The Oroville Weekly Gazette

MINING · TRANSPORTATION · WATER POWER

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ENLARGED HOMESTEADS.

At the request of a correspondent we publish herewith the full text of an act pending in congress providing for the taking up of 640 acres under the homestead law. This act has passed the house and is now pending in the senate, with excellent prospects for its passage. It is of particular importance to the people of this county, and the entire bill is published so that all interested may familiarize themselves with its provisions:

An act to provide for stock raising homesteads, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America and congress assembled: That from and after the passage of this act it shall be lawful for any person qualified to make entry under the homestead laws of the United States to make a stock-raising homestead entry for not exceeding six hundred and forty acres of unappropriated unreserved public land in reasonable compact form: Provided, however, that the land so entered shall theretofore have been designated by the secretary of the interior as "stock raising lands."

Section 2—That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized, on application or otherwise, to designate as stock-raising lands subject to entry under this act, lands, the surface of which is, in his opinion, chiefly valuable for forage and grazing crops, do not contain merchantable timber, are not susceptible of irrigation from any known source of water supply, and are of such character that 640 acres are reasonably required for the support of a family: Provided, That where any person qualified to make original or additional entry under the provisions of this act shall make application to entry to any unappropriated public land which has not been designated as subject to entry (provided said application is accompanied and supported by properly corroborated affidavit of the applicant, in duplicate, showing prima facie that the land applied for is of the character contemplated by this act), such application together with the regular fees and commissions, shall be received by the register and receiver of the land district in which said land is located and suspended until it shall have been determined by the secretary of the interior whether said land is actually of that character. That during such suspension the land described in the application shall not be disposed of; and if the said land shall be designated under this act, then such application shall be allowed; otherwise it shall be rejected, subject to appeal.

Section 3.—That any qualified homestead entryman may make entry under the homestead laws of lands so designated by the secretary of the interior, according to legal subdivisions, in areas not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, and in compact form so far as may be subject to the provisions of this act, and secure title thereto by compliance with the terms of the homestead laws: Provided, That a former homestead entry of the land of the character described in section two herein shall not be a bar to the entry of a tract within a radius of twenty miles from such former entry under the provisions of this act, subject to the requirements of law as to residence and improvements, which together with the former entry, shall not exceed six hunded and forty acres: Provided further, That instead of cultivation, as required by the homestead laws the entryman shall be required to make permanent improvements upon the land so entered before final proof is submitted tending to increase the value of the same for stock raising purposes, of the value of not less than $1.25 per acre, and at least one-half of such improvements shall be placed upon the land within three years after the date of the entry thereof.

Section 4.—That any homestead entryman of lands of the character herein described, who has not submitted final proof upon his existing entry, shall have the right to enter, subject to the provisions of this act, such amount of contiguous lands designated for entry under the provisions of this act as shall not, together with the amount embraced in his original entry, exceed six hunded and forty acres, and residence upon the original entry shall be credited on both entries, but improvements must be made on the additional entry equal to $1.25 for each acre thereof.

Section 5.—That persons who have submitted final proof upon, or received patent for, lands of the character herein described under the homestead laws, and who own and reside upon the land so acquired, may, subject to the provisions of this act make additional entry for and obtain patent to contiguous lands designated for entry under the provisions of this act which, together with the area theretofore acquired under the homestead law, shall not exceed six hunded and forty acres, on proof of the expenditure required by this act on account of permanent improvements upon the additional entry.

Section 6.—That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of 21 years and is a citizen of the United States, who has entered or acquired under the homestead laws, prior to the passage hereof, lands of the character described in this act, the area of which is less than 640 acres, who is unable to exercise the rights of additional entry herein conferred because no lands subject to entry under this act adjoin the tract so entered or acquired or lie within the twenty mile limit provided for in this act, may, upon submitting proof that he resides upon and has not sold the land so entered or acquired and against which land there are no encumbrances, relinquish or recover to the United States the land so occupied, entered, or acquired, and in lieu thereof, within the same land office district, may enter and acquire title to six hundred and forty acres of the land subject to entry under this act, but must show compliance with the provisions of this act respecting the new entry and with all the provisions of this act respecting the new entry and with all the provisions of existing homestead laws except as modified herein: Provided, That the lands so relinquished or reconveyed as herein provided shall thereafter be subject to disposition only on such terms and under such rules and regulations as the secretary of the interior may prescribe.

