

THE RONAN PIONEER

Located in the Heart of the Great Flathead Indian Reservation

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Reclamation Service Is Making Good Progress

Through the courtesy of Dr. Fuhrer, U. S. R. S. physician and surgeon, the writer was able on Friday last to visit all the camps north of Ronan. He makes a trip to each camp every ten days, and with his Hudson 33 it is not so great a difficulty as might be supposed. He does not lose much time on the road and the way that car sped over the smooth and rough places was exactly alike. We left Ronan about 11:30 and went directly to the tunnel camp on the Flathead river about 17 miles northwest of Ronan. Arriving there in time for dinner we ate one of the best meals it has been our good fortune to be seated before on the reservation, and if the men are fed such food at all times, and we are reliably informed it was not an exception, then they can count themselves a well fed people. The same excellent fare was found in all the camps where occasion demonstrated what the men have to eat. All the camps are provided with excellent cooks, and with an abundance of good provisions for them to cook from.

At the tunnel camp W. L. Hocking is in charge and has been steadily on the job from its first inception. This tunnel is now in 1585 feet, and has only 185 feet more to go before striking the shaft on the upper end. It has all been done by hand and some very hard rock has been penetrated, and an average of two feet per day is now being made in very hard rock. It is being pushed as fast as men can do the work and Dec. 15th is the date set for its breaking through. Three shifts of five men each are at work here, besides the blacksmiths. This tunnel is for the purpose of supplying power to pump the water from Flathead river, which is to irrigate the many thousands of acres of land to the west and northwest of Ronan, which could not be supplied in any other way. It looks like an expensive proposition but when it is known that the tunnel work will not be more than \$32 per foot, it is not so bad as it might be. A large power house will be built as soon as the tunnel is completed and the pumping plant will be at the upper portal.

From there we went over to the big ditch being constructed by contract along the south side of that "big hill" just this side of Polson. Here we found many men and teams hard at work and the showing they are making is a good one. This ditch is the one which starts at St. Mary's lake southeast of St. Ignatius, and continues along the mountain side, carrying the water "up the hill" to gather up all the surplus water of spring from all the streams emptying their water into the Mission valley from the Mission range. It taps Mission creek, Post creek, the two branches of Crow creek, and numerous unnamed streams which sink before running many miles into the valley. This big ditch will collect the flood waters of spring and convey it to the different reservoirs being constructed and there stored for use during the irrigating season, when the streams have returned to their normal flow and provide water, when if allowed to run away, there would not be sufficient to irrigate the vast acreage which it is intended shall be irrigated. The contractors are

making good progress on the big ditch.

From there we went to the camp presided over by Engineer Graham, which is a continuation of the big ditch, only that where he has men at work it has become a diversion ditch. Just at present he is in rocky ground and the progress is comparatively slow. The points of the hills are solid rock and excavation hard. The work heretofore done is of the best and from appearances will stand for years to come. Something like 60 men are at work in this camp and, as in all the camps, their health is good.

Every sanitary precaution is taken to guard against sickness and so far it has been beneficial in every way.

From there a quick run was made to the Flathead camp where Dr. Fuhrer insisted upon eating again. The same good fare was set before us in abundance. Here we stayed until darkness overtook us and we made the run in from camp in a short time.

All the camps are doing fine work, and it is given out that the work being done by the reclamation service is costing less than any project heretofore undertaken. An estimate of the cost of removing the dirt from the big ditch by the service proper, places it at 8 1-2 cents per yard, which is very economical.

That many of the farmers north and west of Ronan will be supplied with water next year is now an assured fact. This will increase the value of their lands, make an abundant yield more certain and restore the utmost confidence to the farmer who sows the seed.

Farmers' Paradise

Andrew Beckwith was in yesterday from St. Ignatius and with him came F. C. Grady of the Lindsay Commission Co., who had been looking over the fruit and vegetable crops of the reservation lands. Mr. Beckwith is a confirmed reservation booster and Mr. Grady has acquired the habit to an extent that threatens to develop into a chronic case, but they brought the goods with them; there was material evidence to back up their assertion and, after looking over their exhibits, the Missoulian was willing to admit that they couldn't tell all the good things if they talked a week. There were apples in their collection—great red ones—and there were such tomatoes as would make a Florida farmer jealous; there was a parsnip 27 inches long and 11 inches in circumference; there was a carrot eight inches long and 12 inches around. These were from the garden of Mrs. Finley, two miles from St. Ignatius, and Mr. Grady says it is the finest garden he has seen in many a long day. "There could be nothing better," said he. "It is a wonderful garden. I brought in big apple boxes filled with these fine tomatoes; they are the finest I have seen this year. There are pumpkins in that garden which weigh from 25 pounds upward; I saw one weighed that went 47 pounds. Everything grows on that scale. It is a paradise for the gardener."—Sunday Missoulian.

