendleton—Because of springlike weather many farmers have already started their spring plowing. This is nearly two weeks earlier than in previous years. Very little spring wheat sowing will be done this year, as a large acreage was planted last fall.

GRASS IS GROWING IN GRANT.

Winter Has Been Very Mild—Miners Expect Early Clearing Off of Snow.

Canyon City—The cold storm that prevailed so generally near the Pacific section during the past week was hardly perceptible here. Although much snow has fallen it has been mostly on a rising temperature. Grass is growing nicely on the protected slopes, and a large number of horses are still running on the range. Some of these are thin, but many of them are in good condition. All danger of a serious feed shortage has probably passed, but stockmen and others who must buy are compelled to pay \$16 per ton. Grazing, farming and mining will probably have one of the best seasons for a good many years. Old miners say that there is now more snow in the mountains than they ever saw before at this season of the year. In the near-by mountains it lies on the ground at a depth of 1 1/2 feet, and on the higher ranges is four or five feet deep. As it is mostly loose it is likely to melt early in the season, and miners expect to be able to start operations earlier than for several seasons past.

EXPENDITURES WERE LESS.

The Secretary of State Bears From All the County Clerks.

Salem—Secretary of State Dunbar has received the last of the annual reports of County Clerks, showing the expenditures of the several counties for the year 1923, except for road purposes. The reports show that in the state as a whole the expenses were \$100,000 less than for 1922, the decrease being due largely to the absence of election expenses, the repeal of the scalp bonus law, and a reduction in miscellaneous expenses.

In 1922 Baker County's expenses were swelled by reason of the acquisition of the Panhandle country from Union County. Morrow County had an expense of \$47,534 in 1922 for a new court house and has \$10,999 expense on the same account in 1923. In 1921 Wheeler County had an expense of \$11,000 for a new court house.

Baker's School Exhibit Ready.

Baker City—The school exhibit for Baker City, to be sent to the St. Louis Exposition, has been made up. It is said to be the best exhibit ever sent to any exposition by the schools of this city. Baker City schools captured a medal at the World's Fair and the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and the members of the school board and Superintendent Churchill have good reason to hope that when the medals are awarded at St. Louis this fall the Baker City schools will not be overlooked. The exhibit will be sent to St. Louis some time during next month.

Power From the Walla Walla.

Pendleton—The Washington & Oregon Power Company, which will furnish electricity for Walla Walla, Pendleton and other towns, has appropriated 9000 inches of water from the Walla Walla river. From the source to the plant site, just above Weston, in the Blue mountains, a 59 inch feed pipe will be laid, covering a distance of six miles. The plant will be constructed at a cost of \$150,000. Isaac Anderson and eastern capital are back of the company.

Reorganizing State Granges.

La Grande—J. Voorhees, of Woodburn, Ore., is in La Grande for the purpose of organizing a grange for the State of Oregon. Mr. Voorhees' intention is first to make a complete canvass for membership and at a later date call a meeting and complete organization. Twenty years ago there were four prosperous grange organizations in Union County, and Mr. Voorhees intends to re-establish them.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Milling quotations: Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 80c@81c; Valley, 79c@80c.
Barley—Feed, \$21 per ton; brewing, \$22; rolled, \$22.
Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$3.90@4.10; clear, \$3.55@3.75; hard wheat patents, \$4.20@4.50; graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$4; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10@1.12 1/2; straw, \$1.07 1/2@1.10 per cental.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$18.50@19 per ton; middlings, \$26; shorts, \$19.50@20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.
Butter—Sweet cream butter, 32 1/2c per pound; fancy creamery, 30c; choice creamery, 25@27 1/2c; dairy and store, nominal.
Butter fat—Sweet cream, 31c; sour cream, 29c.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12@12 1/2c per pound; springs, small, 14@14 1/2c; hens, 12 1/2@13c; turkeys, live, 15@16c per pound; dressed, 18@20c; ducks, \$8@9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14c; Young America, 15c.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 26@27 1/2c per dozen.
Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 1 1/2@2c; red cabbage, 1 1/2c; parsley, per dozen, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@2.00 per crate; cauliflower, 75c@81c per dozen; beans, 15c; celery, 65c per dozen; pumpkins, 1c per pound; cucumbers, \$2.25 per dozen. 1.75 per sack, growers' prices.
Potatoes—Fancy, 75@90c per sack; common, 60@75c; sweets, 2 1/2c in sacks, 2 1/2c crated.
Hops—Choice, 27@29c per pound; prime, 25c; medium, 24c.
Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 13@15c; mohair, 32@35c.
Beef—Dressed, 6@7 1/2c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6@7 1/2c; lambs, 7 1/2c.
Veal—Dressed, small, 8@9c; large, 6@6 1/2c.
Pork—Dressed, 6 1/2@7c.
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STRICT CENSORSHIP OBSERVED.

