

The Gate City Journal

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Vahl & Megorden
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Some of our Eastern Oregon papers started to talk assembly plan but they have dropped it. What's the matter brothers?

The "Big Stick" was at one time held over the heads of the trusts and some heeded the warning and others felt the blow. Now the "Big Stick" is held over the Insurgents but it will not descend.

The insurgents in Congress are putting up a fight that is counting and they are fighting bravely on. These men are up before the people as men from their ranks and they are working and striving for the betterment of their constituents.

The census man starts work tomorrow. Now don't get mad at his impertinent questions as he wont tell your neighbor about you. He just wants to know for himself and his Uncle Samuel, that he is working for. He is a poor harmless soul that is inquisitive because he has to or he'll lose his job.

The Club Bar is subject to taxation or the license law that any of the ordinary saloon. This does away with the private clubs in private towns, at least for Idaho. This is a very good decision of Judge Woods. This case has caused a great deal of excitement and many has been looking forward to this decision.

Land values of Malheur County are soaring but not out of sight. The prospects of the High Line are so promising that every one wants to hold their land and get their true value and worth and they will hold it until it is possible to get it. There are bargains here and they are being taken up as fast as they appear. Malheur County is indeed a county of wealth and prosperity.

American tourists go into a foreign country for scenery. Foreign tourists come to see this great land of ours. Each lacks the appreciation of the home qualities. The great scenery of our country is the topic of European and they know more about it than ninety per cent of the Americans. Ask them of the points of interest in the United States and they will give you places that you never heard of and then some will be right at home and you know every inch of ground. We have places right at home that is beautiful, we have a land and a state that abounds in scenery. The American citizen that is true to his country will see all the places of interest and scenery at home then if he has time or money to spend let him go to a foreign land. If an American sees every section of his own country he will have visited so many foreign countries as each section has a class, a type of people different than that in the other section. If you wish to seek for beauty come to Oregon, "The Land of Scenery".

THE TELEPHONE IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS.

Most prominent among the measures which Uncle Sam has taken to protect his national forests in the west from heavy loss by fire is the extended use of the telephone. This handy little instrument has proved its worth during the past year. According to figures which have just been published by the Department of Agriculture, the loss from fire has been greatly reduced, although the number of conflagrations has been actually larger than in the year preceding.

Through the aid of the telephone assistance is brought to the spot as soon as a blaze is discovered. In this way it is possible to prevent the spread of a fire and to confine it to a small area. In one instance last year a fire-fighting force was collected in a few hours where at least a day would have been wasted if aid had been sought by means of a courier.

The number of fires in the national forests last year was 410 larger than in 1908, but almost 80 per cent of the fires were extinguished before as much as five acres had been damaged. The fires covered less than one and one half acres to the square mile of national forest land, and the damage done to the burned-over area averaged but \$1.25 an acre.

According to the government's figures, during 1909 there were 3,138 fires in the national domain, burning over about 390,000 acres. In 1908 there had been 400,000 acres laid waste. Last year some 170,000,000 board feet of timber were consumed, as against 230,000,000 the previous year.

The loss of value of timber destroyed was less than \$300,000. The loss the year before was about \$450,000.

These figures seem to indicate that although the damage to the forests is still very great, the fires are not so much of a scourge as formerly. With a view to still greater increasing the fire-fighting facilities, the work of extending the protective system into all parts of the national woodlands is being pursued this year. The telephone will play an important part in the measures that are to be taken to reduce still further the loss in the western forests.

In some sections the forest rangers are supplied with portable telephones which they carry strapped to their backs and with which they can secure connection at any convenient point. The government owns and operates a number of telephone lines, and makes connection with lookout stations, where watchmen with field glasses are kept to search for signs of fire among the trees. The instruments and line material for these systems have been furnished by the Western Electric Company, the largest manufacturer of telephones in the world.

Many of the states have jurisdiction over great tracts of wooded land and maintain fire-fighting systems of their own. It is interesting to note that in New York, where lookout stations are fully equipped with telephones and telescopes for detecting and reporting fires, the loss during 1909 amounted to only \$25,101, whereas the year before the damage had totalled \$644,000.

Forest fires are still one of the greatest problems the government has to face. Since 1870 more than two thousand have lost their lives through these conflagrations in the national forests. Five hundred and fifty million acres of standing timber are centred in six Pacific and northwestern states—material for a glorious bonfire. To prevent fires seems to be out of the question, but it is possible to check the spread of the flames, and in its work of the past year the government has given a demonstration of what up-to-date methods will do.

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"THE GATE CITY"

The live stock market at Portland for the month of March has been a pleasing one, both in prices and receipts. As compared with March last year, there was an increase of 3607 cattle, 1103 sheep and 382 hogs. In the face of the great shortage prevailing all over the country, this is a splendid showing for the Portland market.

All previous records for prices were broken, not alone in individual instances of small sales, but in the higher general average prevailing for all classes of live stock. Cattle sold high, sheep and lambs brought big prices, and the hog rocket that went up in February has shown no sign of a falling stick.

More buyers are looking to this market for their supplies and competition in every line is keen.

A further glance at comparative receipts may be of interest:

	Cattle.	Hogs	Sheep.
Mar., 1910	7945	4650	4472.
" 1909	4338	4268	3369.
Increase	3607	382	1103.

The showing in hogs is remarkable when it is considered that there were 3127 less brought to Portland by packers from Missouri River points in March, 1910, than in March 1906.

Population is increasing so rapidly in the Pacific Northwest that the farmers need have no fear of an over-supply of live stock that is properly prepared for the market.

A very successful year's work with the Presbyterians in Nyssa was concluded with a free dinner and congregational meeting. Reports showed that all bills for the new church have been met, so that the building is clear of debt. Pastor's salary paid—and contributions to the mission boards amounting to nearly two hundred dollars. Messrs Hunt, Foster and Webb were elected trustees for the new year, with Mr. Foster also charged with the church trusteeship. Mr. Ehrgood and the pastor are to go to La Grande to the meeting of the presbytery next week.

Oregon Short Line.

TIME TABLE

WEST	
No 25.....	9:05 A.M.
No 5.....	4:35 P.M.
No 27.....	7:05 P.M.
EAST	
No 28.....	9:05 A.M.
No 6.....	4:54 P.M.
No 26.....	6:00 P.M.

G. B. WILLS

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