Section 7.—That the commutation provisions of the homestead laws shall not apply to any entries made under this act.

Section 8.—That any homestead entryman or patentees who shall be entitled to additional entry under this act shall have, for ninety days after the designation of lands subject to entry under the provision of this act and contiguous to those entered or owned and occupied by him, the preferential right to make additional entry as provided in this act: Provided, That where such lands contiguous to the lands of two or more entrymen or patentees entitled to additional enries under this section are not sufficient in area to enable such entrymen to secure by additional entry the maximum amounts to which they are entitled, the secretary of the interior is authorized to make an equitable division of the lands among the several entrymen of patentees, applying to exercise preferential rights, such division to be in tracts of not less than forty acres, or other legal subdivision and so made as to equalize as nearly as possible the area which such entryman and patentees will acquire by adding the tracts embraced in additional entries to the lands originally held or owned by them: Provided further, That where but one such tract of vacant land may adjoin the lands of two or more entrymen or patentees entitled to exercise preferential right hereunder, the tract in question may b entered by the person who first submit to the local land office his application to exercise said preferential right.

Section 9:—That any person who has heretofore acquired title to land of the character designated in this act under any of the homestead laws of the United States and who is the owner and occupant of the land so acquired may purchase from the United States not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres of stock-raising land, as designated by this act, or unappropriated and reserved lands valuable only for grazing contiguous to his said homestead entry, upon paying to the United States the sum of $1.25 per acre for such lands, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the secretary of the interior, which said land, together with the area theretofore acquired under the homestead laws, shall not exceed six hundred and forty acres.

Section 10.—That all entries made and patents issued under the provisions of this act shall be subject to and contain a reservation to the United States of all the coal and other minerals in the lands so entered and patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove the same. The coal and other mineral deposits in such lands shall be subject to disposal by the United States in accordance with the provisions of the coal and mineral land laws in force at the time of such disposal. Any person qualified to locate and enter the coal or other mineral deposits, or having the right to mine and remove the same under the laws of the United States, shall have the right at all times to enter upon the lands entered or patented, as provided by this act, for the purpose of prospecting for coal or other mineral therein, provided he shall not injure, damage or destroy the permanent improvemenst of the entryman or patentee, and shall be liable to and shall compensate the entryman or patentee for all damages to the crops on such lands by reanson of such prospecting. Any person who has acquired from the United States the coal or other mineral deposits in any such land, or the right to mine and remove the same, may reenter and occupy so much of the surface thereof as may be required for all purposes reasonably incident to the mining or removal of the coal or other minerals, first upon securing the written consent or waiver of the homestead entryman or patentee; second, upon payment of the damages to the crops or other tangible improvements to the owner thereof, where agreement may be had as to the amount thereof; or, third, in lieu of either of the foregoing provisions, upon the execution of a good and sufficient bond or undertaking to the United States for the use and benefit of the entryman or owner of the land, to secure the payment of such damages to the crops or tangible improvements of the entryman or owner, as may be determined and fixed in an action brought upon the bond or undertaking in a court of competent jurisdiction against the principal and sureties thereon, such bond or undertaking to be in form and accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the secretary of the interior and to be filed with and approved by the register and receiver of the local land office of the district wherein the land is situate, subject to appeal to the commissioner of the general land office: Provided, That all patents issued for the coal or other mineral deposits herein reserved shall contain appropriate notations declaring them to be subject to the provisions of this act with reference to the disposition, occupancy, and use of the land as permitted to an entryman under this act.

Section 11.—That lands containing water holes or other bodies of water needed or used by the public for watering purposes shall not be designated under this act but may be reserved under the provisions of the act of June 25, 1910, and such lands heretofore or hereafter reserved shall be kept and held open to the public use for such purposes under such general rules and regulations as the secretary of the interior may, in his discretion, designate as stock driveways and withhold from entry under this act lands not over one-fourth mile in width needed for use in the movement of stock to summer and winter ranges or to shipping points.

