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## THREE LAND LAWS TO BE REPEALED

**Secretary Hitchcock is Determined that the Next Congress Shall take Action on the Timber and Stone Act, the Commuted Homestead and the Desert Land Laws.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 16.—The 58th Congress, when it regularly assembles in December, will be called upon to remove from the statute books three laws under which the government has been systematically robbed each year of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars' worth of public lands. The robbers are not in all cases violating the letter of the law, and as long as these three laws remain in force they cannot be reached, but they are violating the spirit of the law, and escape only on technicalities. The fight began in the last days of the 57th Congress to bring about the repeal of the timber and stone act, the desert land act, the commutation clause of the homestead act, is to be renewed with vigor, and the friends, as well as the enemies of reform, are even now preparing to enter the fray, each side determined to win.

Secretary Hitchcock is favorable to a sweeping reform in all land matters. The sentiment in favor of reform is growing, but any attempt at such radical reform as is proposed by the Secretary would be met with failure. Reform legislation, to pass Congress, must be to some extent conservative, a sort of compromise measure. Congress will never consent to the repeal of the timber and stone act, unless some suitable legislation is enacted providing a new but equitable means by which public timber lands may be acquired. It is possible that some legislation may be framed authorizing the sale of timber from the public domain, a practice that is now prohibited, but for which there is more or less demand.

A more consistent fight can be made on the commutation clause of the homestead law than on either of the laws above specified, but a number of Western Congressmen, men of influence, too, are fighting the repeal of this law, on the ground that it would unnecessarily hardship settlers. On the other hand, advocates of repeal asserts that any man who sincerely enters 160 acres under the homestead law, with the intention of making it his permanent home, could certainly not object to being obliged to live on his land for five years, and to cultivate and improve it. They insist that a bona fide settler, a settler of the desirable class, would do this, regardless of the law; would do it in his own interest, and would much prefer to acquire title by residence, than by paying cash for the land after he had resided there on for 14 months.

It is more than probable that Binger Hermann will be made a member of the Public Lands Committee in the next house. His six years' experience as Commissioner of the general land office has given him an insight into the workings of the public land laws that have been enjoyed by few men, and his advice would be eagerly sought on all occasions when important land problems were pending.

The mention of Mr. Hermann in connection with the public land laws recalls the fact that a law, more vicious than any of those that

VOL. XV.

MEDFORD, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1903

NO. 34.

# Medford Mail.

## NATURAL WONDER OF OREGON.

**Crater Lake Party More than Pleased With What They Saw—A Brief Story of the Trip to the Lake—Grand Scenery and a Merry Party to Enjoy It.**

A member of the Portland Crater lake party has given the Portland Oregonian the following account of their trip. After giving the personnel of the party he says:

"It is probably the merriest party that has ever traveled over the hills to this great natural wonder of Oregon. Leaving Portland August 4th by the Southern Pacific, they were transferred to wagons at Medford, arriving at Crater lake on schedule time Saturday night, August 8, with the exception of some freight. The long ride through the cool, enticing shadows of the yellow pine forests was brightened by sallies and bon mots without number, and the inspiration of the noble canyons of the Rogue river, its waterfalls and marvelous natural bridge brought out quaint, picturesque metaphors and curious legends such as might well become a permanent part of Pacific coast literature.

"Joaquin Miller was in his happiest vein, his wit and fantasy finding fresh opportunity to vent itself at every turn in the road. Dr. Hill was the humorist of another wagonload, a jovial giant, bent on seeing that everybody about him should get the best out of his vacation. President Campbell, always a brilliant raconteur, kept up a perpetual laugh at the other end of the cavalcade, while Senator Fulton's shrewd humor and good sense gave the needed spice of diversity.

"At Eagle Point, fifteen miles beyond Medford, there was a campfire that will live long in the memory of those who were present. The whole country side for miles around had assembled to do honor to the visitors, and the stirring intensity and lofty strain of feeling shown in the impromptu speeches, together with much clever repartee, brought out ringing applause from the people of Eagle Point. Joaquin Miller gave a superb tribute to Oregon for her part in the Indian wars, placing this state before all others in the Union for the brave men she gave and the Oregon gold she coined for the cause. The battle of Table Rock was touched upon with much dramatic fervor and vivid imagery—a battle in which some of those present had taken an active part.

