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La Grande Evening Observer

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**CURREY BROTHERS,**  
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The city election is arousing little if any interest among the voters. Next Monday is the day to cast your ballot. Among the other matters of public interest is the authorization of a public park commission. It may become necessary for the ladies of the Park association to do a little campaigning to bring the matter before the people. However, we presume there are few, indeed, who would vote against it.

Among the last official acts of President Roosevelt was the extension of forest reserves in California, where Mr. Harriman had recently secured options on power sites with a view of controlling the electric power business of California. The dispatches state that this order, coming unexpectedly as it did, almost took Mr. Harriman's breath when he read it.

Senator Fulton's parting shot in the senate was to prevent the confirmation in the senate of John C. Young as postmaster of Portland. Senator Bourne may have the opportunity of retaliating when, if it does, the name of Senator Fulton comes up for confirmation as federal judge of Oregon. The path of the politician is not altogether one of roses and sunshine.

Idaho yesterday passed the direct primary nominating law and a similar bill has passed the senate in the California legislature, and there is little doubt but it will become a law there also. Not a few of the states are following in the wake of Oregon.

All eyes will be cast Washingtonward from now until the inauguration ceremonies are concluded, which will not be until late tomorrow night.

After another long, strenuous campaign, the ship subsidy bill has failed to become a law. Only three votes, however, were lacking.

Salem has passed an ordinance prohibiting minors from pool and billiard halls.

**Earthquake Near Jerusalem.**  
 Smyrna, March 2.—An earthquake in the village of Masran, near Jerusalem, killed 150 today, according to a dispatch just received here.

**Government Jolted Again.**  
 Chicago, March 2.—Judge Anderson has ruled that in order to secure a conviction the government attorneys must prove the Standard Oil company and the Alton road knew the law was being violated.

**BEAN IN TROUBLE**

Evidence has been dug up in the record archives of the La Grande land office, that will be used in the land fraud suit brought against Circuit Judge H. J. Bean of Pendleton, who is well known here, having sat on the local circuit court bench to hear cases. A Pendleton dispatch says of the case:

Circuit Judge H. J. Bean of this city, is charged by the government with having willfully, wrongfully and fraudulently made final proof upon 140 acres of desert land, under the Carey act. The specific allegation is that Judge Bean used a contract for water with the Hinkle Ditch company which he knew was void. To secure land under the Carey act it is necessary to make oath that one has water to reclaim the land, or has entered into contract to secure water for that purpose.

The chief witness for the government is Attorney J. T. Hinkle of this city, who was the president of the Hinkle Ditch company. He said the company at one time did enter into negotiations with Judge Bean to furnish him with water for the land. A contract containing the terms of the agreement was submitted to Judge Bean, who asked for time to look it over and consider it. Hinkle asserted that after the judge had retained the contract for nearly a year without having signed it, the company decided to withdraw its offer to furnish water, under the terms specified, and asked to have the contract returned, which was done.

It is then alleged that Judge Bean signed up a copy of the contract, filed it with the land officials and proceeded to prove up on and secure title to his land. Hinkle therefore insisted that the contract is void; that judge had no water, to reclaim his land and can get none.

On cross-examination, however, Hinkle was forced to admit that the signature of himself, as president, and that of the secretary of the company, as well as the seal of the company to be found on the contract which the judge had used, were genuine, though the contract itself was a carbon copy.

Attorney N. K. West is the special government attorney who is conducting the case for the government, while Judge Bean is being defended by Judge Stephen A. Lowell and Attorney J. P. Winter.

The prominence of the man accused of defrauding the government, and the value of the land involved, make this contest case by far the most important of any which have come up in this section of the state. The 140 acres of land in question consisted principally of sand and sagebrush, and was practically valueless when first filed upon by Judge Bean, but at the present time it is easily worth \$100 per acre in the open market and possibly half that much again.

**New and Damaging Moth.**  
 Oregon is face to face with the dangers of one of the worst orchard pests that is known, in the shape of the brown tail moth, a poisonous little insect, which is said to be coming into the country on trees shipped here from France. The Oregon state board of horticulture is making every effort to exterminate the moth before it has a chance to spread, and so far seems to have the upper hand. However, should a batch of infected trees have been overlooked, it may take thousands of dollars to exterminate the pest.

**ALICEL MASS MEETING ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY**

Late this afternoon it was announced that the irrigation meeting discussed and planned for Alicel, will be held next Friday or Saturday, the exact date being decided on this evening. This will be the time for every business man of La Grande to attend and take active part in bringing to a finish the campaign for 5000 acres of land on the Sandridge. The Observer will announce tomorrow on just what day and hour the meeting will be held. This gathering will have an important bearing on the irrigation organization that is to be perfected in La Grande one week later. Wait for definite announcement.