Section 12.—That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized to make all necessary rules and regulations in harmony with the provisions and purposes of this act for the purpose of carrying the same into effect.

AN UNPLEASANT DILEMMA.

Geo. Bartell had a very unpleasant experience on a trip to Fairview late Tuesday evening. He had been engaged to take a party to the British Columbia town, a few miles across the line, which has suddenly become a popular resort. It is necessary to report to the Canadain customs officer at Osoyoos when breaking into foreign soil, and few, if any, ever overlook the custom. Mr. Bartell stopped at the customs office and tried to arouse the officer, but could get no response. Supposing that the officer was at Fairview, Mr. Bartell placed a note under the door giving the number of his car, his license number and his name, as has been done frequently by other travelers. On his return trip he was met by the customs officer, who made him return to Fairview, and sequestered the car. Mr. Bartell had to hire a car in order to reach home. Why this arbitrary action is not known. Possibly there has been complaint about people going across the line for the purpose of getting liquor and the officer aims to put an end to the practice. In this case Mr. Bartell was perfectly innocent of wrong doing and there were no grounds for harsh action. We have always found Dr. Germain a very courteous and accommodating official, and he has his reasons or he would not have taken this drastic measure.

SIMILKAMEEN BOOMING.

The Similkameen river is booming up with violent activity. It is rising at the rate of over a foot a day, and if the present weather continues this valley is to see the highest water since 1894. Six feet more of water will put the power plant out of commission, and that has not happened in a dozen years. The only hope for relief is a change of weather. Should it cool off within a few days danger of immediate high water would be staved off. As we go to press there is no sign of cooling, and it will be well to keep an eye on the thermometer and commence building arks.

AN OPTIMISTIC PIONEER.

Otto Schwartz, who was among the very first settlers in Okanogan county only one or two white men antidating his arrival, came in last Thursday from Los Angeles, where he has been residing for the past three or four years, and is here to stay for some time. He still owns a choice ranch on Whitestone lake, where he lived for a great many years, and will devote his time while here to improving that property.

Mr. Schwartz thinks that few of the residents of Oroville fully appreciate the importance of the big irrigation system, or realize the wonderful changes for the better that will follow its instillation and use. Mr. Schwartz has traveled extensively in Southern California and Arizona, and has seen what irrigation has accomplished in localities that are absolute deserts without water. Being of an observing turn of mind, and bent upon securing information upon the subject. he took special pains to ascertain by inspection and interrogation the results that followed the application of water to erstwhile barren lands, and he found them to have been marvelous.

Mr. Schwartz declares that this country has many advantages over the hot temperatures of the far south, both in soil and climatic conditions. Of course the south produces choice citrus fruits, but none of the common fruits of consumption grown dow nthere, such as peaches, apricots, plums, apples and pears, will compare in size, appearance and flavor with those produced in the Okanogan valley. He says that some of the first class hotels of Los Angeles make a specialty of serving Oregon and Washington apples.

Mr. Schwartz fairly waxes eloquent when expatiating upon the desirability of Okanogan as a place of residence, and the possibilities of the country. Under irrigation in the south land is held at from $500 upwards per acre, and there is little chance of further increase in value. In this valley choice lands can now be purchased at from $50 to $100 per acre, and every year will see a steady increase in values. As a place for a home, with oportunity for certain and rapid prosperity, Mr. Schwartz is confident that no section of the west holds out such flattering promise and inducements as right here under the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation system.

SCHOOL MEET.

The annual athletic county school meet takes place at Brewster today and tomorrow, Friday and Saturday. It is expected that representatives from all of the high schools in the county will be in the lists, and indications point to one of the best attended, most exciting and interesting meets that has ever taken place in the county. It is expected that a number of fans will accompany the boys from this place and the trip will be well worth while. The following lads will put forth the best that is in them for the honor of the Oroville high school, and patrons of the home school trust that they may make a creditable record:

50 yard dash—Prince, Mallory or Carrel.

100 yard dash—same entries.

220 yard dash—same entries.

Shot put—Prince and McMahan.

Discus—McMahan.

High jump—Ashby and Ford.

Running broad jump—Dallam and Mallory.

Standing broad jump—Cole and Prince.

Hurdles—Cole and Dallam.

