

CONSPIRE TO BUY LAND CHEAP

UNIQUE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TIMBER OF NEHALEM.

Settlers Should Combine and Hold Their Lands for a More Reasonable Price.

It has long been believed by many people that there was a great undercurrent of discrimination against the timber of Nehalem valley, by the extensive timber buyers, to force down and keep down the price per acre of the valuable timber of that region, and the belief has proven to be firmly founded. Speaking of the matter, the Portland Telegram of Thursday of last week says:

"Owners of timber lands in the Nehalem country claim that a combination has been formed by the extensive buyers and that the combine is attempting to hold the price down as low as possible. A certain price, it is said, has been agreed upon in different localities, and all lands in different localities, and all lands of those connected with the combine will pay over the appraised figure. From six to seven dollars an acre is all that is offered for the present in some localities, and the big buyers are ready to pick up as much land as they can get. However, owners, too, are beginning to realize the value of timber lands, and except in cases where sales are forced by reason of circumstances, owners are holding out for more reasonable offers. Land in the Nehalem, it is contended by men who are well acquainted with the timber resources of this northwestern section, is worth at the present from \$10 to \$15 per acre. A party of Pennsylvania timber buyers is expected here in a few days to look over the situation, and it is likely that they will make some heavy purchases."

The backbone of this combination should be broken, and this condition can easily be brought about by a combination of the owners of lands in Nehalem, agreeing not to dispose of their holdings unless a certain reasonable figure is received. Nehalem timber lands are naturally valuable and are daily growing in value. It is being bought by people able and willing (if forced) to pay a reasonable price.

It has been known to us for some time that cruisers sent to that country were instructed by their employers to report falsely upon the conditions existing in regard to quantity and quality of timber in order that the purchase price for the same might be ground down to a figure far below its real worth. This condition is very apt to receive a severe shaking up upon the arrival in the field of new people who understand the circumstances in all the different phases. Nehalem lands are well worth twice as much money as they are being offered for, and if the holders will stand out for a reasonable price it will readily be paid, perhaps not right away, but in a very short time.

Exhibit at State Fair.

Columbia county will be better represented at the state fair this year than ever before, a fact that should be applauded and assisted to the utmost by all who claim an interest in the county's welfare. Commissioner Frakes informed us a few days since that at least three of the dairy cows, which will be exhibited at the state fair, a carload of cattle from the Honeyman farm, Frakes farm and H. West farm will be taken up, amounting to about sixty head. The stock on these farms is of the very best blood that could be purchased from Eastern stock raisers, and the gentlemen make no reluctance in displaying their stock. With this start in prospect, the display at the state fair from this county should be a permanent thing. Besides stock, there should be grasses, fruit and vegetables, fowls and other products exhibited there, the result of which would be beneficial to the degree that is not now appreciated. The whole county should feel an interest in this work and render it all possible moral aid.

IN THE COUNTY COURT.

Proceedings Had After the Adjournment for the Fourth.

County commissioners' court convened on Friday morning last, pursuant to adjournment taken on Wednesday before. In the matter of the petition of G. W. Rice for remission of tax of 1894. It was ordered that upon payment of \$13.78 that \$8.00 be remitted, and clerk have credit for the balance.

Tax sale certificate No. 1192 ordered canceled, being double assessment, and clerk to have credit for the same.

The fee books of the clerk and the warrant account of the treasurer were examined and approved.

Upon payment of \$2.25 the certificate of sale for 1892, certificate No. 1193, against the lands of G. E. Graves was ordered canceled, clerk to have credit for \$10.35.

In the matter of bids on labor for siding in and roofing the bridge across Nehalem river at Pittsburg. Bids being opened, that of John W. Parker, for \$110, was found to be lowest, and the contract awarded to said John W. Parker. Emory J. Miller was awarded the contract for siding in and roofing the Taylor bridge, across Nehalem, for \$80, that being the lowest bid.

In the matter of the erection of bridges across Scappoose creek and Fox creek. It was ordered that Judge Don and Commissioner Cases be authorized to draw plans and specifications and advertise for bids on above-mentioned bridges as soon as convenient.

In the matter of apportioning balance of road funds. It was ordered that the clerk advise the supervisors that they shall use two-thirds of the several districts appropriated in the several districts for use after July, 1901.

