

TRANSFER OF HARNEY LAND

A half interest in approximately 140,000 acres of land located in Harney county has been purchased by the Swift interests of Chicago. The lands include the Corbett Estate of Portland and William Hanley.

The property was formerly owned by the Blitzen Valley Land company, for which Mr. Hanley acted largely in the capacity of manager. With the entrance of the Swifts, the lands are taken over by the Eastern Oregon Cattle company, the incorporation of which was recently announced.

William Hanley will sever all connection with the new company after July 1, when he will retire to handle his own extensive eastern Oregon properties.

The center of the vast tract formerly owned by the Blitzen Valley Land company is the "P" ranch from which radiate a dozen or so units comprising thousands of acres. These include the Sod House ranch, Buena Vista ranch, Grain Camp ranch, Diamond ranch, Happy Valley ranch, Riddle ranch, Rock Creek ranch, Roaring Springs ranch and Home Creek ranch.

The new owners of the lands have as their ultimate purpose to colonize to the extent made possible by future railroad development.

It is proposed to extend irrigation canals now on the property and to drain the swampy and marshy lands, using the same canals where possible for both irrigation and drainage purposes.

The property acquired by the Eastern Oregon Cattle company lies about 60 miles south of Burns. It extends 60 miles west from Malheur lake, its width varying from three-quarters of a mile to five and six miles.

The proposed Strahorn railroad to central Oregon will traverse part of the property and with the extension westward from Vale, the lands will be served from the east.

Including stock on the several ranches the 140,000 acres in the big tract are estimated to be worth close to \$3,000,000.

BUY YOUR BOOK FOR THE LIBRARY TO-DAY

There'll be no library ball this year. The Woman's club is having that book social tomorrow night instead. The books chosen for that purpose, and on sale at Letson's jewelry store have not sold very rapidly, but the women are hoping every Ontario person will yet do his noblest by the enterprise, and assist them to put a large number of books on the library's shelves.

The social at the library tomorrow night is for the entire public, and all friends of the library are cordially invited. Of the more than nine hundred readers who are using the library, at least half should present a book, isn't that a fair proportion?

WILL BE THRILLER MONDAY NIGHT

"The Plunderer" will be pulled off at the Dreamland Theatre next Monday night, February 14. The drama includes 500 wonderful scenes of romance, love, hate, trials and success.

The Plunderer affords for William Farnum, the star actor a real "Farnum Part"—big Bill Mathews of the Croix d'Or mine, a doughty, splendid steel-knit fellow, with a big, warm heart and a punch in each hand. Bill and his partner are harassed by a secret enemy who imprisons them in a mine shaft, causes a strike of the workmen and blows up the reservoir upon which the power of the mine depends. These are only a few of the thrills that keep you breathless—hanging on to the arms of your seat. The final climax, where Big Bill and his partner discover their enemy, is the most stirring of all.

A pulse-stirring battle with bare fists in which Big Bill beats a score of drink-crazed miners in a fight, that for sheer thrills and heart-catching excitement has never been excelled on the stage or screen, is one of the big features of this super-picture.

WATER POWER DEVELOPMENT

According to claims filed with State Engineer Lewis for the year 1916, rights have been initiated for the development of 456,410 horsepower. In many instances these claims represent rights to develop power but which have not, as yet, been actually developed. 291 claims have been filed covering development or power, the latter being the claim of the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company, covering its rights on the Willamette River at Oregon City.

Clackamas County leads in the number of horsepower for which claims are filed, having 349,716 horsepower. The only counties in the state in which no claims for power have been filed, are Clatsop, Gilliam and Wheeler.

The number of horsepower claimed in Malheur County is 454, Harney 219, Grant 4,681, and Crook 11,719.

WAS RUN OVER BY STREET CAR

Joe Brooks, fifteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks of Harney city, who has been going to school at Tacoma this winter, met with a serious accident last week, when he stepped off a street car just in time to be run over by another car coming behind. His legs were cut off just above the ankle and only prompt medical attention saved his life.

Mrs. Brooks passed through Ontario Thursday on her way to Tacoma, where she will spend a few weeks with her son, after which she will bring him back to their home in Harney.

She came to Riverside by auto and took the train from there. She says that most of the wet weather in the valley has been in the form of rain, and that there is but little snow in Harney county in the sections she has seen.

CATTLE SHIPPED BY EXPRESS ROUTE

Tuesday evening the 6:33 east train hauled in to Ontario two full blooded cows of the Jersey species, also a yellow haired calf of the same breed. They were boxed in crates just large enough for their bodies and were accompanied by a bale of hay.

