

### Lake County Examiner

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LAKEVIEW, OREGON, MARCH 23, 1905.

#### Senator Mitchell Home.

Senator Mitchell has returned to Portland from Washington, D. C. He absolutely refused to be interviewed on the subject of his coming trial. Various rumors are out concerning his counsel, which seems to be one of the most important features of the case and some of the daily papers are trying hardest to find out, and one upon which they are making the least progress. Senator Mitchell tells the reporters, who approach him for interviews, that the newspapers have persecuted him, and he does not intend to take his case from a jury and give it to the papers, that he has dealt so thickly with his case. The Senator's trial will come off in June, and will probably be one of the best cases taken by the grand jury will be continued for about 10 days the first of April, at which session District Attorney Haver expects to secure his dismissal against several other prominent men of the state. No disposition is given out as to who will next "take it in the neck."

Senator Mitchell expresses absolute indignation at the vindictive manner in which the times comes, and it is believed that he will justly do it.

#### Accused of Taking Bribes

A dispatch to the Oregonian from its Washington News Bureau, dated March 16, states that "evidence is accumulating which indicates that Register Bridges and Receiver Booth of the Roseburg Land Office, are to be indicted by the Federal grand jury when it convenes in April. Both men, so it is said, have confessed to gross maladministration including the acceptance of money for improperly advancing cases before their office. It is reported that the government is in possession of damaging evidence against both men aside from their own admissions.

In all probability Bridges and Booth will be dismissed as soon as indicted, and other appointments will be made at once. Senator Fulton expects to leave for home on Saturday.

#### Klamath Held Back.

Last week the Klamath Canal Co. turned the water into their canal for the first time. By order of the Secretary of War the company was restricted from taking water out of the river, and another injunction was issued by Judge Baldwin, and the company was forced to again close their headgates. It cannot be foreseen when this controversy will end, but is certain that no normal development can take place until it is settled. Like every county upon the mountains of her state county with regard to Klamath county inaugurated plans for development long before Lakeview was awakened to the necessity of so doing, and it will not be at all surprising if Lake county sees water on its vast area of arid lands long before our neighbor gets this case out of the courts.

It is reported that Kuropatkin lays the blame of his defeat to two Lieutenants. He does not mention their names. In all probability they are serving in the Japan army.

Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of the wireless telegraph has been married to an Irish girl named Beatrice O'Brien. This was probably the result of a wireless dispatch.

"St. Patrick's Day" which was last Friday, was only slightly observed in Lakeview, no demonstration, not even the usual dinner, marked the day, which is exempt from the local duties and restrictions of the Catholic church. A very few were noticed "wearing of the green." St. Patrick is the apostle of Ireland, though not of Irish birth; after having been brought, a slave, to Ireland, and having remained in slavery six years he conceived the idea of converting the Irish. He is said to have driven all the snakes and frogs from Ireland. St. Patrick was of noble birth.

There are said to be a score of candidates for the two \$3,000 jobs at Roseburg. New appointments are to be made for the Roseburg land office. Senator Fulton will be allowed to recommend men for these places. The Oregonian mentions about 20 who are trimming their sails.

#### No Longer a "Desert"

(From The Portland Examiner.)  
The old maps of Oregon show an enormous stretch of the Cascades and south of Princeton nearly to the California line bearing the ominous and foreboding label "The Oregon Desert." Millions of acres were so grandly designated as a land of no future. Hundreds of miles wide and wholly wild courses ran at will. The streams are now and far between, but most likely had meanders are found over a wide expanse. The vegetation consists mainly of sage brush, some scrub pine, and various wild hay grasses covering the ground areas. The western banks of the Cascade Mountains are covered with yellow pine timber. When this gives out, as what was known as the desert proper, it reveals, in patches, tree growth, but small and scattering which qualified for very many miles.

For the first time today the former title of "The Oregon Desert" as both obsolete and misleading. The first discovery was that the central belt, reaching from the Cascades to the Snake, could be reached with abundant water. The slopes of the mountains supplied streams and springs of continuing and varying flow. The peculiar formation of lava beds and volcanic ash, tufa, and the like which cover the whole eastern flank of the range, had two purposes. The one has been to cover the elevated plateau of Eastern Oregon with coatings of volcanic ash and pulverized rock, which hold material for the richest fertility when dissolved by water and brought into contact with plant life. The other has been to provide channels and watercourses, under ground and protected from evaporation, which issue many miles away from their mountain sources, or else through wide expanses furnish water-saturated strata but a few feet from the present surface of the ground.

The great central depression is the irrigable area. It begins at the Deschutes River, where the town of Bend has sprung into life; it stretches eastward through the Matheur Valley and canyon to the Snake. It is needless to describe the life of settlement now following the life-bringing water throughout this region.

This, however, is not all by any means. Not only are wheat and barley farms spreading over the whole district to the north and reaching to join lands with the farms belonging to the Columbia basin, but cereals there are growing today on unirrigated lands. Farm life is spreading over the inland expanses.

The stretches of sage brush covered areas south of the irrigable area have recently been tested on a wide scale. Water in abundance was found at from 10 to 20 feet from the surface, and this not in isolated spots, but in section after section. The Silver Lake and river country is the most recent land of promise. The first wave of new settlement touched there last week and brought thirteen heads of families who selected permanent locations. These people found as their headquarters and trading point a little town with about 100 people, hotels, stores, school and church.

These men, and those who will follow them along the road they travel, have truly taken their courage in both hands. It is four days' good driving from the nearest railroad to the north of them and 90 miles to the nearest little town to the south of them. Five days from Portland. Do Oregon people realize that the Oregon, Nevada & California Railroad, pushing northward from Reno, is at Madeline, less than 100 miles from the Oregon boundary, with an easy country between?

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#### Gerber Talks.

L. Gerber was interviewed by an Examiner reporter Monday in regard to the proposed irrigation in Klamath county. Mr. Gerber believes the controversy between the government and the Klamath Canal Co. will be settled before long. He thinks the "snafus" are anxious to sell, but are holding for a price that the government will not pay. Whatever amount of money is paid for the Co's works must be included in the cost of constructing the government works, and the people will have to pay. Mr. Gerber explained some things that are of much interest to people in this county who are talking government irrigation. He says that in holding lands to the government a man places whatever of his land that can be irrigated and then the government people make an estimate of the cost of constructing the works and canals, surveys their ditches and all lands that cannot be brought under the ditches are exempt from taxation to pay for the works. Thus if a man owns 100 acres, 80 acres under the ditch and 20 lying so that it cannot be irrigated, he will only be required to pay on 80 acres. More than 100 acres cannot be bonded by one person, but if a man owns more than 100 acres he may transfer the excess to other members of his family. Land owners having more than 200 acres will have two years in which to dispose of the excess, and if in that time he has not disposed of it the government will undertake to dispose of it for him.

When asked about the railroad, Mr. Gerber said it was almost certain that the Weed road would be extended to either Merrill or Klamath Falls. He predicts a bright future for the town of Merrill.

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