A lively scramble down the mossy steps of the picturesque little waterfall on the country place of J. H. Stewart, of Medford, was a feature of the next camp. This is situated in the heart of the forest, the charming vistas and wildwood glens causing Joaquin Miller to exclaim that he could not wish heaven itself to be more delightful and entrancing in its beauty. The rustic cottage, with its wide verandas, was filled with trophies of chase and pine wood curios. The campfire talks inspired by the rare hospitality of the owners were quite as notable as at Eagle Point.

At the natural bridge, where Rogue river disappears into the living rock to come out of its prison-house a foaming torrent, it was found that the horses, although the best obtainable, were not quite equal to the task of carrying the generous load of table supplies provided by Mr. Steel up the mountain on schedule time. This will explain why the company of 27 people arriving at Crater lake about sunset Saturday night found, after waiting two hours, that the cook, with his supplies, was encamped at the base of the mountain. This necessitated a merry scramble of a mile down the mountain in the moonlight. But Sunday morning found all encamped in good shape on the rim of the lake, engaged in studying the marvelous, changing tints of water and rocky cliff as the sun moved westward.

On Monday, August 10, a party of about 30 people, under the guidance of Captain O. C. Applegate, who was encamped near by, climbed Castle mountain, which is 8175 feet from sea level, or 1000 feet above the camping ground. Senator Fulton, Dr. Hill, Mr. Wheeler and son, who remained behind, improved the time by taking a swim in the lake.

Today (Tuesday) is one of eager anticipation, as the new boat furnished by the United States Government is to be launched by means of ropes from the cliff to the lake, 1000 feet below. Everybody declares he is having the best time of his life. Venison is a popular dish today, two hunters having brought in two deer.

## NEWS OF THE STATE.

The steamer Oregon returned last week from Nome with \$250,000 in gold and 139 passengers on board.

Hon. Malcolm A. Moody has just received notice from the Commissioner of Pensions that the claim of Lewis L. Ley, of The Dalles, has been allowed at \$8 a month from June 27, 1902. This pension established a new ruling on the Indian War veteran act of the above date, thereby recognizing as pensionable the volunteers who failed to draw the pay allotted to them by the War Department for their services against the Indians in the early days when every man and every horse that could be spared from the scattered settlements of Oregon and Washington were called upon to protect the lives and property of the pioneers.

At a meeting of prune growers held at Salem last Saturday a movement was started for the organization of a mutual insurance company, for the insurance of prune growers. The growers were agreed that the insurance companies charge too high a rate of premium for this class of risks, and that the cost could be greatly reduced by co-operative action. It is intended that the insurance association shall accept members throughout Oregon and Washington and transact business only on prune-driers and warehouses. The new organization will have no connection with any of the other prune growers' associations.

The officers and enlisted men at Fort Stevens are engaging in a series of service drills that will continue for a period of ten days or two weeks. The entire force at the post is encamped in tents on the reservation and is living under practically the same conditions as if the United States was at war with another nation and an enemy's fleet was expected to attempt an entrance of the Columbia river. To make the situation as realistic as possible, the Quartermaster's Department steamer Major Goy Howard makes daily cruises about the mouth of the river, and the big guns are trained on her and fired with blank cartridges. Everything at Fort Stevens is now on a war footing and will so continue until these drills are completed.

Dr. L. W. Brown, of Eugene, relates a most peculiar circumstance. He was called to Cottage Grove Friday night to assist in an operation to remove an eye from Mrs. Hunnicutt, who has been blind in one eye for 35 years, and it had been deemed advisable to remove the useless member. The operation was to be performed next morning, and the woman was placed on the operating table, and the attending surgeons got their instruments in readiness for the operation, when the woman shouted that the Lord had restored her sight. Those in attendance were greatly surprised at this outburst, but the good eye was closed and she was shown several articles and could see them plainly with the eye that had been blind for years and called the articles by name. There were half a dozen witnesses of the occurrence and all were dumbfounded. The woman had spent several hours in prayer previous to the time for the operation and just before going on the operating table offered a final prayer to God to restore her sight. She naturally feels that her prayer was answered.

## OREGON APPLES BRING TOP PRICE.

From the Fruitman's Guide.