M. G. Jones formerly of Brook, Ore., but lately having moved to Bogan, was the shipper and it was for that place the live stock was bound. Ontario being their home for one night only. It is a rather rare sight to see such large animals—as cows shipped by express and if the proper care is taken in hauling such live stock there is a decided advantage in that the speed is so much greater in shipping.

CLUB-OWNED SIRE.

The average Oregon farmer with only a few pure bred animals can hardly afford to keep pure bred males and yet he cannot at all afford to use scrubs. One solution of the problem suggested by the Oregon Agricultural College is that several of the neighbors club together and secure a pure bred sire as needed. This will make the cost of the pure bred sire considerably less to each owner than would be the cost if each sire was separately owned and give every member the advantage of using high-priced, pure-bred stock.

K. P. GRAND OFFICERS PAY OFFICIAL VISIT

The local K. P. lodge had a splendid time Tuesday evening, the occasion being the official visit of the grand lodge officers. The Grand Chancellor and Grand Secretary with the local district deputy received all the honors and were entertained with a banquet and speech making. The Knights always invite in all the old timers when they have a love feast and they know how to entertain. The officers reported the order in a very prosperous condition throughout the state.

MALHEUR RIVER LANDS YIELD LARGE RETURNS

Reports From Farmers Indicate That Lands are Paying Big Dividends

Reports from several tracts of new land are beginning to come in, now that the hay crops are sold and the farmers have had an opportunity to figure up the cost of production, and the net results.

Perhaps the best figures on net results are those furnished by Mr. Claggett, agent for the Eastern Oregon Land Company, for their branch near Nyssa.

Mr. Claggett reports that their Nyssa ranch was cleared of sage brush and plowed during the summer of 1913, part of the land being seeded to alfalfa that year, the balance in 1914. This year they had a good stand on 160 acres, and figure their crop on that acreage.

They cut and sold off that 160 acres 1282 and a half tons of alfalfa. They sold early and obtained a price of \$5.50 per ton, making a gross return of \$44.00 per acre, the hay averaging just 8 tons to the acre.

In arriving at the net returns Mr. Claggett charges the land with every item of expense, allowing \$1.50 per ton for harvesting the hay, and after allowing every cent of maintenance and expense, the land shows a net return of \$21.08 per acre, or an income of better than 10 per cent on an investment of \$200.00 per acre.

This does not allow for the pasturage crop which is always very valuable, but which was not figured into the net returns, as it was used by the ranch people for their own stock.

We also have the report of W. J. Pinney. Mr. Pinney harvested and sold 327 tons of alfalfa from 34 acres, this hay selling at a good round figure. Three crops were cut and a good pasturage crop left. This is also new land, this being the second crop year. Unimproved land immediately adjoining this tract can be bought at \$75.00 per acre, while this tract is paying a handsome dividend on a \$200.00 valuation.

In the same neighborhood, and not more than a half mile away is the tract owned by Kibler & Sons, of Woodbine, Iowa. Kiblers have never seen their land since it was plowed up, it being farmed by Chas. Thompson, who cut and sold 835 tons of fine alfalfa hay from 105 acres. This land was bought by the Kiblers for a mere pittance, but since purchasing it the Snow String ditch has been built, making this land produce the amounts above stated.

Small Tracts Produce Well.

Among the small owners the best results learned of are those obtained by Schlyer Bull, on the Blakeley tract adjoining Ontario. Mr. Bull farmed this little tract of 5 acres this year, paying all the expenses, and turned over to Mr. Blakeley for his net share of the crop, the sum of \$123.00. Mr. Bull sold \$256.00 worth of alfalfa hay from his own tract of five acres which adjoins the Blakeley tract.

When we think that this land can be bought in its rough state for from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per acre, six or seven miles from town, and higher closer in under the ditch, and with a good water contract, and by a little labor can be made to produce these wonderful returns, then we can truly say that Malheur County offers better inducements to the home maker than any other county in the west.

There are something like 2500 acres of these fine lands lying within a radius of 5 miles of Ontario which if put under cultivation would produce untold wealth for their owners.

However, the alfalfa productions are by no means our greatest asset. We might relate here an experience of one of our old timers in the country, which will prove to the skeptic that our lands are among the best fruit lands in the west today.

Apples a Profitable Crop.