Dixon and Moiese Valley

Howard E. Moffet spent last week in Missoula on business.

Mrs. Eli Pauline of Dixon was a Missoula visitor Saturday and Sunday.

The Moiese valley club dance given last Friday evening was a very enjoyable affair and largely attended.

O. O. Felland of Alberta, Canada is visiting his cousin William Felland and wife at their home in Moiese valley.

Miss Bessie May Kress of Moiese returned home Thursday from Missoula where she attended institute last week.

Elisha McAuley who has spent the summer with his son and family in Moiese valley departed from Dixon on Tuesday for his home in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Lansing Blackmon of Paynsville, Ohio are expected to arrive in Dixon the latter part of this week and will make their home in Moiese valley.

C. O. Ludholm, secretary-treasurer of the Moiese Valley Settlers Association, spent several days in Missoula last week on business and returned to Dixon on Saturday.

The settlers of Moiese valley are getting busy on the rural mail delivery question and since the new bridge over Mission creek is completed we can see no reason for delay in getting a mail delivery for Moiese.

Senator Dixon Visits Ronan

Senator Joseph M. Dixon was in town Monday afternoon and stayed all night, proceeding toward home with Major Fred C. Morgan about 9 o'clock Tuesday morning. It was his intention to remain longer but urgent matters demanded his return to Missoula. The senator had been on a trip in the eastern and northern part of the state and came in by way of Kalispell and the lake. He was met in Polson by John P. Swee and they came on to Ronan together.

Senator Dixon stands sponsor for the opening of the Flathead reservation and says he is amazed at the progress that has been made by those who were fortunate enough to secure lands here and at the thriftiness displayed by the settlers. He asked particularly about how much grain was raised here during the past year, and when told that it was approximately three-quarters of a million bushels or over, could hardly realize that it could be possible.

In discussing the reclamation service and the work done, he said that he was reliably informed by Chief Engineer Savage that there would be 40,000 acres under ditch and water supplied for same by June 1st next. This will give the Flathead a certainty heretofore a vexatious problem. It was learned from him while here that Ronan will soon be surrounded by more irrigated acres than any other town in the United States, which is a distinction and an asset which should and will make of this place a commercial center of the largest magnitude. With more irrigated acres to produce the crops such as can be produced here, he said there should be no reason why it would not become one of the best towns in the west.

In discussing the matters which are of vital importance to the people who have settled upon the unappraised and unclassified lands, he said that the matter was being worked out and that

every indication pointed to a solution of the matter satisfactory to all concerned. In reference to the disposition of the timber lands, which, by the way, are the most valuable agricultural lands in the valley, he said that some action would be taken to place this land on the market also at an early date.

Other matters were discussed briefly and it can be said that the senator will keep his eyes open for each and every opportunity to develop the great natural resources of the Flathead.

While here he was the guest at dinner of Mr. and Mrs. Coker F. Rathbone, the other guests being Mr. and Mrs. John P. Swee, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Mason and A. M. Sterling.

Has a New Auto

Major Morgan is pleased over the fact that the department has furnished him with a 40 horse power Great Western auto. This allows him more time after reaching some point on the reservation to transact his business, as by team traveling he was on the road most of the time. He made his first trip over the territory the latter part of last week and says now he don't see how he got along without the car so long. Ronald Cobban of Missoula is chauffeur.

Women Win Big Victory

The early returns from the California election held last week were misleading insofar as the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution was concerned. This was caused, no doubt, by reason of the fact that all the large cities excepting Los Angeles cast a big vote against the proposition and the returns were received from the cities first. As soon as the country precincts began to be heard from there was a change and the final count shows that the women win by a big majority. Hereafter there will be universal suffrage in the Native Son state, and just because one may happen to be born a woman will not be a bar to the voting privilege.

It is expected that this victory will encourage the women of the country to greater exertions in all the states which still deprive them of the privilege of casting a vote. So far as the Pioneer is concerned, it heartily approves of the theory that women are as capable of casting an intelligent ballot as a man, and will hail the time when universal suffrage prevails all over the country.

More Fine Spuds

L. W. Wright, a homesteader on the Flathead north of Ronan near the M. Pablo ranch, brought some as fine Burbank potatoes to the Pioneer office Monday morning last as were ever shown. He brought in nine potatoes of nearly uniform size, weighing close to 1 1-2 pounds each, smooth and clean. Mr. Wright says they are not picked potatoes but a sample of his crop, many in the yield being larger than any he brought in. These potatoes were grown on a black sandy loam soil, and is ideal for the growing of all kinds of vegetables. Of those shown so far, Mr. Wright's is the finest collection we have seen.