By reference to the proceedings of the county commissioners' court it will be noticed that certain members of that body have been empowered to draw plans and specifications and ask for bids for the construction of two bridges, one across Fox creek, at Rainier, which in all likelihood will be an expensive structure, as it will be about thirty feet high and 500 feet long. The other at Scappoose, across that stream near the Shattuck place, and it is likely that concrete piers will replace the present wooden ones and the bridge so constructed as to last half a century. Very likely it will be sited up and roofed. As long as bridges are to be built where there is no likelihood of the roads ever being changed, it is good policy and economy to put in a good bridge.

The White Collar Line Company is having plans drawn for a new steamer to take the place of the Telephone, says the Steamers Eagle. The new boat is to be drawn on plans similar to the old Telephone, but somewhat smaller. She will be heavily engined and have a boiler capable of carrying 250 pounds of steam, and like her namesake, is expected to be a flyer. Work on the new boat will be commenced this summer.

Mrs. J. G. Watts visited her parents at Maygor this week.

Rev. Mr. Philbrook will preach in this city Sunday evening next at the usual hour.

Superintendent Copeland attended Chautauqua at Gladstone last Saturday and Sunday.

Frank Miles, of Portland, visited his parents and friends in this city a day or two this week.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Evans, of Interville, are visiting with Miss Lulu George, of this city, this week.

Mr. A. Sward came over from Vernonia Monday and continued on to Portland to transact business.

Fred Watkins, after spending the Fourth here, returned to his work at Gray's River Monday night.

Mr. Wm. Hacker was over from his Rock creek home the first of the week attending to business matters.

Mrs. Hannah Traskiewicz has moved to our city to reside, and is occupying the Miles residence, near the school house.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Stoops, of Tacoma, are spending some time visiting at Houlton, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Potter.

Mrs. H. Corlies, of Grant's Pass, who has visited in this vicinity for about three weeks, returned to her home Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Rice and Mr. J. W. Rice, of Vernonia, were in this city on Friday last, attending to business matters.

Mr. E. M. Wharton, formerly a resident of this county, but now of Portland, spent a few days here and at Columbia City this week.

Mr. Magnus Saxon left last Sunday for Astoria, in the vicinity of which place he intended to engage at fishing until the season closes.

Mrs. A. S. Foster and son, Sam, of Portland, who have spent the past week in this place visiting with Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Cliff, returned home Thursday.

Dr. Brown, of San Francisco, visited Dr. Ross, of this city, last Saturday. Dr. Brown is seeking a location in Oregon and will probably decide to go to Eastern Oregon.

In the probate court Monday there were four final settlements heard—the Longbery, Ellerton, Hendricks and Stoddard estates—and the administrator in each instance was discharged.

Beginning Saturday, July 6th, and continuing every Saturday thereafter during the summer season, the evening train of the A. & C. R. will leave Portland at 2:30 p. m. instead of 6:35 p. m.

Mr. O. H. Wilson, of Mist, was in the county seat last Friday. He reported that the people of his part of the county enjoyed themselves very much on the Fourth by attending picnics and other similar festivities.

Two gentlemen were in the city Tuesday in quest of information that would lead to the discovery of petroleum prospects in this vicinity. They were ushered into the country by Mr. C. G. Caples, of Columbia City. We are unable, so far, to state what they found, if anything.

The steamer Astorian is still at the Young's bay ways, where a new hurricane deck is being installed. When she is completed Captain Parker will make a definite announcement as to what he intends to do with her. He insists that he will put her on the Astoria-Portland run, and slash rates.

James Adams, of Vernonia, was in the county seat the first of the week attending to road matters with the court. Mr. Adams, it is reported, has done some excellent work on the roads in his district this summer, much to the satisfaction of many people in that part of the county.

Members of the county court are staying with the work of clearing away the business which is helping the county. In the afternoon they feel a keen interest in the proceedings and are watching the matter through. The body took an adjournment Wednesday evening until Friday morning.

We are sorry to hear that thousands of small army worms have again made their appearance in the clover fields and they are beginning to be seen in gardens. Still, opinion is divided, some continuing to think that they will not be as ravaging as they were last year, while others think they will paralyze the clover crop—Tillamook Herald.

Mr. Aaron Kelley and Mrs. Minnie Duns, of Houlton, were married in Portland on the afternoon of the Fourth, and upon their arrival home Saturday night they were charitably to the full and complete satisfaction of their friends and, perhaps, quite to the dissatisfaction of themselves. Both the contracting parties are well known and have a host of friends who wish them happiness and prosperity in their matrimonial journey.

District Attorney Allen was in this city last Saturday, also in attendance at circuit court here Monday. In regard to the same, Mr. Allen is acting hand in hand with the county court, and assures that body that he will defend the county's interests to the full extent of his ability, without extending to have his name on Mr. Allen's list to have his name on the list of legal services shall not record show that the county a cent during his tenure of office.