C. W. Mallett was about the first man to locate upon lands in the Malheur valley. After becoming firmly established in his farming operations he planted a family orchard. He is a firm believer in large families and therefore planted a large orchard, about two acres. However, of late years he failed to give the orchard much attention, occupying his time

in seeing how much alfalfa he could raise on a certain area.

Consequently his orchard was not kept up to standard, and at the beginning of the pruning season of 1915, there was a good sized job of pruning on hand on the Mallett ranch, so large in fact that Mr. Mallett was inclined to allow the trees to grow at will, as they would produce plenty of apples for the family at any rate.

At this stage of the game, Miss Pansy, Mr. Mallett's daughter, took the old orchard in hand, upon the promise that if she had it pruned, sprayed and cared for that she could have all the returns after the family wants were attended to.

Like most Malheur county maids, Miss Mallett is a good worker and a good thinker. She sprayed the old trees up in good shape, and along about the time when buyers were looking for apples she had them for sale. They were such good apples that there was considerable competition among the buyers, so much so that Adolph Gramse paid her \$448.00 on the trees, and picked them himself. Miss Mallett had made \$400 clear on the venture and demonstrated to her father that the old trees still had a few dollars left in them. It might be mentioned that this was an off year on apples, as the yield was much below normal.

Similar yields and returns are reported from all over the country, but we take this example on account of the fact that this is an old family orchard, and contains none of the late and more popular varieties.

Other Assets.

In the corn world Malheur County has set a new pace for every other corn growing country in the United States. We are head and shoulders over every other state west of the Rocky Mountains, and in quality and yield per acre are right up among the top notchers in the whole country.

We are not speaking about wool, mutton, beef, horses and other live stock industries, as every one knows that we lead the state in those productions. We simply are calling our readers attention to a few of the yields obtained from new land, and to the fact that this land is now down to a rock bottom price, and that there is a lot of it that should be bought and developed at this time.

This land is going up, and that very soon. People want this class of land, and with the installation of the Warm Springs project, there won't be a foot of this land that can be touched for less than \$150.00 per acre in its raw state.

California, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia are asking and getting three times our prices for lands that when ranked with ours from the stand point of yields, and net returns, are not to be compared with Malheur County lands.

The Argus is going to continue calling these facts to minds of our readers, as we want to see every available acre of farm land in Malheur County supporting a good big family. We have the lands, they will produce, and we need the families.

HARPER TO HAVE STATION AGENT

Anticipating a spring impetus in the freight and passenger traffic the Oregon & Eastern will establish a rail road station at Harper, 15 miles west of Vale, with A. B. Matson as agent. The citizens of Harper and surrounding country have seen the need of an agent installed there for some time, and the news that their wish is being realized brings joy to that community.

Chief Engineer Young of the construction work on the Oregon & Eastern railroad now approaching Harney county, was in the city last Friday on his way to Portland. Mr. Young declared that progress in the laying of steel for the new road was being pushed rapidly, and that weather conditions did not hamper the work to any great extent.

MOTOR BOAT MAY RUN ON SNAKE

It is asserted by those in a position to know that there are fair prospects that a large motor boat will be plying the Waters of magnificent old Snake river this year. Several local men are investigating the proposition and believe it would prove a paying venture. Much freight that is now distant from a railroad could be moved cheaply and the passenger traffic would be considerable. It would be particularly useful in bringing milk to the cheese factory. No doubt considerable revenue would also be received from excursion parties. It is believed a boat suitable for all purposes would not cost over \$1000, about the cost of an automobile, and its proprietor would have the honor of being called captain, in which respect he would have the best of the owners of benzine buggies. It's a good thing. Push it along.—Nyssa Journal.

CHURCH IS ADVERTISED FOR SALE

A unique and novel method of paying the way for a new church edifice is being adopted by the members of the M. E. Church of this city. The present church building is advertised for sale.

Of course, the buyer can do as he pleases with the building. Move it on to a lot for a residence, pull it out to a ranch for a farm house, or tear it to pieces and ship the lumber to a wet state and build a warehouse.

The present M. E. Church is inadequate for the growing congregation of that denomination, and a larger and more beautiful building is the dream of the members. The price that the old structure will bring is hoped to be sufficient to commence the erection of an edifice that will be the pride of church goers of Ontario.

