

C. S. Watson the St. Anthony Druggist.

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DIFFICULTIES IN PROVING UP.

New Regulations to Guard Against Land Frauds.

"Every homesteader is looked upon as a swindler," was a remark made to the writer early this week. This arose from the rigid inquiry and procedure which the government has adopted to prevent fraudulent entry and appropriation of government land. Revelations in the Oregon land frauds, which reach many thousands of acres, and which was participated in by those high in the government service, is responsible for this searching scrutiny.

While it is only right that extreme care be used to guard against frauds, the regulations should not be too stringent. Every man who settles on a piece of sagebrush land, especially if he be without much means, constructs irrigation works and reclaims it, must endure privations and hardships for a number of years, and circumstances may make it impossible for him to fully comply with every letter and detail of the law. Yet he is a bona fide settler, and one of the class for whose particular benefit the law was framed. Its object is to enable the homeless to secure homes, and it is not probable that requirements will be exacted which will prevent anyone who has shown good faith from making final proof and securing title, yet it is unquestionably true that the present strict inquiry and rigid exaction, according to reports, is embarrassing to not a few.

More Honors for Idaho.

The Idaho horticultural exhibit has been awarded a gold medal for collective display and with special reference to the keeping quality of fruit at the world's fair.

In addition to this award, which is second only to the grand prize, 56 gold, silver and bronze medals have been won by Idaho fruits of different varieties.

It was not expected that Idaho stood a chance to win the grand prize in horticulture. The cost of transporting fruits to the fair was too great to enable the commission to keep up the exhibit as desired. The express companies demanded five cents per pound for carrying the fruit and the expense of storing the product in St. Louis and delivering it at the fair grounds amounted to as much more. Under these conditions it was next to impossible for the commission to make a showing such as the state might have made had funds been available. So great was the cost of maintaining a fruit exhibit at the fair that Utah and other western states did not attempt an exhibit, and the small appropriation at the disposal of the commission was well used. Second to California only, however, is not bad, even for Idaho.

Idaho is recovering a large amount of good advertising in the east, which no doubt springs from her exhibit at the fair. The Idaho building was visited and viewed by thousands, and nearly all were astonished at the exhibit. The impression is altogether too general that the state is a barren waste for the greater part, because, for one reason, the railroads generally skirt, instead of traversing the best lands. This is particularly true of the line from Pocatello to Boise.

From Pocatello to St. Anthony the reverse is true, the railroad passing through the finest land in the west, and the evidences of prosperity and development are unmistakable. Through travel, however, entirely misses this section, and the state has been judged from the lava beds and sage brush wastes that constitute the greater part of the scenery from Soda Springs to Nampa. The fair did much to remove the false impressions entertained about Idaho. The following is from the Buffalo, (N. Y.) Courier:

"Few streams and few farms can be seen from the trains of the Oregon Short Line, which traverses the best part of Idaho, so it is rather surprising to hear that it is the best watered of all the arid states and destined because of this fact and also because of its fertile soil and mild climate to become one of the richest agricultural states in the Union. But one river alone, the Snake, meanders through the state for a thousand miles, carrying a volume of water sufficient, according to the state engineer's report, to cover all the available lands in its immense basin to a

depth of seventy-six inches. There are seven other large rivers flowing through valleys many miles wide, not to speak of numberless smaller streams. But though the farms are not visible from a car window they are there just the same. Already \$9,000,000 of private capital is invested in irrigation projects in Idaho, which embrace 2,000 miles of trunk canals, which water 1,726,000 acres of fertile soil. There are 10,000,000 acres more suitable for irrigation, on some of which the government is now at work. Corporations with capital amounting to millions are being organized to develop still other acres. So it is not difficult to see that things are going to happen in Idaho before long. Perhaps it may be well to say here that the people of Idaho are not the sort who wait for things to happen. Just to be enterprising they have heated Boise, the capital, by hot water from an artesian well. The Boise people try to let on that this is nothing, that they could heat the whole state the same way if they wanted to. But as a matter of fact they didn't do it on that purpose at all. They really bored for oil in a plot of black, shiny ground on which not even sagebrush would grow. When they reached a depth of 350 feet a stream of boiling water spouted up and knocked the derrick over. They built a distributing system to pipe water to the better class of residences and office buildings, where it is used for heating bathing and laundry work and warming ovens in the hotels, for it comes out of the ground at a temperature of 198 degrees and loses but six degrees by the time it reaches the most distant houses. This is the only town that was ever heated by natural hot water.

"Idaho is going into the beet sugar business, too. A million dollar factory was put in operation at Idaho Falls in 1903, which produced 7,000,000 pounds of granulated sugar. This year Idaho farmers received \$750,000 for their beet crop, which was at the rate of \$4.50 a ton, and they raised 20 to 30 tons to the acre."

That fortunes are to be made on Idaho farms is illustrated in the case of M. V. Thomas of Kendrick, who is estimated to be worth more than \$50,000. Good land, plenty of water, and sure crops, which is the general rule in Idaho, will place any energetic man in comfortable circumstances in a very short time.