"The apple plungers have started at their fall work. News reached the Guide office this week that a Chicago house by its representatives purchased some 7,000 boxes of an 'all round' basis—all varieties and sizes—at \$1.50 a box. This is a very, or rather risky buying, to say the least of it. Shipments abroad will have to realize eleven shillings, about \$2.65, for the shipper to come out at the right end of the horn.

"Prices are high, anyhow, right now in Oregon and the growers have set a general asking price of \$1.25 to \$1.35 f. o. b. cars.

Hurrah for Southern Oregon! Guldarn her picture, she always was a trump card. We have known it all the time—and it is gratifying to now realize that others are of the same opinion.

**These Teachers Were Successful.**

The following teachers were successful at the regular teachers' examination held in Jacksonville, Aug. 12, 13 and 14th.

First grade: David P. Mathews, E. E. Smith, Nettie Thompson, Effie Weiss, Ethelyn Hurley.

Second grade: Mamie Rippey, Helen Wait, Martina Thells, Fannie Hewes, Viola Preister, Christina MacTavish, Agnes Moore.

Third grade: Mac Curry, Lillie Hewes, Kate Broad.

Primary grade: Harriet F. Ganiore, Ella Griffith, Mrs. M. Peter.

## STREET ECHOES.

**Opinions of Some of Our Citizens—Serious and Otherwise**

Ralph Woodford:—"We reached Ashland Tuesday noon with our Crater lake crowd. There were just an even thirty five in the party, counting the teamsters. There were eight teams and we made the trip without any serious accident, except that Sam Harbush, of Eagle Point, lost one of his horses. It was a fine animal, and it dropped dead in the harness within a short distance of the Indian Agency. The crowd chipped in a dollar or two each and raised fifty dollars for him and he bought another horse from an Indian. Say, funny thing about the Indian he bought the horse from. He is one of the reservation Indians and evidently gets drunk every time an opportunity is presented. A few weeks ago he indulged too freely in red liquor and was arrested, tried and sentenced to dig 1200 post holes, as a penalty for the offense. He dug 800 holes, and as this was all the holes needed at that time the remainder of the fine was remitted, but no sooner was he a free Indian than did he go fill himself up again with hilarious booze. This happened the day before we reached the Fort. He was tried again for being drunk and was sentenced to split 1200 posts and he had commenced working out his sentence the morning we saw him. Say, that fellow must have a thirst like a cow. I went out and dug a posthole yesterday just to get an idea how many 800 would be when they were properly dug. United States Senator Fulton and his family were with the crowd. The senator is one of the best fellows I ever saw in a crowd of that kind. He was equal to all occasions, one of those fellows who fits in almost any place. As the farmer would say of his team—good for plow purposes on work days and real, tasty drivers for church purposes on Sunday. He was in Mr. Lindley's load and it was amusing to see him helping Mr. Lindley carry his horses—and he knows how to do it, all right. Jeff Hamlin was the handy man of the crowd. If any of the teamsters got into trouble Jeff was on hand to help fix things up. He's an all round, generous, good fellow and we couldn't have kept house without him. The crowd enjoyed the trip immensely well and I believe next year a larger crowd than ever will visit the lake."

S. G. Van Dyke:—"How's fruit, was that what you asked? Why, my dear sir, I have no fruit—not now, but you wait a few years and I will be marketing Oregon red and yellow apples like Voorbies, Lewis, Stewart, Whitman, Owell and the several other big growers are now. I have as fine a fifty acre orchard of apples and pears now growing as you often times see. I have 100 acres of land in my farm but I do not think I will put out any more orchard. Fifty acres will be about all I can properly attend to. You see my farm is made up of good alfalfa and grain land and I can hardly get myself out of the notion that I can make money from growing grain and hay. I have twenty acres of alfalfa and I have cut already two crops this season and will cut a third crop from some of it. Some of the field I am now pasturing. I will get five tons or a little better to the acre. Last year I cut over six tons to the acre. I am going to sow eighteen acres more to alfalfa next year. No, my land is not sticky—it is pretty much all river bottom. In my opinion sticky land is not a good alfalfa producer. The soil seems too heavy and cold. The best alfalfa land is free soil where the hardpan is not too near the surface. I know of several parties who have tried it on sticky land and it was not a success. My wheat crop was light this year—too dry. Right at present time my long suit is dairying. I am milking twelve cows and they are averaging me about \$5 a cow per month. The lowest price I have received for butter fat per pound was twenty cents, and the highest thirty. In July the price paid was twenty-two cents. I am shipping to the Ashland creamery. I was doing business with that creamery when the one in Medford started and it's pretty hard to break away when a fellow is being treated square."

