

THE GAZETTE.

HEPPNER, THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 1884. IN BUNCHGRASS. Brief Description of the Country Contiguous to Heppner.

In the New York Sun we find the following description of the bunchgrass country, written on the spot: That part of eastern Oregon locally known as the "Bunchgrass" region, comprising about one-third of the State, is an immense rolling prairie lying east of the Cascade Mountains and south of the mighty Columbia River, the Blue Mountains on the east and south separating it from Idaho and Nevada.

The profile of this region might be described as a series of long, parallel ridges, the upper ends of which rest against the northward and westward slopes of the Blue Mountains, while the lower ends are bathed in the waters of the Columbia. On the narrow bottoms between these ridges, water often occurs in quite large, rapid streams, and sometimes the beds of the creeks are dry with the exception of scattering springs. The sides of these ridges facing the strong westerly winds of summer are mostly bare of soil, and the brown basaltic bedrocks are exposed to view. On the sheltered slopes the soil is generally deep and comparatively rich, becoming lighter and whiter as we approach the Columbia, and darker as we ascend the ridges toward the Blue Mountains; the "bunch-grass" growing on every hand.

The pioneers of this region are stockmen. They began by raising cattle; then sheep were introduced. The latter proved more profitable, and in a few years it was all sheep and few cattle. These pioneers did not settle upon the uplands. They selected the wide level spots, on the banks of the running streams where they raised hay for the purpose of tiding their stock over spells of deep-snow. They considered that the water was the key to the country, and so it was as long as stock raising was the only pursuit; but the farmers are now settling out on the open prairie and sinking for water. The winters are mild here—that is, mild for the latitude (46° north). November and December are usually divided into periods of bright sunny days or mild snow-overs. There is but little snow in these months, and the short, nutritious "buffalo grass," which covers the ground between the tufts of "bunchgrass," gets a good start. Sheep live and thrive upon this short grass, but don't do so well when it is covered with snow, and they are compelled to subsist on the taller "lunch-grass," which is dry and coniferous during the fall and winter months. In January and the early part of February we have our deep snows, if at all. Then the ground may be covered a foot deep for a few weeks or a month. The air is calm, the sun is bright and clear, and the thermometer registers all the way from 20° above to 15° below zero. Now horses and sheep have to be fed, or else they are obliged to "rustle."

This "rustling" consists in digging the snow away with their forefeet and eating the "buffalo grass" on the ground. It is quite amusing to see a couple of thousand of those little merinos digging away among the light, dry snow, and working apparently as hard as a gang of Chinese laborers on a railroad, the herder walking to and fro on an eminence nearby. He has no work to do, but he has to be near his sheep on account of coyotes; and is obliged to keep moving to keep from freezing, though bundled up beyond recognition. His dog has made a bed by snatching down a bunch of dry sage-brush, and is engaged in licking his paws, which ache with the unusual cold.

Sheep stand this "rustling" very well for a week or two, but after that, if there is no hay, the herder is supposed to sharpen his skinning knife. These cold spells are likely to be broken up any day by what are known as "Chinook winds," warm breezes from the bosom of the Pacific, which rush in from the southwest without an hour's notice and clear the snow and modify the atmosphere like magic.

Heppner, the business centre, is perhaps the largest town on the Pacific coast which depends largely upon the sheep interest. The books of its merchants show heavy accounts with wool growers. The prairies are devoid of timber, except here and there a narrow fringe of scrub birch and hawthorn along the banks of the creeks. Lumber and firewood have to be hauled either from the Cascades on the west, or from the Blue Mountains on the east, over a distance of from ten to forty miles, according to location. The O. R. & N. Co.'s railroad runs along the high-water

mark of the Columbia river, 40 miles north of Heppner. The first test in the way of wheat-raising on a large scale was made last year. The result shows that where land is properly tilled the yield will be satisfactory. There is plenty of room here for thousands to come and try their hand at farming on Uncle Sam's land. There are three immense counties, Umatilla, Wasco, and Crook, where the intending settler may climb an elevation and look over oceans of "bunch grass" and take his choice. JERRY NUNAN.

FROM WEBFOOT. NERBY, CLACKAMAS CO., OR., Feb. 14, 1884.

ED. GAZETTE: As you have neither solicited nor perhaps expected a communication from this part of the country, you probably will be a little surprised to get this. But don't worry over it, for I will not tax your patience with a long article just now.

Through the kindness of my brother, Wm. Crabtree, I receive your paper regularly once a week, and I can assure you it is as eagerly perused as a letter from old friends.

