

## All Due To Slump In The Market

(From Salem Hollywood Press)

The pandering Salem dailies are still telling their readers that the whole trouble at the state flax plant is due to "slump in the market," for which Col. Bartram, the "flax expert," is not to blame. The Press has no desire to keep on pounding a dead rat, but is ready to discuss this matter in detail at any time and does not propose to allow untrue statements or inferences to go unchallenged.

At the penitentiary, there is a big warehouse full of manufactured tow which is worth nothing, is unsalable at any price, although it is carried on the inventory at a high figure. At the time it was being manufactured real exports from Belgium and Ireland warned Col. Bartram that there was no market for such a product and urged him to make a different kind for which there is unlimited demand; but the Colonel flatly refused and continued his grandiloquent strutting. The flax from which that tow was made cost the state a large amount of money. The money is gone; the tow is occupying space in the warehouse; there was no demand for it before the "slump," there is none now, and there will be none next year nor the year after. Is this large loss due to "slump in the market," or to bone-head mismanagement by the "expert"?

The going price for upholstery tow was \$80 a ton. A farmer out toward Aumsville got the necessary machines for processing the flax and began making upholstery tow out of his crop. When he got a couple of truck loads made he hauled it to Portland furniture factories, received payment and returned home feeling that he might be able to make a living that year after all Col. Bartram did not like that farmer. The farmer could not make enough tow to make a dent in the demand, but Col. Bartram went to Portland and voluntarily offered to furnish the factories with tow at \$50 a ton, and of course got the contract. The idea was to make the price so low that the farmer couldn't compete, and it succeeded. The farmer couldn't sell the tow at \$50 without a loss; neither could the state, but the Colonel didn't care anything about that. He was out to bust that farmer, and in order to do it he willfully imposed a loss to the state of \$30 a ton on every ton of tow sold. Was that loss due to unavoidable "slump in the market"?

In order to produce a very high quality of flax the Colonel brought down from Canada a large quantity of pure bred special flax seed at \$5 a bushel. The crops produced were a heterogeneous mixture of blue and white flax bloom and a million new kinds of weeds which no Oregonian ever saw before. The flax was of all heights and characteristics, some of it getting dead ripe while the rest was still rank green. Inquiry in Canada fails to reveal any sales to the Colonel of anything classed by the Canadians as seed flax. Doubtless the sorry result of its sowing here was due entirely to "slump in the market."

It is not necessary for the state flax plant to work under high pressure or mass production methods in order to satisfy the demand for its product. The principal reason for its existence is to give the prisoners something to do. Governor Pierce left the plant sufficiently equipped with machinery—not up to date or 100% efficient, but adequate for the purpose sought. Yet the first thing the colonel did was to reap many columns of enconiums in the Salem papers by junking most of that equipment and replacing it with other machines which cost many thousands of dollars. (It should be remembered that the colonel is primarily a salesman. He became a "flax expert" only after getting his job at the pen.) A salesman makes his living by selling. That fancy equipment is now idle, but is proudly pointed out to visitors, and the many thousands of dollars needlessly spent for it and now so badly needed in the flax funds should, of course, be charged entirely to "slump in the market."

The Press has a whole sackful of data on Col. Bartram's interesting career as a "flax expert" in Salem—but what's the use? The Colonel is presumed to be a dead issue. The Press is only trying to correct falsehoods disseminated by the Salem dailies. It is a very busy job.

### NOTICE OF HEARING OF FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given that the final account of Helen Turner, as administratrix of the estate of Clara Turner, deceased, has been filed in the County Court of Marion County, State of Oregon, and that the 9th day of May, 1931, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., has been duly appointed by such court for the hearing of objections to such final account and settlement thereof, at which time any person interested in such estate may appear and file objections thereto in writing and contest the same.

Dated this 9th day of April, 1931.

HELEN TURNER,  
Administratrix.

E. L. CRAWFORD,  
Attorney for Estate.  
Ladd & Bush Bank Bldg., Salem, Ore.  
First publication: April 9, 1931.  
Last publication: May 7, 1931.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned by an order of the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Marion, duly made and entered on the 27th day of March, 1931, was appointed administrator of the estate of John Ammann, deceased, and that he has duly qualified as such administrator. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified as required by law, to him at the office of E. L. Crawford, Attorney for Estate, rooms 20-21, Ladd & Bush Bank building, Salem, Oregon, within six months of the date of this notice.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 1931.

R. D. GRAY  
Administrator of the Estate of John Ammann, Deceased.  
E. L. CRAWFORD,  
Attorney for Estate.  
Ladd & Bush Bank Bldg., Salem, Oregon.  
First publication, April 2, 1931.  
Last publication, April 30, 1931.

### NOTICE OF HEARING OF FINAL ACCOUNT

Notice is hereby given that the final account of McKinley Earle Dae and Desmond Victor Dae, as executors of the estate of Ida May Dae, deceased, has been filed in the County Court of Marion County, State of Oregon, and that the 23rd day of May, 1931, at the hour of ten o'clock A. M. has been duly appointed by such court for the hearing of objections to such final account and the settlement thereof at which time any person interested in such estate may appear and file objections thereto in writing and contest the same.

Dated this 9th day of April, 1931.

McKINLEY EARLE DAE,  
DESMOND VICTOR DAE,  
Executors.  
E. L. CRAWFORD,  
Attorney for Estate.  
Ladd & Bush Bank Bldg., Salem, Ore.  
First publication: April 9, 1931.  
Last publication: May 7, 1931.

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Sealed bids will be received by the school board of School District No. 61, Marion County, Oregon, up to 7:30 o'clock P. M. on April 15, 1931, at the school house near West Stayton, Oregon, for the sale of the old school house in said district.

Each bidder will be required to submit with his bid a certified check for ten per cent of the amount of bid, which check will be forfeited to said School District No. 61, Marion County, in case the bidder to whom the building is sold fails or refuses to accept and pay for building. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

LEONARD WALKER, Clerk,  
S. D. No. 61, Marion County,  
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