J. A. Perry:—"Yes, I am buying fruit. There is not much grain to buy this season and as I have sort o' gotten into the notion of buying a good bit of something every fall, I have decided to tackle fruit—they is lots of that and I ought to be able to get hold of several carloads. In all probabilities I will turn my purchases over to the Fruit Growers Union. The Union has rented part of my office for their secretary and part of my warehouse for their packers."

The best part of Southern Oregon is the Rogue River Valley.

The best town in the Valley is the town of

MEDFORD

The best Newspaper published in Southern Oregon, is

THE MAIL.

It has the Largest Circulation, gives the most News and is always reliable

## CALIFORNIANS WILL APE OREGONIANS.

**They Are Going to Pack Their Fruit As We Do in Oregon—Oregon Orchards a Treat to the Eye.**

From the California Fruitman's Guide.

A. S. Greenway, general manager in the United States of E. A. O'Kelly & Co., of London, returned recently from a trip to the apple sections of California and Oregon. He expresses himself as highly delighted and impressed with the appearance of the apple crops in both states. The Pejaro Valley, he ventures to predict, will turn out a much better crop than it has in the past three or four years. Newtowns show a good and full crop and Bellflowers are even fuller. Mr. Greenway noticed that the Pejaro Valley orchardists are taking more care of their orchards; they are thinning out conscientiously and spraying is now almost universal.

"The Oregon orchards," said Mr. Greenway, "are a veritable treat to the eye. The crop is a good one. The Newtowns are a large crop, even if not so full as the other varieties and the apples are looking remarkably fine and clean.

"In California there will be less five-tier apples than ever before. The growers have learned their little lesson from experience and are hunting for four-tier stock. I look for a great improvement in the Californians' packing and grading this season and believe that they will emulate Oregon in these regards."

## JEFFRIES MADE FAIR WAGES.

From the San Francisco Examiner.

One of the most succulent morsels in the aftermath of the big fight was the size of the "gate." Past masters in the art of wheeling money out of the public rolled their eyes and snapped their lips every time the amount of the gross receipts was recalled. It was prophesied that it would be a long time before \$12,340 would jingle into a pugilistic boxoffice in this city again.

Of this amount \$32,728.50 went to Jeffries. As the actual time of fighting was less than half an hour, he received better than \$1,000 a minute for slugging Corbett.

It may be that Jeffries will object to his earnings being figured on a thirty-minute basis, as he lost the entire day over the job. But even then \$32,728.50 is a fairly good return. For that matter, one might take into consideration the five weeks Jeff spent in training and argue that the game was worth the candle. Reckoning that way, Jeffries has earned over \$6,000 a week. If he could manage to keep his date book full his emoluments would reach close to \$340,000 a year, and that is enough to make President Roosevelt's annual stipend look like car fare.

Corbett didn't do so bad, either. His share of the takings was \$10,909.50. The Yosemite Club, which, like the man at the top of the ladder, "did all the work", had to contest itself with a paltry \$18,702.

From these figures it is as plain as a pikestaff that championship pugilism pays. The prospect is so alluring that there is talk of forming a company the object being to scour the highways and byways of the world in search of some husky young giant capable of lowering Jeffries' colors. It is generally conceded there is no known heavy-weight at present in sight who is equal to the task.

### AMONG THE CHURCHES.

**FIRST M. E. CHURCH.**  
Preaching next Sunday morning and evening, at the usual hours by the pastor. All are invited.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**  
Preaching August 23d at 11 a. m. by Rev. C. H. Hoxie. Other services as usual. No preaching in the evening. All are invited to attend these services.  
REV. W. F. SHIELDS, Pastor.

**BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
Sabbath school 10 a. m. Wm. Davis Supt. B. Y. P. U. 7.30. Wm. Leonard Howard President. Rev. James Kelso will preach at 11 a. m. It is desired that the members, so far as possible, be present—no preaching in the evening.  
T. L. CRANBELL, Pastor.