IDAHO PRUNE IS PROFITABLE CROP

The Idaho prune is profitable. Take the experience of State Senator Ed K. Hayes of Emmett, Gem county, Idaho. His prune orchard consists of 19 acres bearing. From it he took for the 1915 crop 546,617 pounds of prunes. The check he received in payment was for \$5466.17 or \$287.70 per acre. It cost Senator Hayes for cultivation, picking and hauling \$45 per acre. His net return from the 19 acres of prunes for the crop of 1915 was \$242.70 per acre. On the square isn't that a peach of a prune story—a net income of \$3611.30 from 19 acres.

Speaking of prunes I am reminded of apples. There is that 20-acre orchard belonging to Harley D. Coble out by Weiser. What about it? Oh, nothing much only he has been in the habit of taking \$568.12 an acre per year in profits from it. What? Don't you believe it? Alright, don't then! But it's the truth just the same. Thirteen thousand three hundred and thirty-six dollars from 20 acres!—From the Golden Trail.

MARRIED IN WEISER.

R. W. Blackman and Miss Victoria Machos came to this city Monday morning and were married in the parlors of the Hotel Washington by Justice Chester Taylor. The young couple were accompanied by the following mesdames: P. L. Blackman, F. Hartman, F. B. Winegar, Warner Stone and S. L. Waldon, all of Ontario. The groom is from Ontario and the bride from Nampa. They will reside in Ontario.—Weiser Signal.

DELIGHTFUL SLEIGH RIDE.

A party of about fifteen young people gathered at the Post Office Monday evening, where they were met by Walter Gramse with a team and sleigh. One and all found out the depth and softness of the snow, and finally wound up at the home of Mr. Wood Thompson. The evening was spent in music and games, and a delicious oyster supper was served by the girls. They left at a late hour, declaring Thompson's was the place for a good time, and Walter the one to give them the ride.

HOGS BRING GOOD MONEY

The prediction of U. S. Government officials that the hog market of the country was sure to show signs of strength at an early date has come true. Hogs are now bringing \$7.75 in the Puget Sound market and it is generally conceded that shipments are so limited that it will be necessary in another forty or sixty days to begin shipping from Missouri River points. Freight and shrinkage will add about \$1.20 to the price with the result that is predicted the price will be \$9.00 or even more by early spring. The Government is going to every length to induce the growers to renew their activities and there is every indication that they are taking kindly to the advice. The Government has always contended that it is a serious mistake for growers to even temporarily abandon the raising of hogs notwithstanding that wheat prices were soaring and hogs were not bringing the prices they should. This condition the Government contended was only temporary and that it would be only a short time when wheat would go down in price and hogs would go up. This prediction is certainly coming true as to the advance in hog prices and students of market conditions are sure that the wheat prices are liable to take a slump most any time. War alone, it is contended is largely responsible for the high grain prices. But even Europe has stopped buying our wheat and is depending on its own crops and those that can be purchased from nearby countries. It is an admitted fact that Russia has so much wheat on hand that she does not know what to do with it. Once the Allies succeed in coming to her rescue and releasing this wheat, American prices are sure to go back to normal or even below normal.

And with the close of the war or even earlier, if they can get it, European countries will be very anxious to get our pork. There is a pork famine in Europe today and it will be even greater for a time, at least, after the war comes to a close. But even now, leaving European demands out of consideration, the American hog market is getting in fine shape and growers are assured of fine prices for the future.

BOOSTERS FROM IDAHO VISIT ONTARIO

F. E. Fisk, of Parma and R. B. Scatterday, of Caldwell, were here Tuesday attending to some business matters. Mr. Scatterday recently returned from a trip to Chicago, where he found business conditions good, he also says that there is quite a noticeable improvement in the Caldwell section, there being a few real estate sales and quite a large number of inquiries so that the prospects are very bright for a year of good business. Mr. Fisk is a retired business man of Parma, which he considers the best little town in the west. Business conditions are good at Parma, the crops last year were good and prices were all right with the exception of hogs and another year the farmers will know how to take advantage of that market and have their stuff ready when the rest of the country have nothing to offer.

STEPHEN CARVER SUED FOR OVER \$200,000

The above headlines appeared in the Portland papers this week. It appears that Mr. Carver had some dealings with people there and had agreed to advance \$75,000 to build a railroad for which he was to receive bonds, that after some \$21,000 in cash and \$3,000 worth of steel had been advanced Carver broke his contract by refusing to advance any more money. There was also a mix-up in the bond deal and a cross suit filed.

The older residents of Ontario will remember Mr. Craver as having organized the Bank of Ontario, which is now the Ontario National Bank and also as having been connected with the building of the railroad from Ontario to Vale.

Evidently he is getting in big company these days when they talk of \$200,000.