Does your roof leak? If so, its your own fault. "Schaerer, the Painter" will guarantee it not to leak for a period of five years. I am here to stay. 23-2

May Re-Classify and Appraise Timber Lands

It has been learned that there is now a possibility that some of the burned over timber lands and some of the other lands now classified as "timber" lands, at present not subject to homestead entry, will be reclassified by the new commissioners to be appointed to do this work on the Flathead reservation. The law authorizing the appointment of this new commission conferred the authority to the commissioners to reclassify such lands, if in their judgment they were more valuable for agriculture than for the timber.

This will probably place on the market and make subject to entry some of the very best land to be found anywhere in the west. It is the land most sought after by the horticulturalist and is the land most favorably situated of all that land which has been thrown open to settlement on the Flathead reservation.

For the most part, this land is situated along the foothills of the Mission range, to the north, east and south of Ronan. It is composed of the land which at one time contained a heavy growth of timber, but a high wind three or four years ago overturned the trees, and forest fires have since ran over it, almost entirely destroying all the timber which at one time stood thereon in all its beauty. At the present time it is valueless as timber. The timber has become rotted with the elements and the land would make many excellent farms and orchards. After repeated efforts to have this land eliminated from that reserved from entry, and after repeated pleadings with the Indian department at Washington, on the part of private citizens and by our representative and senators in congress, the labor seems to be about to bear fruit.

Some of this land has already been applied for by parties desiring to homestead same, and their applications are still under suspension. To all such persons this will be good news, providing they are allowed a preference right to complete their applications, as in all justice they should be. It will add many productive acres to the country tributary to Ronan and will assist materially in making this town the best in all western Montana.

There is a probability also that still other portions of the "timber lands" will be placed on the market at an early date. This land will be the subject of some congressional action at an early date, and while it is not possible to say at this time just what that action will be, it is contemplated that it be sold in small tracts, not to exceed 40 acres each, to bona fide settlers and homeseekers. This would remove the speculative feature of and also give no grounds for the suspicion that some large lumbering company desired it for the commercial lumber alone. This land is too valuable for agriculture and horticulture to be allowed to remain idle any longer. It is too valuable to have some corporation, or for that matter, any individual to secure it in large tracts and allow it to stand there for the future cutting of lumber therefrom. It should be disposed of to the hardy men and women who are seeking homes and who are more than anxious to pay its appraised value and then some for it.

This is a matter the Pioneer has striven hard for over a year now to have consummated, and should it be finally won to the homesteader this paper will have assisted in bringing about a condition which it will always feel has been compensation enough to be proud of. The task is not finished yet, by any means, but there have been assurances given lately to warrant in believing that the near future will bear results of which we all shall be pleased to have terminated.

Is It a Rebuke?

The question naturally arises, "what will President Taft talk about in California now that the people there have spoken so emphatically in favor of the recall of the judiciary?" During his spell binding trip over the country he has spoken against the proposition many times, evidently for the purpose of influencing the California voter, but his opinion seems to have carried but small weight, in the light of the result. The proposition had so large a majority it might be called a unanimous thing. It seems a strange proposition that a judge should not be subject to recall, and allowed to disgrace the high position and no recourse had. Judges are mere humans and many of them in the past have had very little conscience when dealing out justice.

Time and again prejudice and bias have controlled their decisions, to be charitable in the matter, and there has been as much court made law as has been enacted by the congress or legislatures. Heretofore there has been no means of controlling them, and they have usurped a power never intended to be conferred upon the judiciary. An intelligent people have finally discovered the means of getting rid of corrupt officials and it is not the intention to allow one branch of the machinery of government immunity at the expense of failure in returning to the first principles of popular government. The people are able to determine such questions and in the past have always determined them right. The recall of the judiciary will become a settled principle all over the land before the question is finally settled.

Albert Cox Boosts

L. A. Cox, one of the big farmers on the reservation is down from Ronan today looking after business matters. Mr. Cox had 440 acres under cultivation this year, and his yield of wheat and oats is nearly 14,000 bushels. Next year he will add to his land holdings and will have 520 acres in grain.

Mr. Cox says that the farmers of the reservation are getting on their feet in good shape this year. Nearly all of them have a large yield of grain and are now hauling it to market and getting the money. He believes that when a railroad or trolley line gets to the reservation country it will rapidly become known as the most prosperous agricultural region of Montana.—Missoula Sentinel.

Arthur Bouchard, a nephew of Jos. Bouchard, has accepted a position in Pablo & Potvin's general store. He comes from the Yellowstone and has had considerable clerical experience.