

RESERVATION LAND MAY BE THROWN OPEN

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ABILITY OF INDIANS TO HANDLE OWN AFFAIRS

TRUST EXPIRES IN JUNE, '20

Some Probably Will Be Permitted to Sell or Lease Without Government Supervision

At least a portion of the Nez Perce Indian reservation, a large part of which lies in Idaho county, will be released from the trust in which it is now held, judging from information which comes from Washington, D. C.

Cato Sells, commissioner of Indian affairs, will send a commission to the reservation to determine the ability of the Nez Percés to handle their own affairs, which heretofore have been directed by the commissioner of Indians. The investigation is to be made before the present trust period expires, in June, 1920.

The department of the interior, it is said, proposes to extend the trust period for those Indians who are adjudged incompetent to handle their own business matters. The commission which will conduct the investigation will recommend to the department names of Indians who should receive patents to their allotments and those Indians thereafter will be free from government supervision in the matter of leasing or selling their lands.

It is pointed out that it will be useless for the Nez Perce Indians to visit Washington or to send delegations to the commissioner of Indians on matters dealing with the trust administration, as all decisions as to competency will be left with the special commission sent to the reservation, where personal investigations as to business ability, general character and industry can best be made.

SCOUT TROOP IS ORGANIZED

Stubbs Leads Local Boys—Thirty-two Sign Up

Grangeville troop No. 1, Boy Scouts, has been organized, with names of thirty-two boys on the roll. No more will be accepted. Sheldon A. Stubbs is scout master. Troop committee consists of S. V. Fullaway, John P. Eimers, and M. R. Hattabaugh. Assistant scout masters are Tom Crossley, Leo Kabat and Wilford Derrig.

The boys will be given lessons in forestry, first aid and rope splicing.

S. V. Fullaway, supervisor of the Nezperce forest, will provide a man from the forest service to take the boys into the forest one day a month. Dr. G. A. Green will be instructor in rope splicing, and Dr. B. Chipman will instruct in first aid.

TRACTOR AND ENGINE SCHOOL

Expert Will Instruct in Operation of Machinery

The Miller Hardware & Implement Co., of this city has arranged a free tractor, automobile and gasoline engine school at its place of business on March 5, 6 and 7. An expert on farm machinery will be present and will instruct all who care to learn how to remedy troubles which arise in the operation of tractors, automobiles and engines. The Miller company has issued an invitation to farmers and all others interested to attend this school.

PIONEER WOMAN IS AT REST

Mrs. J. G. Rowton Buried in Fairview Cemetery.

The body of Mrs. J. G. Rowton, an aged pioneer resident of Idaho county, was buried Tuesday in Fairview cemetery. Mrs. Rowton died in her home at Kooakia. She formerly resided in Grangeville and was well known on the prairie. She was the wife of J. G. Rowton, owner of the flour mill at Kooakia.

FOREST SERVICE WILL USE WIRELESS TELEPHONES TO REPORT FIRES NEXT SUMMER

Wireless telephones are to be used in the U. S. forest service in north Idaho next summer. This is the announcement made from the office of the district forester at Missoula, Mont.

Whether the wireless telephone will be used in the Nezperce National forest, in Idaho county, officials in the local office of the forest were not in a position to state. However, it is known that the district telephone engineer of the forest service at Missoula will test the wireless phone in the field next summer with the view to making it of practical purpose in all the forests of the Missoula district.

It is the present plan of the service to install six sets with a radius of twenty-five miles each, while the other sets will have a radius of 100 miles each. The principal drawback to the wireless telephone system is said to be the inability at times to establish definite connection, but it is the intention of the forest service to use the wireless sets only as auxiliaries to the wire system, and, therefore this difficulty will be easier to overcome in this district than if the plan were to rely upon the wireless telephone entirely.

DON FISHER, HOME FROM WAR, WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES WHILE IN FRANCE

GRANGEVILLE BEST CITY SEEN ON ENTIRE JOURNEY, AVERS RETURNED SOLDIER.