Mile Run—Cole.

Pole vault—Mallory.

Relay race—Price, Mallory, Carrel, Cole or Dallam.

Tennis—Boys doubles— McMahan and Ford.

Boys singles—McMahan.

Girls singles—Lorine Bartell.

Declamatory contest—Dallam.

BENEFIT LECTURE.

Father Thomas E. Sherman, of Loomis, was in Oroville Saturday, and while here announced that he would deliver a lecture in Strong's theatre, at Tonasket, this Friday evening, May 5, on the subject of "Preparedness." The lecture is for the benefit of the Catholic church of Tonasket, of which Father Sherman is in charge for the time. The church is still unfinished and considerably in debt, and he is in hopes of being able to diminish that debt and eventually complete the church. The subject of his lecture is one of vital importance at this time when the country seems to be in a crisis relative to its foreign relations. Father Sherman is one of the most eloquent talkers in the west, and any lecture delivered by him is sure to be intensely interesting and instructive. It is very short notice of the proposed lecture, but it is hoped that a number from Oroville will drive down to our neighboring town and attend.

AFTER MANY DAYS.

After years of procrastination, after numerous inexcusable postponements, after the unwinding of miles of red tape, after hard and persistant effort on the part of commercial organizations, the press and individuals, after diligent labor on the part of the delegation in congress from this state the Colville Indian reservation is at last to be thrown open to entry. A definite date has been fixed, and the proclamation anonuncing this event, so important to Okanogan and Ferry counties in particular , was signed by the president Tuesday. There is no danger now of further postponement. The opening will be an established fact in the near future. The date for registration is only two months away and the final opening takes place in the fall. The people of this part of the state can see the consummation of a long desired object, that has dragged along through so many years that they had almost lost hope.

So much has been said in public print about the government lands on this reservation that the general character and extent is known throughout the country, and so much interest has been aroused that a grand rush for registration can be expected at the six places that will be designated in the proclamation where registrations will be accepted. Many hundreds of people will no doubt register and hundreds will go upon the reservation in person. Undoubtedly many more will register than can be supplied with homesteads. The official opening is bound to attract a large number of homeseekers to Okanogan county, and it is not at all improbable that some of these who fail to draw prizes in the land lottery may decide to invest in improved and unimproved lands in the valley. The opening of the reservation will prove an immense benefit to the county, not alone on account of settling up a large vacant territory, but in attracting attention to this rich yet comparatively virgin section of the west.

The announcement of the opening is contained in the following despatches from Washington, published in the Sunday issues of the daily papers:

On July 5 registration to participate in the drawing for rights to take homesteads on the Colville Indian reservation will begin at Spokane and several other places in Eastern Washington. Registration will continue until July 22nd.

July 27 the drawing will be held at Spokane.

September 5th the reservation will be thrown open to the holders of successful numbers to make their selections. They will be given until Oct. 18 to do this. On that date the remaining land if there be any will be thrown open to general settlement.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT.

The first political announcement of a candidate for county office appears in this issue of the Gazette. The gentleman who has shied his hat in the ring is Ted Maloney, of Spring Culee. Ted Maloney requires no introduction to the old timers of Okanogan county, for he is one of the oldest of old timers and one of the most popular of those ancient citizens. This is not an intimation that Ted himself is a decrepit old gink. He is about as active as any twenty-year-older in the county. He landed here young. The climate of Okanogan county has a tendency to keep a man young, and Mr. Maloney is the youngest man for his years that can be found in a month's travel. No one can know Ted Maloney without liking him, and hence his friends in the county are legion. He is out for sheriff on the republican ticket, and if he secures the nomination he would be elected, and when elected he would make a sheriff without a peer in the state

AN ENTHUSIASTIC CONVENTION.