A. R. Strachan, the expert in charge of the development work at the Knappa coal fields, states that he has reached a depth of fifty feet and is on top of a five-foot vein of coal, the first that has been struck. The quality for surface coal is found at so small a distance down, is excellent, and from indications, the bottom formation being unbroken. Mr. Strachan is very well satisfied with the result of the work thus far.

Superintendent Copeland is busy this week arranging for the forthcoming teachers' institute which is to be held at Rainier, beginning Tuesday forenoon, July 23, and continuing four days. Three of the most able instructors in the state have for the entire session will be the most entertaining and instructive of any institute conducted in the county. There are some very important points of law regarding institutes, with which, not only teachers, but school boards, can familiarize themselves with profit.

Mr. Jameson, chief engineer of the North-western, who was in town Monday, and to a county officer remarked that in two days more from locating the line from required.

Scappoose to Pittsburg, camp having been broken at Pittsburg and a move back to the summit. It is expected that in a very few days of way active work of securing right of way will begin and clearing of right of way will soon be taken up after which grade work will be set and actual construction started.

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TAX SALE IS A HUGE SUCCESS

PROCEEDS PAY OFF THE ENTIRE DEBT OF THE COUNTY.

About \$8000 will be Realized—All Outstanding Warrants Called In.

It is very safe to assert that perhaps no county in the state has proceeded so nearly according to law in regard to the sale of lands for delinquent taxes as has Columbia, and the interest taken in the matter by outsiders—men of means and judgment—demonstrates that faith is not lost in the law, and men are willing to risk money in the affair. Another statement which cannot be contradicted is the fact that in no other county has the dictates of the law been more minutely observed and executed in the matter of the sale than here, in fact, in some respects the county has gone past the dictates of the law and done more than is required, and it was all on the safe side and much financial benefit resulted, as well as satisfying the full demands of the statutes.

Sheriff Hattan began promptly at 10 o'clock on Monday to offer for sale all lands on which the county held a lien for delinquent taxes, the number of bidders, quantity of cash and extent of bidders, were all large, and as pieces by piece the property was offered, it was as readily taken in by some party willing to pay almost the value of the property. A great deal of the property sold for many times the amount of the delinquency. Of course some of the parcels sold for much less than the amount of the lien against it, but collectively the county is much the gainer in the matter.

The first day's sales amounted to nearly \$4,400, \$2,500 of which amount was paid on time, and checks for the remainder have since arrived. Tuesday's sale did not have quite so good an effect on the county's exchequer, but the sales amounted to \$2,000. The county will realize about \$8,000 out of the sale, which wipes the county debt out of existence, and the county treasurer in another place in this paper, that all outstanding county warrants which have been presented and endorsed "Not Paid for Want of Funds," will be paid upon presentation to that official. This information ought to be a great relief to the people of the county. It is the first time in fifteen years, perhaps longer, that the county has been able to meet its obligations on demand with cash.

There is about \$6,000 on the current roll yet to be collected, all of which will have been taken care of by the last of September, at which time the semi-annual official statement will show cash on hand to pay warrants when presented. Unless there is undue extravagance in the administration of county affairs in the future, which is not to be expected, there is no danger of the county being able to fly its kite with a very short string.

Warren Happenings.

Mr. W. E. Stevens moved his stock back to the Lake farm the first of the week.

Mrs. Harvey and daughter, Lila, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Iabister a few days last week.

Mrs. Jennie Miller and children, of Portland, are visiting with relatives at this place this week.

Rev. Oaks, of Portland, held services at the Evangelical church last Sunday morning and evening.

Mrs. Frank O'Neil, of Portland, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stevens, for a few days.

About fifty Christian Endeavorers of Portland, came down on the Fourth, and spent the day very pleasantly at the Pattullo farm.

"Pap" Sheffield returned from Rainier last Monday, whither he had gone to spend the Fourth. He reports having had a most enjoyable time.

Miss Emma Larson, of Chemawa, Oregon, is spending her vacation at home this year, this being the first time she has been home for seven years.

Children's Day will be observed at the United Evangelical church Sunday, July 21, 1901. An excellent programme is being prepared by the ladies of the church.

Vail Grange will meet next Sunday at their usual meeting place, at 12:15 p. m. rollment. Other officers, Mr. H. Y. of Palestine, O., is expected to be present at this meeting.

