## Medford Daily Tribune

Official Paper of the City of Medford

MEDFORD PUBLISHING GOMPANY Geoboe Putnam, Editor and Manager.
Admitted as Secoud-Class Matter in the Postoffice at Medford, Oregon.


## thecolonist movement.

The collonist ratese in effeet during March and April brought 711,141 homeseckers into the west and northwest. Of these 51,206 canie over the Hill lines and 19,935 over the Harriman lines. The increase over the Hill lines over man lines 100 per cent.
To Oregon points there came over the Oregon Railroad \& Navigation and Southerw Pacific: lines 5433 colonists as against 3163 a year ago. Of course this docs not include those coming to Oregon points through the Hill gateways, probably as many more. For northwest points the Harriman lines carried 12,000 people a against 6853 a year ago

Advertising is held responsible for the increased immigration, and the results from this advertising campaign are just beginning to be felt. A still greater influx of homescekers is looked for this autumn. Concerning the colonist movement, E. O. McCormick, assistant traffic director of the Harriman lines, says:

The farmers are beginning to believe the stories of great agricultural and fruit yields in the west and northwest which were at first but a fairy tale to them. Then, too, the vast numbers of farmers who have been settled on homes during the past few years are writing letters back east all the time urging their relatives and friends to come and share in the golden returns of intelligent effort in the comntry west of the Rockies. All of these things have their effeest and you may expeet to see the rush of homebuilders continue from now on until the great de main of which 1 speak hus a fair quota of population." the castorn frnit grower, who wears his life away prodn ing one crop of inferior fruit by three years of constan urofits in sumh a natural fruit section as the Rogue River

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as the Louisiam Purchase, the Gadsien Purchase other areas added by purchase or amexation. The cent of population, foilowing the star of empire westward, h passed over Ohio and now halts in southern Indman It is interesting to learn from the statistics by the bureau that in 1908 there were still $74,895,000$ acres
of umappropriated and unreserved land. Of this nearly one-half is in Alaska, and its value is yet to be determined. In Nevada there are $61,177,000$ acres of this unappropriatFantano 46 f32.000 acres..in New Mexico 44

But these figures are more imposing on paper than the land will justify as the possible home of a large population. By irrigation many thousands of these acres, now practically a desert, will yet be made fertile; by drying up or draining the immense swamp areas in some of the older states another large area will be eventually made available. The day-of "free land," however, in the golden west, a cry once so attractive to the immigrant or to the settler from the older states, has practically passed. Much of the land yet unappropriated may be free enough, but it will require wealth to make it productive.
The United States, as far as regards the opportunities it offers the landless, is at the close of its first great era. The eras to come may be better in some respects, but they will be different. There are no more boundless areas of fer tile, well watered soil awaiting the settler. The day of free land is over.


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