Declaring that Grangeville is the best city he has seen between Idaho county and France and return, and that, although French girls are mighty nice, Idaho girls are much nicer, Sgt. Don C. Fisher returned to his home in Grangeville late last week, after having been fourteen months in overseas service.

Sergeant Fisher has written for the Free Press the following pertaining to his experiences in France:

By SGT. DON C. FISHER

The Grangeville boys who are returning from France are busy greeting their many friends and all state that Grangeville is without doubt the best city that they have seen in all their journey. First Sgt. Harvey L. Vaughan and Don C. Fisher are the first of the 116th engineers to arrive home and they tell many interesting things of their trip to the land of the great war, especially of the training of new men who were sent over to fill the ranks of the fighting units of engineers.

The 116th engineers was designated as the training regiment of engineers, and being the only one of its kind in France, was called upon to do a great work, and at no time did the regiment fall down in performing its task.

First Christmas Overseas

Sergeant Fisher has the menu of the first Christmas dinner that was served to the men who were left with the company on Dec. 25, 1917 at Locourtine. It is as follows:

- Merry Christmas DINNER
- December 25, 1917
- Co. E 116th Engrs.
- Roast Turkey
- Potatoes
- Bread
- Brown gravy
- Coffee
- Marmalade
- Mince Pie
- Fruit
- Nuts
- Cigars

From this place we moved to the city of Angers, this was the beginning of the training camp.

The following poem was written in celebration of our first six months in France:

Whenever you meet an engineer
Just mark the beggar well,
Choke back a sob, dry a tear,
That man has been through hell.
If he rode the Tenadores,
Or the good ship Mallory.
Do all you can for that brave man
He needs your sympathy.

Oh, don't you remember
That day of Thanksgiving,



SGT. DON C. FISHER

The day we all waited with glee
When we gave our thanks
The celebration of first six months in France

To the Maker as we should
And gave to the sea all of our food?
The cranberry sauce
Got upset in the kitchen,
The turkey fell out on the floor.

But we ate what we could,
And considered it good,
And went back for more.

And don't you remember
The smell of the kitchen,
The sickening roll of the sea,
The slippery floor

Where you spilled all of your dinner
Of liver, onions and tea?
The liver was bum,
The onions were slimy

The tea was bitter as gall,
But the smell, just a whiff
Of it murdered a sea gull,
The smell was the worst of it all.

Oh, when the kaiser's dead boys
We'll still have work before us.
We'll burn the H. R. Mallory
And sink the Tenadores.

Then we will pass the hat around
And buy some of the latest books
To find the latest cuss words
With which to cuss the nigger cooks.

Then we will hit the trail for
Home Sweet Home and the
Girl we left behind us.
We will name the first kid Mallory
And the other Tenadores.

When the news of the sinking of the
Tenadores was heard by the boys great
was their rejoicing.

Many Changes Among Boys
When the boys return many changes
will be seen by the folks at home. Especially along the line of eating. All have become good feeders and will reg-

War Marriage Will Find Its Way to the Divorce Court

WILLIAM I. BADER ASKS DECREE FROM GIRL HE WEDDED AT CAMP

William R. Bader, an Idaho county soldier, who recently returned from France, has filed in the district court suit for divorce from Clara R. Bader, his wife, whom he married on June 19, 1918, while he was in the military service.

The complaint states that the couple lived together from June 18 to July 1, when the soldier bridegroom was transferred from California to Fort Sill, Okla., and later he was sent to France. He received his final discharge on February 18.

The husband asserts that from June 19 to Oct. 1, 1918 his bride received \$15 monthly from his pay as a soldier, and that in addition she received an allotment of \$15 monthly from the government. The allotment afterward was increased until the bride received in all \$40 a month. The complaint further says the husband provided his bride with a home with his parents at Pullman, Wn.

The complaint alleges adultery on the part of the bride, naming three men, and further says that the bride gave away to other men money she received as compensation during the absence of her husband in the army.