The "Glorious Fourth" has come and gone. The day was very quietly observed at this place, although there were some splendid fireworks displayed from the Noon farm in the evening. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Clark was handsomely decorated with flags and bunting, as was also the store of Mr. DeWitt. Bright new flags floated from the flag poles at Mr. J. S. Bacon's and another at Mr. Clark's. A large number of Warrentes celebrated at Scappoose, while a few spent the day at home.

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N. P. BOYS PORTLAND TRACT

SEVERAL ACRES AND 1000 FEET OF RIVER FRONTAGE.

Transaction Involves \$225,000, and Means Much for the Development of this Region.

One of the most important real estate deals of recent years, not alone by reason of the valuable property involved and the large consideration, but more especially by reason of its significant railroad and commercial bearings, has been concluded, it is authoritatively reported, in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railway Company. The property to be acquired by this company, for the better accommodation of its own traffic, is the Weidler mill property on the water front in North Portland. The price is understood to be \$225,000.

The property is owned by the Willamette Steam Mills Lumbering & Manufacturing Company. It is particularly called Weidler's mill, from George W. Weidler, who has been identified with it for nearly thirty years. It consists of four full blocks and five fractional blocks, where Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets meet at the Northern Pacific track on Front street. In addition, there is a tract to the east of the nine full and fractional blocks, extending from the foot of Raleigh street to the foot of Fourteenth street. This piece is 1000 feet long, thus enabling the railroad company to use the blocks for terminal facilities, and the water front for docks. The neighborhood is manufacturing in character. Near by are the mills of the Eastern, Western and North Pacific Lumber Companies, and the plants of several other industrial enterprises. A short distance to the south is the Grand Central station, and the terminal grounds, in which the Northern is jointly interested with the O. R. & N. and the Southern Pacific, as the lessee of the Oregon & Astoria. The Weidler property gives the Northern ample room for terminal facilities of its own, and makes it quite independent of the commercial terminal facilities.

The acquisition of this property by the Northern Pacific Company means the early construction of extensive docks and wharves and the placing of the company upon an equal footing with the Southern and O. R. & N. Companies in the matter of traffic equipment and terminal facilities. It means that Portland is to share with Tacoma more than ever before the handling of the Inland Empire produce brought out by the Northern Pacific. The property will give ample terminal facilities to the company's new main line being built from Kalama into Portland by the way of Vancouver, Wash., under the name of the Washington & Oregon Railway Company. It is the intention to bridge the Columbia at Vancouver and the Willamette in the vicinity of Swan Island.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878. NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, OREGON CITY, OREGON, May 31, 1901. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF JUNE 3, 1878, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE SALE OF TIMBER LANDS IN THE STATES OF CALIFORNIA, OREGON, NEVADA, AND WASHINGTON TERRITORY," AS EXTENDED TO ALL THE PUBLIC LAND STATES BY ACT OF AUGUST 4, 1892, JULIAN V. FORTUNA, county of Clatsop, State of Washington, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 524, for the purchase of the southwest 1/4 of sec. 30, T. 11 N. R. 6 W. and will offer for sale the land sought in more valuable for its agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office at Oregon City, Oregon, on Thursday, the 8th day of August, 1901. He names as witnesses: Bert W. Wren, James E. Gibbons, Wm. P. Smith and Joseph Urban, all of Portland, Oregon. Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 8th day of August, 1901. CHAS. B. MOORE, Register.

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GOOD COAL PROSPECTS.

Hundred Feet Tunnel Being Driven on Scappoose Creek.

There are most excellent prospects at hand that a good quality of coal in sufficient quantities to supply local demands will soon be opened up at a place easy of access. There has been a great deal said about the coal croppings on Scappoose creek, but no genuine effort to determine its quality or extent has been made until now, when a force of hands has been employed and put to work to drive a tunnel 100 feet or more on a ledge of surface croppings aggregating several feet. A sample of the coal, weighing about twenty-five pounds, was taken to Portland Tuesday, where an assay was made, showing 40.08 per cent carbon, with but a slight trace of sulphur. It is lignite—or light-weight coal, and the report of the assayer, who is connected with the Montana Metallurgical Works, that the coal has much commercial value, has stimulated an effort to search for a large body of the mineral, which it is generally supposed, and logically enough, too, exists in the vicinity of where the work is now being done. Not a great length of time will be necessary to determine this fact and the real conditions become known.

Warren Happenings.

Mr. W. E. Stevens moved his stock back to the Lake farm the first of the week.

Mrs. Harvey and daughter, Lila, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Iabister a few days last week.

Mrs. Jennie Miller and children, of Portland, are visiting with relatives at this place this week.

Rev. Oaks, of Portland, held services at the Evangelical church last Sunday morning and evening