G. C. Bowerman was in the Squirrel creek country last week. While there he found a last year's bear track and at once developed an uncontrollable desire to learn where the bear "started from" and took the back track to find out, doubtless believing that he would find a whole herd. Ever since the publication of Berryman L. Jacob's champion bear story two weeks ago, Mr. Bowerman has desired to discover a bear story that will outclass it. The above information was gleaned from George Harrigfeld, who gave it out with great reluctance, fearing that some other adventurous hunter might discover the bear story first.

A distinguished engineer predicts that in time the Panama canal will have to seek sea level.

OFFICIAL VOTE OF FREMONT COUNTY.

PRECINCTS	Sheriff		Treasurer		Assessor		Pro. Judge		Sup. Schools		Co. Atty.		Coroner		Surveyor		First Dist.		Sec. Dist.		Thrd Dist.		Bonds			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Arangee	9	25	3	11	24	3	16	19	3	15	20	3	16	18	4	16	19	3	14	21	3	14	21	3	14	21
Aroher	53	35	1	45	41	1	39	47	1	46	40	1	40	47	1	45	42	1	39	48	1	44	41	1	39	48
Bates	28	18	1	20	20	1	23	24	1	23	24	1	23	24	1	23	24	1	23	24	1	23	24	1	23	24
Birch Creek	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9	1	10	9
Camas	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4	1	14	4
Chapin	48	19	1	48	22	1	48	23	1	48	23	1	48	23	1	48	23	1	48	23	1	48	23	1	48	23
Driggs	62	41	1	62	38	1	62	39	1	62	39	1	62	39	1	62	39	1	62	39	1	62	39	1	62	39
Dubois	46	33	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30	1	48	30
Edmunds	20	05	5	08	30	1	05	51	5	05	51	5	05	51	5	05	51	5	05	51	5	05	51	5	05	51
Fall River	70	39	7	61	43	5	72	52	7	72	52	7	72	52	7	72	52	7	72	52	7	72	52	7	72	52
Grant	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21	34	76	21
Haden	40	34	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14	5	40	14
Henry	8	16	2	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14	1	8	14
Highland	58	14	25	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17	5	58	17
Howe	17	15	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8	1	17	8
Independence	216	23	1	201	32	1	183	51	1	194	37	1	205	30	1	144	82	1	206	29	1	199	35	1	204	30
Island Ward	96	44	1	76	35	1	50	63	1	65	45	1	60	39	1	30	38	1	38	38	1	38	38	1	38	38
Kilgore	17	17	15	13	29	1	27	14	16	23	16	15	35	8	14	16	14	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Labelle	192	49	3	88	50	3	88	48	7	65	75	5	81	56	2	51	91	3	87	46	3	89	51	4	87	64
Leigh	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06	1	34	06
Levisville	112	90	12	112	92	12	92	92	12	101	103	12	98	106	14	100	100	12	129	79	13	109	93	12	125	77
Lytman	17	17	15	13	29	1	27	14	16	23	16	15	35	8	14	16	14	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Market Lake	71	63	11	64	53	7	64	50	10	60	54	10	51	60	10	64	49	10	65	48	10	65	48	10	65	48
Marysville	99	61	16	93	68	16	72	92	16	98	81	16	112	49	17	87	71	16	106	53	16	102	57	17	95	61
Medicine Lodge	36	34	3	34	22	3	36	23	3	36	23	3	36	23	3	36	23	3	36	23	3	36	23	3	36	23
Menan	171	65	3	170	66	3	167	70	3	153	109	3	173	64	3	142	97	3	171	65	3	171	66	3	163	72
Ora	30	21	3	32	2	3	25	27	3	24	3	19	23	3	9	33	3	17	22	4	16	22	4	14	25	
Parker	116	05	9	81	134	9	96	116	9	149	63	9	147	64	10	115	99	9	141	68	9	133	75	9	127	83
Rexburg	451	135	4	480	122	5	454	170	5	464	133	5	461	140	5	473	124	5	466	105	5	475	129	5	472	128
St. Anthony	296	231	46	253	229	42	201	288	39	296	274	39	338	144	40	285	199	40	322	171	43	303	165	42	320	146
Spencer	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9	40	9
Teton	169	62	1	169	62	1	144	80	1	163	80	1	173	61	1	171	55	1	147	170	1	154	18	7	52	20
Verdon	55	17	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8	1	55	8
Wilford	105	79	4	103	88	4	91	94	4	112	80	4	131	61	4	104	86	4	116	78	4	108	75	4	109	75

FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Statistics Gleaned from Report of State Superintendent.