In another column is given the full proceedings of the republican county convention, held at Brewster Saturday last. That report gives only the cold official record of the work performed. It is not within the province of the secretary of such a body to set forth the spirit manifested and the feeling that animated the delegates taking part. That is left to the scribes present, and for those who participated to repeat to friends and neighbors. A more optimistic feeling of confidence in the success of a party we have never seen exhibited at any county convention, and in our time we have taken part in many. Since the nominations for office was turned over to the tender mercies of the primary the pep and drawing power of party conventions has been extracted, hence people take little or no interest in those political gatherings any more. In this instance all there was for the convention to do was to select twelve delegates to attend the state republican convention held at North Yakima, May 6. That party duty was so simple and so deprived of controversial possibilities that there was really no inducement for men to attend the convention. Besides, this is the busy season of the year and few would consider it worth while to lose a day when so little was to be done. We really only expected to see a dozen delegates present. Instead of that meagre few a very large representative body of men collected on this occasion, representing precincts from various parts of the county, some traveling a long distance to be present. What added to the pleasure of seeing so much interest taken in the meeting was the marked enthusiasm and fraternal feeling manifested. Even in the county conventions of the old days we have never seen more keen interest taken in party welfare than on this occasion. There were no contests, everything passed off pleasantly and harmoniously. Every reference to the prospective success of the party was received with lively applause, and the resolutions presented were adopted with ringing and continuous exhibitions of approval, evidence in itself that republicans are wide awake, ready for the fray and certain of a sweeping victory at the November election.

RURAL ROUTS STARTED.

Monday morning service on rural route No. 1 started from the local postoffice, and Tuesday morning the mail carrier covered rural route No. 2, so at last the long promised rural service is in active operation to the convenience and accomodation of a large number of residents along the two lines. Both routes cover 25 miles of territory. No. 1 extends up into the Ellemeham country, and No. 2 covers the territory on both sides of the river from Oroville to Ellisforde. The routes are served on alternate days. On the first run out 200 pieces of mail were delivered over both routes. This amount will steadily increase. Alva Kitching is in temporary charge of the routes. Several persons took the required examination, but as yet no permanent appointment has been made by the department. The establishment of service increases the work at the postoffice, as mail intended for the routes must be seggregated every day. A new distribution table is to arrive in a few days from San Francisco. This table is for use of the mail carrier to sort out mail designated for each route. It will require a little time for the carrier to familiarize himself with the routine of the service, but when he has each mail box located his work will be very materially lessened.

TIMELY HELP.

The bill providing for the appropriation of $95,000 to pay toward the construction of the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation project has been approved by the conference committee on the Indian appropriation bill, which insures the passage of a bill through congress and the final payment of the money into the district. The appropriation is for the purpose of meeting the cost of putting water on a number of Indian allotments in the valley under the system, and is no more than the same amount of land owned by white settlers pays for the same purpose. This appropriation is only fair and just, as the Indian lands, embracing some of the best and most desirable in the valley, will derive the same benefit as other lands that are subject to irrigation. The land will increase in value to an amount far in excess of the government appropriation within a very few years. The large sum voted to this object will be a substantial and timely aid to the district by assisting to meet the cost of this gigantic undertaking.

LIKES THE COUNTRY.

W. F. Mahood, a recent arrival from Oklahoma, has rented the Wm. Keeler place a short distance south of town. Mr. Mahood was a victim of hard luck in his eastern home. For five years drought destroyed the crops. On the sixth year the accumulated moisture of the previous five fell during forty days, and the prospects of an abundant harvest ruined. Mr. Mahood's wheat was just ready to cut when the flood erased the crop he had waited so many years to garner, while destroying much other property. It was irrigated land for him after this last experience and he has come to the Okanogan country to start anew. He is well pleased with the country, even after only a short experience, and has but one fault to find, and that is not with conditions here. He states that he paid the freight in advance from his home to the coast, he understanding that this meant any place in Eastern Washington, but when the shipment reached him at Oroville the railroad had added freight charges from Seattle to this point, which amounted to almost as much as he originally paid. If there is not some mistake here then the home seeker is being unfairly skinned. It is a matter that should be looked into.

"THE REAL DONNA MARIA."

That is the name of a three act comedy that is to be staged by the pupils of the high school at the Orpheum next Friday evening, May 12, the proceeds to be applied to meeting obligations contracted by the High School Athletic association. The pupils have been rehersing for some time in preparation for the play, and it will be put on the boards in a manner that cannot fail to entertain and please. On previous occasions the pupils have demonstrated that they are very clever amateur performers, and past experience will only tend to make the forthcoming performance better than preceeding ones. "The Real Donna Maria" gives ample scope for bringing out the best that is in those who are to take part, and we can promise the public one of the most enjoyable home productions ever presented in Oroville. There will also be a number of musical selections to add to the enjoyment of the evening's entertainment. The scholars have handed in the following synopsis and cast of characters:

Cast of Characters.

