

Nehalem Pioneer Passes Away.

A gloom was cast over Nehalem last week when it became known that Henry N. Downing, a pioneer and respected citizen of that part of the county had passed away, which occurred on April 11th.

Mr. Henry H. Downing, the son of Abram and Anna Downing, was one of twelve children six of whom survive him, one brother and five sisters.

Storm Warnings.

Mr. B. C. Lamb has been appointed by the Weather Bureau to have charge of the storm signal service at this place.

Storm Warnings.

Warnings of the approach of windstorms will be published by the display of flags by day, in connection with the bulletins posted and the reports furnished to newspapers, mariners, and others interested.

The warnings adopted by the U. S. Weather Bureau for announcing the approach of windstorms are as follows:

The Storm Warning (a red flag, eight feet square, with black center, three feet square) indicates that a storm of marked violence is expected.

The White Pennant (eight feet hoist and fifteen feet fly) displayed with the flags, indicates westerly winds, that is, from north to southwest, inclusive, and that the storm center is approaching.

When the Red Pennant is hoisted above the Storm Warning, winds are expected from the northeast quadrant; when below, from the southwest quadrant.

No signal will be hoisted during fair weather indications.

New Federal Land Policy.

In the closing days of the late congress two acts were passed which contemplate a departure in the land policy of the government.

Bills by Representative Martin, of South Dakota, and Representative Brooks, of Colorado, became laws, which, in brief, permit 640 acre homesteads in their respective states, instead of the time honored 160-acre homestead.

While the bills of Mr. Martin and Mr. Brooks became laws only for their own states, congress, in passing them, established a precedent which may, later, spread to other states where the character of the land is not such as to permit farming and agriculture in the strict eastern sense.

There are, it is true, a number of restrictions hedging about the provisions of these laws, which are very similar in their language. For instance, it is stated in the first section that the land contemplated for entry in 640-acre tracts shall not be with a forest reserve or other reservations; that it shall be as nearly compact in form as possible, and in no event shall be over two miles in extreme length nor more than one mile in length along the course of a stream of water.

It is provided that a former homestead entry shall not be a bar to entry under this law of a tract which, together with the former entry, does not exceed 640 acres; and it is also provided that any homestead entryman whose claim has not passed to final entry when the act becomes operative may relinquish and file on a 640-acre homestead. Provision is also made for contiguous entry—that is, a homesteader may add to his original 160-acre tract land which lays alongside to make an aggregate of 640 acres.

An important provision of these South Dakota and Colorado laws is that the commutation clause of the general land laws shall not be in effect hereunder. The entryman shall be required, in making final proof, to make affidavit that his residence has been continuous on the 640-acre tract for five years; and that he has made permanent improvements of a value of not less than \$150 for each acre in his tract, which must have been made to the extent of at least 30 cents

J. F. Martin's Report for Last Year.

J. F. Martin, who keeps a close tab on all his cows and tabulates daily what amount of milk they give, milked 22 cows and 5 two year old heifers last year, and with the following results:

Table with columns: MONTH, LBS. MILK, TEST, LBS. FAT, PRICE, CASH. Rows for January through December.

Summary table: Total pounds of milk, Average test, Total pound of fat, Average price, Total cash, Average pounds milk for each cow, Average butter fat, pounds, Average butter, pounds.

COST OF FEED PER COW.

Table with columns: Item, Cost. Rows for (Pasture), Hay, Rooks, Total, Average gross cash per cow, Expenditure, Average net cash per cow, Expenditure.

Owing to a poor cheese maker for three months and poor price for cheese for three months, cut this year's returns down.

For the year 1903, Mr. Martin's returns were from 20 and 3 two year old cows:

Table with columns: Item, Value. Rows for Total pounds milk, Average pounds per cow, Test, Total pounds of fat, Average lbs. fat per cow, Average price, Total cash, Average money per cow, Cost of extra feed, Net cash per cow.

per acre per annum. All improvements made in excess of 30 cents per acre per annum shall apply on the requirements for subsequent years.

The usual provision for veterans of the war of the rebellion and the war with Spain and Philippines insurrection is made—that the time of actual service shall be deducted from the five years' residence required; or, if discharged for disability incurred in the service, then the term of enlistment shall be deducted; but in no time shall a patent issue to a settler who shall not have resided upon, improved and cultivated his homestead for at least three years after commencing improvements.

Of course the argument for these bills was the fact, so alleged, that the limit of practical homesteading under existing laws had been absolutely reached in the area described by the two bills, and that no increase in settlement could be expected unless changes in homestead laws were made.

In the report from the committee on public lands of the house of representatives, the director of the United States geological survey is quoted as follows:

"The arbitrary limit stated by the present land laws of 160 acres for a homestead does not suit existing conditions in the arid region. If the water supply is ample, 160 acres is usually far too much, and would support two, three or four families; on the other hand, throughout 90 to 95 per cent of the vast extent of remaining public land 160 acres is so small as to be useless for a homestead."

The above is the argument for the legislation. On the other hand, Representative Reeder of the Sixth Kansas district was strongly opposed to the bills and fought them to the last. He contended it was a blow at the homesteader and small farmer, and a step further toward the aggrandizement of the cattlemen and large land owner.

Debtors Must Give Up Half.

SALEM, Or., April 14.—Oregon merchants will have a good remedy against many of their bad debtors after May 18, when the act of the last Legislature regarding the exemption of wages from execution will go into effect. This act amends the law by making one-half the earnings of the debtor subject to execution proceedings if the debt be for family expenses.

Prior to 1903 all the earnings of a debtor for 30 days next preceding the service of an attachment, execution or garnishment were exempt if the earnings were needed for the support of a family. Under that law men with considerable monthly incomes would escape the payment of their debts. The Legislature of 1903 amended the law by limiting the amount of earnings exempt to \$75, but leaving the law otherwise the same. As there are comparatively few men working for wages who receive over \$75 a month, this law still enabled men to avoid debts which they should be compelled to pay, and the Legislature of 1905 amended the section still further by adding this clause: "Except when the debt is incurred for family expenses

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