**TO DECIDE FARM SITE**

Before the March term of county court adjourns, the court and commissioners will have visited and inspected all of the several proffered sites for the county poor farm that will be located near La Grande this spring. There are over a half dozen offers in, with varying prices and various inducements. Among them is one from the managers of the Van Hook place of 40 acres near the fair grounds. Price wanted, \$5200. The next is a 40-acre place owned by L. C. Green, wants \$6000. The James McCoy place north of Island City, \$6000 for 30 acres. The Adams place of 100 acres in Fruitdale, including stock and improvements, \$5500. The Owsley place of 100 acres, seven acres in orchard, 40 acres in alfalfa; price not stipulated. Forty acres off the Rymearson place, \$2000; orchard and alfalfa.

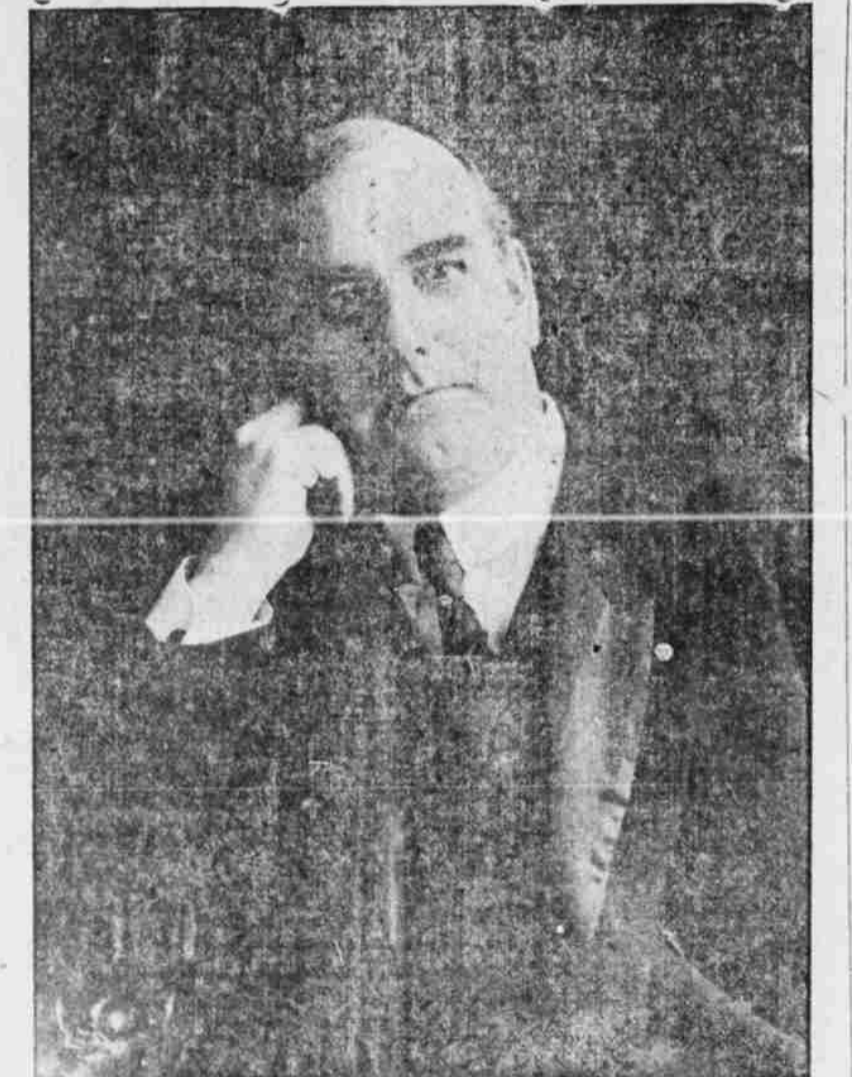
**New Assistant Secretary.**  
 Washington, March 2.—Taft announced today that Beekman Winthrop, former Governor of Porto Rico, and assistant secretary of the treasury, has accepted the assistant secretaryship of the navy.

**Pirates of the Air**  
 "They come like thieves in the night, dropping hundreds of feet from high up in the sky, catch themselves, circle once or twice, then come at the owl like a thunderbolt."

A quotation from the unusual and interesting story of decoying hawks, which is but one of the many splendidly illustrated articles which appear in the big March issue of

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