Jack Chesney, (Student at Oxford) .... Charley Cole

Charley Wykeham, (student at Oxford) .... Aubrey McMahan

Sir Francis Chesney, (Jack's father)... Theodore Johnson

Lord Fancourt Babberly, (student)..... Garland Ethel

Stephen Spettigue, (Solicitor) ..... Harlan Fuller

Brassett, (Jack's man) ....Chas. Mitchell

Donna Maria d'Alvadorez, from Brazil.. Bernice Desmond

Kitty Verdun, (Spittigue's ward)..... Lorraine Bartell

Amy Spettigue, (Spettigue's niece) .... Elizabeth Murray

Ela Dalaboy, (an orphan) Goldie Mitchell

Time—the present; commemoration week, Oxford.

Synopsis.

Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham, two college fellows, have invited their best girls to a luncheon party at Jack's rooms, to meet Charley's aunt. A few minutes before the girls arrive, the aunt, Donna Maria d'Alvadorez, telegraphs to say she cant come. The boys know that the girls won't stay without a chaperon, so persuade another college fellow, Lord Farcourt Bobberly, who is playing the part of an old woman in some theatricals, to impersonate Donna Maria.

Meantime Jack's father, Sir Francis Chesney, has called on him and informed him that his financial affairs had gone wrong and that they are comparatively poor men. Jack tells his father of Donna Maria who is a millionaire and a widow and suggests a wealthy marriage as a solution of their financial troubles. He at first declines, but after considering the matter decides "to do his best." Stephen Spettigue, uncle and guardian of the two girls, who is willing to do anything for money, also tries to win the supposed Donna Maria. Just when matters are progressing nicely and both the old fellows are making desperate love to Lord Fancourt Bobberly, who is playing Donna Maria, the real Donna Maria appears on the scene, with her adopted niece, Miss Doloboy, who is Bobberly's sweetheart. The real Donna Maria takes in the situation at once, introduces herself at Mrs. Beverly-Smythe, and decides to stay anu see the thing out. Just after Sir Francis has been refused by Bobberly, he meets the real Donna Maria and recognizes her as an old sweetheart, which elicits from him the exclamation. "Oh! Jack, if that had been Donna Maria, things might have been very different!"

The unraveling of this complicated situation leads to many tense and extremely amusing scenes and the best way to find out how it all ends is to come to the show Friday night, May 12.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Wednesday evening Theodore, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Gladson, living some five miles south of Oroville, on the east side of the Okanogan river, fell from the flume of the West Okanogan Valley Irrigation district and died in a few hours from the injuries sustained. The accident occurred about 6:30 o'clock. The little tot, with other children of the family was playing on the flume, which runs along the foot of the mountains near the Gladson home, when he fell off at a point where the flume is fully thirty feet above the ground. The head was badly crushed and neck dislocated. Dr. Lewis was summoned immediately, but nothing could be done to save the child's life. Death followed about half an hour after the arrival of the doctor.

A HELPING HAND.

Monday evening Dr. D. H. Lewis, president of the Oroville Commercial Club, accompanied by E. D. Van Dissel, Chas. Powell, J. F. Samson and S. B. Starrett, drove to Molson in the doctor's Studebaker touring car to assist at the organization of the Molson Farmers' and Merchants' Welfare League, an organization similar in its functions to a commercial club. Some 30 members joined as charter members, paid up three months dues in advance and started the league under the most auspicious conditions. Dr. Lewis delivered a rousing address, pointing out the objects of such community organizations, showing where and how it could be made a factor for the betterment of the country, and expressing appreciation of the honor conferred upon himself and the Oroville Commercial club by the invitation extended to him by the people of Molson to aid in starting this new organization. Brief and compliamentary addresses were made by Messrs. Samson, Van Dissel, Powell and Starrett. The delegation report having had a delightful time and a hearty welcome from our Molson neighbors.