We are at present having very cold weather for old Webfoot. The mercury is down to ten degrees above zero, and still as cold as ever. Stock is generally in fair condition, and will probably pull through if we have rain soon. If not, stock will suffer more or less, as feed is scarce. Some of us old Oregonians are beginning to think Webfoot a pretty tough country, as our grain was frozen out last winter and when sown again in the spring almost perished from the drought of last summer, and although we cannot tell yet to what extent the present freeze will damage crops, the prevailing opinion is that late-sown wheat is considerably crippled.

Our d'Alene mines are very popular here, and many of our friends will go to see to seek their fortunes in the spring.

We are sorry to learn that the GAZETTE is liable to a freeze-out, and notwithstanding we have a general preference for "being the outside dog in the fight, we go a heap on backbone and principle. And when a man sets up a legitimate business, and has the proper spirit and honest motives, we somehow like to see if we can't help him, whether we agree politically or not. So hurrah for the GAZETTE! Go ye! bunchgrass boys! come to the front! Unfurl yourselves under the banner of justice! and scoop the gutter-sweepers that try to put down honest labor.

Mr. Watson's mile, of Lincoln, Or., is indeed a prodigy, and we would stand to match the colossal cross-in-mules. But we have a Webfoot colt near by that measures five feet high, 54 inches around the girth, weighs over 200 pounds, is 12 years old, and wears a No. 10 bragan. He will out-tally any bunchgrass nut-on east of the mountains. NERBY.

"OUR PLATFORM."

ED. GAZETTE: "Very modest, indeed!" Such was the exclamation of Yours Truly on glancing over the columns of that premature office-seeking vehicle bearing the title of the Weekly Times, a copy of which I had forced upon me by the Heppner postmaster allowing his kid to put it into my box. That box I pay rent for, and I want the Heppner postmaster to understand it is to be used only for my letters and such papers as I see fit to order. When I need any tissue paper, I can buy it.

What! Little ringsters, do ye take our people to be such consummate fools as to passively swallow such stuff as your so-called platform? Well, if you do, it is within a veil to obscure the political aspirations that befog your swelled craniums. No, the people will not submit to this have the wool pulled over their eyes. Yet when we remember how some of these ringsters have gulled and swindled this people before, we do not wonder that the bump of vanity told them the same game could be worked again.

The starters of the new charity sheet (printed mostly in Portland), are not ambitious in the way of seeking office. Such is their avowal. Yet it is plain to us that they have assumed this cringing tone for the purpose of getting the people—and from policy, not principle, thinking that by his dodge they would convey the idea that they did not desire an opportunity to prey upon the public. But the corrupt undercurrent winding its polluted course through the whole is plainly seen by the people. And surely every unprejudiced man will despise the petitioners who will try to argue that the little GAZETTE is not worked faithfully and persistently for the best interests of this division of the county, both as regards the dividend question and all important questions pertaining to the welfare of the people. CITIZEN.

The Why. A sheepman writes: "I have seen but one copy of this paper recently, and not fully understanding the situation, I am led to ask why doth the little GAZETTE get its back up? and why doth it so show up so good and so old a Christian as Squire Mallory?" Well, Mr. Sheepman, any fair-minded man who knows the situation will tell you that the little GAZETTE had to do lots of hard and unpaid work to get up the small range it has here, and while it was still building a little ring of world-be petitioners brought in a scrub band to eat it out. Under those circumstances, if you wouldn't get your little back up and point out where the old scrub sores still existed on the ring band, you would have very little of the mud of human nature in your composition. As to the showing up of an old man like Squire Mallory to the gaze of an admiring public, it will strike any unprejudiced mind that if he was young enough to join a ring and sign an agreement to freeze the GAZETTE out of its little business (all of which he admitted doing, and afterwards denied), he is young enough to have his official shortcomings shown up. And "shortcomings" is really a very mild term to apply to many acts ascribed to him. As to his Christianity, there are good men in this community who think that he wears the cloak of Christ through motives very different from those supposed to exist in consistent Christians, and that he is really no more of a Christian than many of us heathens who never professed what we did not honestly believe in. When an old squire or any other man tries to roll his appearance over this shop, he may expect to get his old wheels jolted.