"At many times," says the complaint, she "conducted herself as a lewd and lascivious woman."

Scheel vs. Scheel

Nell E. Scheel of Stites has filed action for divorce from her husband, August E. Scheel, alleging cruel and inhuman treatment. The couple was married April 7, 1910 at Polson, Mont. The plaintiff asks custody for six months out of the year of their minor child, and would let the husband have the child the other six months. She also wants such other relief as the court may deem proper.

Foster vs. Foster.

Cassie Foster, through her attorney, brings action for divorce from Charles C. Foster. They were married at Cape Fair, Mo., "on or about" Dec. 10, 1910, and have no children. Non-support is alleged.

The complaint says the husband has failed to provide the wife with the common necessities of life, "because of his idleness, profligacy and dissipation."

Mrs. Foster wants her maiden name, Cassie Bolen, restored.

BLAIR HOAR RENOMINATED

Blair E. Hoar, receiver of the U. S. land office at Lewiston, and well known to many Idaho county residents, particularly those who have had business with the land office, has been renominated for the receivership by President Wilson.

TAKEN TO OROFINO

Edward Hanley, of Cottonwood, an insane person, who has been in custody of Sheriff Eller, was on Saturday taken by the sheriff to the state asylum for insane at Orofino.

INFLUENZA IN SCHOOLS

The third and fourth grades of the public schools are closed, following the outbreak of influenza among a few pupils in the rooms.

ister no kicks but eat whatever is placed before them. Girls, one thing about soldiers who spent the winter in France is that each has learned the gentle art of carrying on a flirtation. This does not apply to top sergeants, however. They never. If you doubt this statement just ask Top Sgt. Harvey Vaughn. Many of the people are anxious to see the return of the boys to our city in order to see how Jack Edwards and Gib Eimers will greet each other after being absent for nearly two years.

An amusing story is told of one of the southern ladies in regard to what she should cook if she should have a bunch of soldier boys up to dinner. She thought that they would like chicken, but the dear lady was informed that if she really wanted to make a hit with the boys to bake waffles or hot cakes. She said: "Oh, I mean what would they like for dinner?"

The reply was: "Waffles three times a day," and from all accounts it is about right.

GRANGEVILLE SOLDIERS ARE NOW AT CAMP DIX, N. J.; EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HOME WITHIN ABOUT THREE WEEKS

HUNDRED SIXTEENTH ENGINEERS LAND SAFELY FROM BATTLESHIP KANSAS, AFTER HAVING BEEN DELAYED AT BERMUDA; BOYS SEND HOME TELEGRAMS ADVISING RELATIVES OF ARRIVAL

Company E will be home soon.

Grangeville's own company in the war against German autocracy landed Sunday afternoon in New York city, from the battleship Kansas, and now is stationed at Camp Dix, N. J. At Camp Dix the units which just arrived on American soil will be segregated by states, and sent to divisional depots for final discharge.

The voyage from Brest was stormy, and the Kansas was obliged to put in at Bermuda for coal. The Kansas brought

KEMP SEES BIG MONEY IN RAISING OF SHEEP

HAS CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE AND GOES IN ON DEAL INVOLVING \$35,000

Expressing belief that the future holds great things in store for sheepmen, Len W. Kemp, well-known stockman of Forest, in Grangeville Wednesday, declared he had this thought in mind when he and two associates purchased the Platt Bros. sheep outfit, on Salmon river for \$35,000.

The purchase was made by Mr. Kemp, O. C. Keane and C. E. Bettinson. The purchase includes 1200 acres of deeded land, 2100 head of sheep, and leases on 3000 acres of range.

Mr. Kemp sold his ranch near Grangeville to Otto C. Nail. He and his partner, Cecil Rock, will hold a closing out sale on the ranch. Mr. Rock, who has been in the service, is prevented by illness from engaging in farming in the near future.

FRANK C. COWLING IS DEAD.

Well-known Farmer Succumbs, Following Influenza.