Mikado Endeavoring to Keep St. Petersburg in Ignorance.

London, Feb. 17.—That the Russians and Japanese have been engaged in a terrific land battle ever since Friday night on the north bank of the Yalu river there is every reason to know, but the details of the encounter cannot be procured.

Never in the history of modern warfare has a more rigid censorship been exercised than by the Japanese ever since the beginning of the war. Their evident purpose is to keep the Russian government quite as much in the dark as to what is going on as the rest of the world. Most of their movements have been veiled in secrecy. There were certain obvious points of attack and certain obvious movements that would naturally be made which were quite apparent to military observers all over the world. But it will be observed that not only has the world not yet received the full and complete particulars of any naval or land battle which has yet taken place, but as the days go by and the war progresses the details become more and more conflicting and less satisfying.

Japan has evidently a carefully mapped campaign before it. It hopes to accomplish much through celerity and secrecy of its movements. If the war correspondents were permitted to send forth the details of these movements the Russian authorities in the Far East would be in a much better condition to checkmate them. Absolute secrecy is therefore quite as much a part of the Japanese plan of campaign as any other. This view of the case will make it clear why the news has filtered through so meagerly and unsatisfactorily.

It is manifest from what has been allowed to come forth that the Japanese are making steady and rapid advances ever since the sketchy details of the first sea engagements electrified the world. When the news embargo is lifted it is not improbable the world will discover that the Japanese have made marvelous headway and that in celerity of movement and effectiveness of field work they have set a new standard for the armies of the civilized world to follow.

BROWN MEN COMMAND.

Reports Indicate Japanese Are Masters of the Situation.

Port Arthur, Feb. 17.—Official reports today are that the Japanese landed 600 strong near Tallen Wan Saturday with disastrous results to the Cosacks, sabering 410. Thirty were killed and the remainder retreated.

The steamer Wenchow, with 300 Japanese on board, was refused permission to depart. The landing at Dove bay was not opposed until the Japanese were ashore, when the forts and troops shelled. Four Russian warships were sighted near Tsugaru straits and may attack Hakodate.

London, Feb. 17.—A concerted attempt of the Japanese to land her sea forces to invest Port Arthur is imminent. All dispatches this morning unite in the indication that such a plan is in action. News of the first shot has been received, and it is believed will prove an irreparable blow to Russia.

The fact that only 19,000 Japanese were landed at Chemulpo is taken at Chefoo to indicate that the main Japanese army has been defeated for the land investment of Port Arthur.

WERE WITH JAPAN.

American Naval Officers on Vessels Attacking Port Arthur.

New York, Feb. 17.—International matters are assuming a very serious aspect, according to a Herald dispatch from St. Petersburg. One of the most serious bits of news at this moment is the alleged confirmation of the statement that on board the Japanese vessels of war attacking Port Arthur were a number of American naval officers. This report has caused something akin to a feeling of consternation among the Russian officers.

The emperor has issued the strongest orders, continues the dispatch, that no news whatsoever be communicated through the headquarters' staff. Further, he is deeply annoyed with the attitude recently adopted by the Russian press of writing upon the political situation in a way calculated to raise enmity between Russia and England, and also, very specially, America. For instance, the St. Petersburg Gazette has been prohibited, not as is generally supposed for publishing false news about the war, but because of an accompanying article declared to have been highly insulting to England.

Verifies the Report.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Paris correspondent of the Central News wires that news from a Russian source states that it is verified that a battle between the Russian and Japanese forces is now being fought on the northern bank of the Yalu river where the Russian land forces are concentrated and Reuter's agency states the Japanese minister of Seoul has advised the emperor of the arrest of Yi Yong, the Korean minister of finance, who is practically dictator of the country and most friendly to Russia.

Russian Insults Miller.