Some Smoke, but Little Fire. Messrs. W. B. Cunningham & Co., the enterprising proprietors of the Heppner Flouring Mills, have erected near the mills a smoke-house, which is probably the most complete institution of its kind in this part of the country. There are boilers, vats, strainers, and in fact all the first-class fixtures for trying out lard and curing meat. In the centre of the building, and sunk below the level of the floor is a brick furnace, open at the top, in which a small, slow fire is kept burning. Nothing but willow is used for fuel, and it is a well-known fact, handed down by Indiana hunters, that willow is the best wood to use in smoking meat. The slabs of bacon, hams and shoulders taken from about 40 head of hogs are at present suspended from the rafters in Mr. Cunningham's smoke-house, and the meat already looks nice enough to eat without any preliminary frying or taking off the bark. Mr. Cunningham now has over 100 head of hogs on his River creek ranch, and will soon have many more, although appearances may be deceitful. The American hog is bound to increase and multiply, whether Germany and France like him or not.

Dam Dirt. Sterling Keithley and brother, and Jim Wyland, have been hard at work this week manufacturing a new backyard and cabbage garden on their place along the creek. They have dug out a northward passage further over toward the bill, and turned the creek from its old channel into a new and straighter course. The present high water has filled up the old channel with dirt and debris, and it looks as though the little sardine who hit a hook and escaped in 12 feet of water last summer now has 12 feet of dirt on top of him. This washed dirt has come a long way. The ranches of Jim Fuller, Norman Kelly and Jim Munkers, miles up the creek, furnished some of it. So did Will Walbridge's ranch, up Balm Fork, for some of the roots from his alfalfa patch can be plainly seen sticking out of the mud. There are also a couple of milk-pans which floated out of Uncle Charlie Wallace's milk-house a year ago, and a sardine can thrown into the creek by Park Gardeners up at the sawmill last summer has likewise been recognized. We might go on and give several other fine points about this dam dirt, but we will now have to go into the conservatory and dig some potatoes for supper.

Watch Out, Sam. The Snake Indians who kicked up such a devil of a fuss in Grant and Umatilla counties in '78, and who, after capture, were removed to the Yakima reservation at an expense to the government of \$47,000, have all straggled off from Yakima and returned to their old haunts on the Malheur and near Camp Harney. A correspondent at Harney writes that these Indians are now on the verge of starvation, not having dried their usual quantity of arickets last summer, and that they are liable to make trouble this spring. If any of them appear over by Fox valley or the Long Creek Republic, or anywhere within 100 miles of Heppner, there will be some more badly-scarred officials ready to light out for Salem. And if Sam Donaldson watches his chance he may be able to buy another ranch at bedrock figures from some man who is too scared to stay in the country any longer.

Wool Agency. Christy & Wise, the well-known wool house of San Francisco, have established an agency in the East for the sale of wool. This will be a great benefit to the patrons of this firm, as shippers will have the option of sending to San Francisco or by the Northern Pacific Railroad direct to Boston whenever the highest prices rule. Christy & Wise have written their agents at Alkali, Coffin, McFarland & Co., to make cash advances on this year's wool to anyone wishing it at the regular rate of interest, ten per cent. per annum. Address: COFFIN, McFARLAND & CO., Feb. 10, 1884. Alkali, Ogn.

To Correspondents. Several parties have sent us word that they had told tales of how the little corrupt Heppner ring had cinched and swindled the people. Well, if you have any such facts in your possession, write 'em up and send 'em in and we will publish them too quick! That's what we're here for. Stick to facts in your communications, and lie about no body. Give the devil his due in all cases, but give him hell when he deserves it.

Thawed Out. The recent freeze-out kind of stiffened things in and about the Heppner Flouring Mills, but since the country took its Chinook, every one that was shut out have thawed themselves out, and the machinery was again started up last Monday morning. Everything is now running on full time, and Supt. Overholzer and Mr. Hoseason are busy as beavers.

Democratic Meeting. A meeting of citizens of Heppner and vicinity who believe in democratic doctrines was held in Matlock's Hall last Saturday. Dr. A. J. Shobe acting as chairman, and G. W. Wright as secretary. Preliminary steps were taken towards the organization of a democratic club, after which an adjournment was had until next Saturday.

Pioneer Hotel For Sale. I offer for sale the Pioneer Hotel property, with all furniture and fixtures complete. The house is centrally located in Heppner, and doing a good business. Apply to or address, Chas. E. Hinton, Heppner Oregon.

To Merchants. Merchants who buy their flour at the Heppner Mills can obtain it at a discount of five per cent. This discount applies only to the trade. W. B. CUNNINGHAM & CO.

Seed Wheat. Farmers can now obtain good clean seed wheat at the Heppner Mills.

For Fees. Squire Mallory has a chance to make a big killing in the way of fees by arresting and fining a large part of the population of Heppner for contempt of court. For there are certainly a great many people in these hills who are guilty of holding his little court in great contempt.

