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SHEEP KILLING AGAIN UNEARTHED

Prineville Man Starts the Ball Rolling--Says Cattlemen Intend to Drive Sheep From Eastern Oregon Ranges.

Mr. C. B. W., of Prineville, to the Oregonian, believes that cattlemen of Eastern Oregon have made a determined effort to suppress the sheep industry of this part of the state. He believes they have organized into a combination reaching clear across the state and are working hard in hand to accomplish their purpose.

He says in part: "Six thousand heads of sheep slaughtered, of an approximate value of \$20,000 without a single indictment from the grand jury, is the record of the past season in Central Oregon.

Criminal operations of such magnitude seem serious, and are serious, although one living among the conditions is apt to overlook this phase, for the reason that business interests of all kinds are very badly impregnated with the feeling from one or the other of the viewpoints, and during the past two years sympathy or criticism has been dealt out with caution, and in all cases the ears receiving them must be known.

The feeling becomes more acute as each ranging season opens, and as a result of the continued depredations, many of the sheepmen have found it necessary to dispose of their herds.

Although the first organized bands of sheepshooters were for the express purpose of protecting the range from so-called outside sheep, their efforts have never been directed at anything but the apparent extermination of those sheep, that of public responsibility. This service to the industry of the state, however, to the exclusion of all other phases of stock.

At different times in the past the outside interests have been accused of having an organization which has been responsible for these depredations, but each time the answer would come back:

"We are not guilty, and cannot possibly furnish you a clue, unless it is some irresponsible parties who have wantonly killed your stock without cause."

This answer has been a makeshift to herald to the outside world, in lieu of anything more definite, but the poor answer has demonstrated that such is not the case, but instead it has proven that the countless of Crook, Lake and

of sheepshooters, organized from among representative cattlemen, who co-operate with one another in their depredatory acts.

The Silver Lake shootings of last Spring furnished an example of the distances traveled by some in co-operating with others of the band, when cartridge boxes were found with a Prineville firm's coat mark on them, although the scene of the shooting was 125 miles from here. At that time two affairs followed each other in quick succession, resulting in the slaughter of over 4000 head of sheep, and were probably responsible for the death of Creed Conn, the Silver Lake merchant, whose definite knowledge of the affair became known and feared through his criticisms.

The writer has been fortunate in getting the story of a sheepshooting affair from a participant, and the fact that it was unsolicited enables him to give it without any qualms of conscience.

He also gives a detailed interview had with one of the participants in one of the raids on a band of sheep in Crook county, and ends with the following:

"I do not mean to say that all cattlemen are implicated in these affairs, but there are certainly few exceptions. It has been said that when a cattlemen refuses to co-operate their acts he incurs their enmity and is roiled with a sheepman. Other cattlemen who do not care to run the chances of detection by active participation 'show their colors' by

contributing cartridges, and sometimes information, thus 'working with the gang.'

A Salem correspondent to the Oregonian sends in the following interview with Governor Chamberlain:

"The creation of an emergency fund, which the Governor may use at his discretion, is the only remedy Governor Chamberlain sees for the range troubles in Crook and other Central Oregon counties.

Nothing has ever come of the Governor's offer of \$2500 reward last Spring for the arrest of the men who murdered Creed Conn at Silver Lake, or the reward of \$300 each for arrest of the men who killed sheep in Lake County. Neither the Sheriff nor District Attorney, so far as known, paid any attention to the offer of reward, for neither even acknowledge receipt of the Governor's letter.

"The only way I can see to remedy the situation," said Governor Chamberlain today, "is for the Legislature to place money at my disposal so that I can employ Secret Service men to go to the neighborhood of the trouble and stay there until the guilty persons can be located, and evidence enough secured to convict them. To send our militia would do no good. The men who do the shooting may be in Crook County today and in Lake or Harney or Wasco tomorrow or next day. They would commit no offense while officers of law were around. They travel long distances in a wild, unsettled country, and without their rifles, which there is no one near except a defenseless sheepherder. They are masked and cannot be identified. The only way that I can see to bring them to justice is to send Secret Service men to live among them, learn their ways and follow their movements until they have evidence that will convict them. There is not now a single dollar which the Governor is authorized to expend for the purpose I mention.

The Governor has recently received several personal and confidential letters from a resident of Crook County, telling him of the reign of outlawry in that section of the state.

According to the letters received by county established new "dead lines" to be observed this winter, and have announced the intention to shoot all sheep found on the public domain in the territory which they have selected for their cattle. In some instances the territory they have selected includes land upon which sheepmen have grazed for years unmolested.

The informant says that cattlemen have fenced whole townships of the public domain and hold it for rent to men who need it for the grazing. This man implores the Governor to come to the aid of the law-abiding sheepmen, for the coming winter promises to be worse than any previous time for outlawry of the kind mentioned.