London, Feb. 17.—A dispatch from Manchuria reports that Henry Miller, the American consul, vigorously interceded in behalf of a number of Japanese refugees in that country who were arrested by Russians. Mr. Miller is likely to be successful. While he was attending his official duties a Russian trooper interfered and insulted him. The latter was severely disciplined by Russian officers and he hastened to apologize.

Passed by House.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The House today passed Hermann's bill for the sale of allotted lands of the Grand Ronde reservation.

LOSS OF NATION

MARCUS ALONZO HANNA PASSES TO ETERNAL REST.

End Came After Two Months of Illness. Filled With Apparent Recoveries Followed by Relapses—Last Moments Were Without Pain—Was Kept Alive by Powerful Scientific Agencies.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Senator Marcus Alonzo Hanna died at 6:40 o'clock last night at the family apartments in the Arlington hotel, after an illness extending over nearly two months, filled with apparent recoveries followed by relapses, and finally drifting into typhoid fever, which, in his weakened condition, he was unable to withstand. When the end came all the members of the Senator's family were in the room except Mrs. Hanna, the Senator's wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hanna. Mrs. Hanna had left the room only a few minutes before.

The last sinking spell began at exactly 6:30 o'clock. Doctors Carter and Oler were then in attendance. They did not conceal the fact that life was about to end, and all the members of the family were sent for. Mrs. McCormick, one of the Senator's daughters, and Miss Phelps were present when the end came. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hanna were the first to arrive, and they withdrew immediately to the chamber of the Senator's wife to summon her to the bedside. It was while they were absent that the Senator breathed his last.

There were no distressing incidents attending the last moments. It was a sinking spell, which terminated in 10 minutes. Just after his eyes closed in death Mrs. Hanna was able to come into the room. She bore up well under the ordeal, and tonight she is showing calmness and bravery.

The courage displayed by Mrs. Hanna is the subject of the greatest surprise. She was in almost constant attendance on her husband, though realizing fully there was no hope of recovery. Nevertheless, the demonstrations of the physicians and the added importings of her children that she take some rest were unavailing until late in the afternoon, when she was attacked by a violent headache. She was given a narcotic and then she retired to her chamber, but requested that a call be sent as soon as there appeared any change for the worse.

For the last two days Senator Hanna had not been conscious except at intervals and then only to obey mechanically some instructions given him by the physicians. Fourteen hours before the end was announced life had practically suspended, the flickering spark being kept aglow by the most powerful scientific agencies.

AT MERCY OF JAPAN.

Forces Are Closing in on Port Arthur and it Must Fall.

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—Although communication is said to be reopened between points in Japan and Corea, the advices still are indefinite. A special dispatch published here by the Star states that its correspondent has reliable information that in the second attack on Port Arthur the Japanese sunk eight vessels and captured ten. No confirmation can be obtained, despite the Star's insistence that it is true.

Russia is protesting in the matter of the British permission that Japan occupy Wia Hai Wei. Russia would like England to recapture the place if it is true that the fleet of the Mikado has been making it headquarters. The czar apparently knows that there are likely to be serious complications with other nations, and is making great military preparations to guard his country from all manner of attacks.

Although the land forces of Japan have met with some reverses, these are not thought to be serious, as they were not her main body of troops. It is conceded that Port Arthur must fall, and the Japanese are working rapidly and persistently to this end. They are slowly but surely closing in, and as the Russian fleet is scattered it cannot be seen how she can possibly prevent the Japanese from assailing her stronghold from both sides.

Mrs. Botkin's Second Trial.

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—The second trial of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin was called this morning, but was postponed until March 10 at the request of the state. The prosecution produced affidavits showing it could not get important witnesses to come here from Delaware before the middle of March. The defense demanded a dismissal of the case in accordance with the trial judges' promise if the state failed to proceed with the trial today, but the court held that the state showed sufficient cause for a postponement.

Will Not Go to Sea.

Shanghai, Feb. 17.—The Russian gunboat Mandjur, which before the war began was preparing for sea, has now gone several miles up the Wu Sung river, where she is likely to remain, unless objections are raised by the Chinese authorities. The Nanking Viceroy has telegraphed instructions to the official under his jurisdiction to observe strict neutrality and to take measures to prevent anti-Christian and other disturbances.

Russians Demoralized.

London, Feb. 15.—Dispatches from New Chwang, Manchuria, report great aggressiveness and more victories for the Japanese which has demoralized the Russians afloat and ashore. Russian commanders ashore are spreading troops in order to watch the coast.

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Recorder O. E. Farnsworth
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