Fremont county has the largest number of school children of any county in the state, leading the list with 7,144, compared with 5,832 in Latah, which stands second. Fremont has 111 teachers, and pays them \$29,761.96. The average cost of maintenance, throughout the state, was \$11.01 per pupil. Ten years ago Fremont county was practically a waste. St. Anthony had but a few scattered ranches, and only a few scattered schools near her, with only a few schools in sparsely settled districts. The development of the school system is but a reflection of the wonderful growth of the county, which ranks second in taxable valuation in the state, and is yet only in her infancy.

Dr. Blevins' Stag Party.

Ever since Mrs. Blevins left for the east, Mr. Blevins has been manifesting the same kind of a spirit which, when a boy, prompted him to steal melons because he did not know how to do anything worse. This culminated Saturday night in a stag party, composed of people, many of whom left their former homes after night, and others were in a great hurry to catch the train, possibly not caring to wait for the cover of darkness. Several of the party were originally from Missouri. When a man leaves Missouri, the usual procedure is to transfer his name from the registration list to the court records, and enter a charge of horse stealing after it. If he has good judgment of horse flesh, and is never caught, he usually manages to escape lynching. There are a good many people in this western country who visit their Missouri relatives by proxy only. The former homes of several of the party are unknown, but the worst is suspected.

Among the party were Dick Costley, political ward heeler; Lee Borrows, and C. C. Bowerman hiding out near the Tetons, ostensibly on an elk hunt; George Swartz, run out of Germany for lese majeste; C. C. Moore, ex-Missourian, member of the "slippery seventh" and who recently induced the respectable people of the county to send him back to what will be known in future as the "slippery eighth;" Bill Gray, a government pap-sucker, noted for profanity when the noon train is seventeen hours late, but has escaped arrest; Dr. Clark, nothing known of his antecedents; Dr. and John Blevins and M. J. Walter, Missouri democratic exiles; Captain Gailley of Idaho Falls, who was up here lobbying for election as major of this battalion of the state militia on grounds of bravery during a skirmish at American Lakes last summer, when all of his company deserted him and left him alone to be taken prisoner by the blood-thirsty enemy, and who was lost in the woods twenty-four hours after having been released; Zard Yearian suspected of being a Russian nihilist, and Lew Maurer, who was invited to give the assemblage an appearance of respectability. Refreshments were served in the shape of fresh oysters, of the moonshine brand. Marshal Buchenau did not get onto the bunch until after they had dispersed.

Senator Stewart will open a law office at Tonaph when his term in the Senate expires.

Washington had 1,416,116 acres in wheat this year, which yielded 23,489,330 bushels.

The senate has passed to final reading a bill providing for twenty-eight new warships.

Senator Clark is deeding all his Montana property to his son, and it is surmised that he is intending to leave Montana at the expiration of his term in the senate.

Senator Burrows is said to be preparing a constitutional amendment against polygamy providing some form of disfranchisement for those who practice it. This may carry a provision that all who are polygamists or have been or still defend it as a tenet shall not vote.

A Washington dispatch says: The treasury department is reviewing the Assayer Wooley charges in the case of Francis Fletcher who was removed from the position of watchman. Fletcher is making a vigorous defense. In view of Fletcher's old soldier record it is likely he will be reinstated to his former position at the assay office.

\$550 FROM ONE ACRE.

Uncultivated Crop Yields Astonishing Returns.

Joe Baker of Black Springs, two miles west of Marysville, last spring sowed an acre of onions, using three pounds of seed. After sowing them they received no attention whatever, having received no cultivation in any form, and Mr. Baker was greatly surprised that they were his best crop. A short time ago he harvested them, and secured 1,100 bushels of fine onions, sold everyone on the ground to his neighbors, realizing an even \$550 for them, and could have sold many more. He is now trying to figure out how much he would have made had he carefully cultivated them. This is a pretty neat sum to receive from one acre, and demonstrates that Fremont county soil is as good as any on earth.

Made Fortune on Idaho Farm.

Illustrative of Idaho's most wonderful productiveness is the following from the Capital News, makes interesting reading:

The account of how Mr. Thomas started with nothing, accumulated the snug sum of \$15,000, only to lose all in the crisis, and how he then turned around and has since amassed \$50,000, reads more like fiction than cold facts, but Mr. Thomas vouches for the story.

"Twenty-seven years ago I came west from southern Missouri without a dollar. I secured a pre-emption between Genesee and Uniontown, which latter changed to a homestead. After improving the land for five years I sold out and found I had saved up just \$1800. For the next seven years I worked for wages, and at the end of that time I could boast of a roll of \$12,000. Then I bought the old Taylor farm of 320 acres on American Ridge, paying \$6500 for it. The rest of my money I left lying around loose, and I had many causes to be sorry afterward. I picked up another 160 acres of land adjoining my first purchase, but this was subject to a heavy mortgage, and then the crisis of 1893 came, and together with a bad crop set me back. When I took stock of my holdings I found that I had indebtedness enough to cover practically everything I owned, while my money that had been loaned, was lost. My original 320 acres was clear of a mortgage, but I had enough debts to eat that up. I found myself on just about even terms with the world.

"That was bad, but in 1894 my warehouse, with 11