Governor Chamberlain says he will recommend in his message that the Legislature create an emergency fund that can be used in cases of this kind, or for any purpose that the Governor may deem advisable.

In commenting upon this matter editorially, the Oregonian says:

"If the State of Oregon had a Governor or with a more sober regard for his duties than merely to look pleasant and draw down his unconstitutional subsidies, we should have public order in Central Oregon. It is not possible to view too gravely the startling condition of impotence into which the administration of law has been thrown in more than one county by the timidity of local officers and the pro-criminal and complaisant executive. Twenty-eight

hundred sheep were slain in Lake county last spring by a gang of outlaw cattlemen, who took this merciless method of wreaking vengeance on their enemies; and the feud between them led to the shocking and mysterious death of a leading citizen, J. C. Conn. A Coroner's jury said it was suicide; but the circumstances pointed so strongly to murder that there was a loud cry for a more thorough inquiry into the facts and for punishment of the supposed assassin. The Conn tragedy became a living issue in Southern Oregon politics, and led to the defeat at the polls of public officers who appeared to have taken the side of the criminals, or to have hesitated to procure their arrest and conviction.

Now thousands of sheep have been slain in Crook County as a consequence of the same conspiracy to expel the sheepmen from the range. The rangers are so audacious in their operations and so cowardly ready to pass from the massacre of sheep to the murder of sheepmen that whole communities are terrorized, the arm of the law paralyzed, and anarchy virtually reigns. In Grant County the stockmen, on their part, have been made victims of the depredations of an industrious band of rustlers, who steal horses and cattle with impunity and practically defy arrest. It is obvious that in all these counties, and perhaps in others, the operation of law has completely broken down, and it is obvious, too, that the depredations of neither the criminal sheepkillers nor the daring stockrustlers will cease until they kill off one another or until the present Governor of Oregon can be made to realize that the lives of its citizens are imperiled, their property in jeopardy and their right to the law's protection denied.

Sheepmen have the same rights in the country as cattlemen, and cattlemen the same as sheepmen. But it is public land, and neither, at bottom, has any actual right. They are bound, however, in equity and justice, to respect the common right, on either side, to graze their herds and flocks, till forbidden by the owner of the lands. It is intolerable when one party attempts to exclude by wholesale massacre the other party from lands to which neither has a legal right. Active measures would be taken against these sheepkillers if Oregon had a Governor who was not balancing and playing in politics for reelection."

Many Patents Received.

Patents have been received at the Lakeview Land office for the following persons:

T. J. Brattain, Paisley; H. J. and J. C. Gebhart, Summer Lake; Mamie Thompson, Jas. E. Sullivan, Bly; Jas. Pelarske, E. O. Chack, G. J.

Buick, Jeff. Howard, Ed. McLean, C. V. O'Harra, A. J. White, E. P. and J. R. Horning, W. M. Duncan, Thos. J. and Lulu C. LaBrie, of Silver Lake; Evaline Jackson, Elva L. Allen, of Lake County; J. L. Yaden of Klamath Falls; J. E. Olson, Bell R. Fleming, H. J. Burk, Jas. Maxwell of Odell; K. and J. R. and John Young, L. F. Abel, of Roseland; E. L. Willutz, J. O. Church, R. W. Kniffin, E. M. Holland, Sam Mattson, J. C. Taylor, G. F. Guild, G. C. Halt, F. J. Johnson, A. A. Lindsey, G. H. Jolley, W. O. Forbs, Mary A. Griffith, C. F. Daugherty, L. Fordsek, of Portland; E. Schmeer, W. J. Hensley, G. G. Warden of Troutdale; P. J. and Mary J. Brown, of Hillsboro; N. J. and J. C. Reasoner, Clement Albright of Ashland; M. Parkhurst, of Salem; A. A. and R. N. and W. A. Hoover, of Detroit; E. E. Smith, of Albany; Ross Rumery, of Sumpter; J. J. Quinlan, of Houston; C. P. Murphy, of Baker City; C. C. Emerton, of Glendale; Nellie L. Pike, of Sherman county; Beatrice J. Brown, of Grand Rapids, Miss. Oscar A. Nordland, of Lindsburg, Kas.

These patents are being sent out as fast as the clerks in the land office get to them.

Paisley Notes.

W. A. Curre returned to his Summer Lake home, last Friday from Handford Calif., where he has been attending business interests for the past year.

Roy Woodward left Paisley Wednesday for a visit with his brother Loyd, at Williams Calif. He will return in the early spring.

Leslie Kelsay and wife came down from Silver Lake Saturday to make an extended visit.

Robert Moore, Dolly Moore and Charley Gaylard were on the streets Saturday for the first time since their recent serious sickness.