J. W. REDINGTON, Notary Public and Land Agent. Corner Yellowstone Avenue and Main Street, Heppner, Ogn.

FIRE Insurance effected in Reliable Companies.

Has He a License? The Heppner postmaster had better look out, or that kid son of his, the Hiring, may break him up. The kid has been dishing out his father's postoffice drug store whiskey at less rates than the saloons can afford to sell the article. That is about the size of the kid, but it is rough on the old man, and an unfair shake for the saloons, whose proprietors have to pay for their whiskey, besides paying a license for the privilege of selling it. If it is contrary to law for Hiring Hallock to run a cheap saloon in his father's drug store, perhaps Squire Mallory will take official notice of it and write to the district attorney another letter about the liquor business in Heppner, as he did at the last session of the circuit court.

Horses! Horses! For Sale—24 Head.

The Best Bunch of Horses in the County, including a Bay Stallion half Clyde and half Messenger, weight over 1600 pounds, height 17 hands, bred by imported horse, and

Lot 1.—Four Pennsylvania Draft Stock Mares, all bay, averaging 1425 pounds, all broke to work, and the following, all their stock: Two 2-year-old bay Fillies, 3 2-year-olds, 3 yearlings, all as above.

Lot 2.—Two Large Black Mares, gentle; 3 good Work Mares, 2 2-year-old fillies, 3 yearlings and a good sized 4-year-old Saddle Horse.

Sucking colts thrown in. Price \$2250 for the Whole Bunch, or the Two Lots Sold Separately.

Address, Mann Bros., LENA, Umatilla Co., Ogn.

THE BOSS!

The "Kicker" Cigar!

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CRAYNE & TOMPKINS. Having opened a Land Office at Echo, we are prepared to do any kind of Land Business, and thus save you a trip to Pendleton or La Grande.

Land Bought and Sold.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned, have been appointed administrators of the estate of George Gieseler, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, writing to us, or to P. L. Paine, attorney at law, at his office in Heppner, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof. ELIZABETH GIESELER, JOHN W. GILMORE, Administrators.

HEPPNER, Feb. 1, 1884. 47-50

CHRISTY & WISE, AGENTS FOR WOOL GROWERS

COMMISSION MERCHANTS FOR THE SALE OF WOOL, HIDES, PELTS AND TALLOW.

A Large Supply of Bucks Constantly on hand. Also, Wool Bags, Twine and Dips furnished customers at lowest rates.

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LUMBER YARD At Foster!

A large lot of BLUE MOUNTAIN LUMBER Now in stock and FOR SALE CHEAP.

Also keep on hand a stock of PORTLAND FIR LUMBER, And sawed and shaved CEDAR SHINGLES A No. 1.

For prices call on or address JOHN R. FOSTER & CO., FOSTER, OREGON, Dealers in General Merchandise and Country Produce. 44-55

NOTICE OF INTENTION. Land Office at La Grande, Oregon, Jan. 23, 1884. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and that said proof will be made before A. Mallory, Notary Public at Heppner, Or., on March 1, 1884, viz: S. P. Garrigues, D. S. No. 303, for the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 N 1/4 SE 1/4 and NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 9, Tp. 4 S. R. 22 E. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence, and cultivation of said land, viz: Julius Keithley, Jacob Shamer, Levi Shanser, S. P. Finckles, all of Heppner, Or. HENRY W. DWIGHT, Register.

NOTICE OF INTENTION. Land Office at La Grande, Or., Jan. 22, 1884. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before A. Mallory, Notary Public at Heppner, Or., in this particular case, on March 8, 1884, viz: Hannah M. Yerkes, Homestead No. 182, for the W 1/2 NW 1/4 and W 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 2, Tp. 4 S. R. 22 E. W. M. She names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Wm. Mallory, Wm. Warren, Chas. Wallace, J. C. Ball, all of Heppner, Umatilla county, Or. H. W. DWIGHT, Register.

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Care of W. H. H. CASTLE ROCK, OR. Cash Advances made on Consignments of Wool, Sheep Pelts, Beef Hides and Deer Skins.

GOVERNMENT BUREAU. You can file or prove up on it free of charge at the GAZETTE office. A section is laid out as follows:

Table with columns for Township (North and South), Range (1-6), and Section (1-36). Shows land parcels with acreage.

Heppner Livery and Feed Stable, NELSE JONES, Proprietor, Opposite Belvedere Saloon, Heppner, Oregon.

New Teams, New Hacks, New Buggies, New Saddle-Horses.

Careful and Experienced Drivers Furnished to take Parties to Any Part of the Country.

HORSES FED ON SHORT NOTICE.