Frank C. Cowling, a well-known Camas Prairie farmer, died Monday in his home ten miles north of Grangeville. Death resulted from pneumonia, following Spanish Influenza.

Mr. Cowling was aged 35 years. He was born in Indian Territory, now a part of the state of Oklahoma, and when 3 years old removed with parents to Clearwater.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Effie Cowling, two children, his mother, two brothers, Dan, of Clearwater, and Otto, of Grangeville, and a sister, Mrs. Alfred Legsworth, of Asotin, Wn.

Funeral services were held today, the Rev. J. B. York officiating. Burial was at Clearwater.

MRS. SHEPHERD, RIGGINS, DIES.

Wife of Garage Man Succumbs After Short Illness.

Mrs. Mary Shepherd, wife of C. C. Shepherd, proprietor of the garage at Riggins, died Friday of last week, after an illness of brief duration. Mrs. Shepherd was aged 50 years. She is survived by her husband and several grown children by a former marriage. The children reside in Denver, Colo. The body was sent to Chadron, Neb., for burial. A. J. Maugg, Grangeville undertaker, was called to Riggins in connection with the death.

GOLD STRIKE AT WARRENS.

3-foot Ledge Uncovered in Old Mining Property.

Reports have been received by the forest service in Grangeville of the discovery, recently, of a 3-foot ledge of coarse gold-bearing ore in an old mine at Warrens. The discovery was made by Frank Martin.

Marvin Squibb has been honorably discharged from the army and has returned to his home here.

1930 officers and men, comprising the 116th engineer regiment and headquarters motor battalion, headquarters horse battalion, headquarters medical detachment, and companies A, B, C, and D of the 116th ammunition train.

Company E has seen fourteen months' overseas service. Before departure for France, the Second Idaho regiment, of which Company E was a member, was merged with the 116th U. S. engineers, and has since been identified with that organization.

FARM BUREAU MEETS FAVOR.

Farmers Urge Commissioners to Appropriate Money.

The Grangeville local of the Idaho County Farm bureau was organized Monday at a meeting held in the Odd Fellows' hall. A number of farmers were present to listen to Lt. R. R. Groninger, representing the U. S. department of agriculture and the University of Idaho. Lieutenant Groninger explained the workings of the farm bureau.

Officers of the local were elected as follows:

- President—George A. Cowgill.
- Vice President—G. F. Schleier.
- Secretary—J. B. Carter.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the entire group of farmers present at this meeting are in favor of the farm bureau and county agent work therefore,

Be it resolved, That we urge the county commissioners of Idaho county to make the necessary appropriation to support a county agent for Idaho county in cooperation with the U. S. department of agriculture and the state of Idaho agricultural extension department.

- GEORGE A. COWGILL,
- J. B. CARTER,
- G. F. SCHLEIER,

Committee.

An enthusiastic meeting was held Tuesday at Harpster, when a resolution was adopted urging the commissioners to make the necessary appropriation for the farm bureau work.

Meetings, at which Lieutenant Groninger will be present, have been scheduled as follows:

- Greenecreek, Monday, March 3, 1:30.
- Ferdinand, Tuesday, March 4, 1:30.
- Westlake, Wednesday, March 5, 1:30.
- Keuterville, Thursday, March 6, 1:30.
- Cottonwood, Friday, March 7, 1:30.
- Fenn, Monday, March 10, 1:30.
- Lake, Tuesday, March 11, 1:30.
- Whitebird, Wednesday, March 12.

U. S. REVENUE MAN COMING.

Will Be Here to Confer With Public On Revenue Tax.

U. S. Revenue Collector J. Y. Haight will arrive in Grangeville on Sunday and will be located at the court house, where he can be consulted without charge.

Collector W. C. Whaley, is sending one of his deputies to Grangeville solely to help people in this vicinity determine their individual liability and to comply with the law's requirements as to 1918 incomes.

His office hours will be from 9 a. m. to 12 m. and from 1 p. m. to 6 p. m., each day and he will remain in town until the close of business on Tuesday.