D. B. Conrad and wife came to Paisley Saturday for supplies and then moved to their ranch at Summer Lake where they will spend the winter.

Christmas events are as follows: A dance in Farrow hall Friday evening Dec. 23rd, and a Christmas tree in the M. E. Church, Saturday evening the 24th.

C. D. Porter and family returned to Silver Lake Thursday. Mr. Porter and children and Miss Agnes Busick have been visiting in Paisley for the past six weeks. Mr. Porter reports the cattle business in excellent condition in the northern part of the county. There is a healthy demand for feeders.

There is but little sickness in this vicinity. Since the frosty weather set in there have been no new cases of fever. And all that had it are convalescing.

S. P. Moss was a Paisley visitor Sunday.

The weather has been so fine that it has not been necessary for the cattlemen to begin feeding yet.

No Change in Land Laws.

The House committee on public lands has voted to postpone indefinitely action on the bill to repeal the timber and stone act. This action means there will be no land-law reform this season.

The House committee turned the bill down by a vote of 19 to 4. In turning down this bill the committee stated that the repeal of the timber and stone act would shut off the source of the greater portion of the

reclamation fund, and would seriously handicap irrigation work begun by the Government. Furthermore, it was said that the repeal of this law would be of immeasurable benefit to railroad companies and other large holders of forest reserve lands, as it would cause a considerable rise in the value of script, which would be the only remaining way of getting large tracts of Government timber land. There was, moreover, a general belief that the timber and stone act, if properly administered, is not a bad law.

Two New Withdrawals.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15th, 1904. REGISTER & RECEIVER, Lakeview, Or. On account of the withdrawal of irrigation projects, the following forms of disposal, whatsoever, under first form of withdrawal, Tp. 29, S. 8, R. 16 E. W. M.

W. A. Richards.

Washington D. C., Dec. 15th, 1904.

REGISTER & RECEIVER, Lakeview, Or. On account of the Silver Lake irrigation project. Withdraw from all forms, whatsoever, under 3d form of withdrawal, Tp. 26 and 27 S. R. 12, E. W. M.

W. A. Richards.

Death of Mrs. Griffith.

A sad death occurred at the Lynch wood camp at the head of the valley last Friday. Mrs. Griffith, mother of a large family of children gave birth to a child and died a few hours afterward. The family is said to be in hard circumstances, though the father is a hard worker, and has been engaged in cutting wood all fall. The infant will be placed in hands who can give it a mother's care.

The funeral of Mrs. Griffith was held here Sunday morning and the remains laid to rest in the I. O. O. F. cemetery. The community sympathize with the bereaved husband and motherless children. Later, the babe died Tuesday morning.

Josiah Vincent.

Known as "Uncle Joe" Vincent among his scores of friends, had lived in Lake county 34 years, until he attained the extreme old age of 88 years and 2 months. Josiah Vincent died at New Pine Creek, Oregon, on Monday, December 19th, 1904. He had many relatives in and about Pine Creek, though he had never been married.

George Hammersley and Pete Follett came up from Pine Creek, arriving here at 4 o'clock Tuesday morning after a casket. The remains were laid to rest in the Pine Creek cemetery Tuesday, at 1 o'clock.

Weddings at Klamath Falls.

W. S. McCurley and Miss Della Connell of Reno, were married at Klamath Falls last Sunday, Dec. 11th, by Judge Benson. Mr. McCurley (Paul DeLaney) is well known here, and his friends wish him much happiness. The bride is said to be a very accomplished lady. The Examiner joins in wishing the happy couple a life of bliss.

Mr. L. B. Yaden and Miss Nellie Boyd, both prominent young people of Klamath Falls, were married at that place last week by Judge Benson.

Death of C. Peters.

C. Peters, an old resident of Surprise valley and a respected citizen died at Cedarville last Wednesday. Mr. Peters was the father of Mrs. E. E. Rinehart, wife of Lake County's sheriff. Mr. Peters' remains went to Cedarville last week in answer to a call from the family.

Mr. Peters had been sick for several weeks and his age, which was about 68 years, was a bar to recovery.

Deceased was a well-to-do farmer, owning one of the oldest and best farms in the valley, on which he had lived for many years.

Christmas Exercises.

A Christmas tree exercise will be held at the M. E. Church in Lakeview, on Saturday evening, Dec. 24. A good program will be rendered, free for all. Everybody invited if not engaged elsewhere. By special arrangement, unless there is a full house of people, the exercises will be held at seven o'clock. Now is the time to get seats will be at a premium.

Arizona Says No.

The committee on territories has favorably reported upon the bill providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian territories to the Union as one state to be called Oklahoma and New Mexico and Arizona as one state to be called Arizona. Arizona will protest, as it does not want to be admitted jointly with New Mexico.