

The Redmond Spokesman

MEMBER OF STATE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Redmond, Oregon
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Strictly in Advance:

One year	\$1.50	Three months	\$.50
Six months	.80	Single copies	.05

Entered as second class matter July 14, 1910, at the postoffice at Redmond, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

COMPROMISE OR BLACKMAIL?

Governor James Withycombe thinks the government should compromise with the Oregon & California Railroad company by paying it about five million dollars above what it is entitled to. The question has been decided by the highest court of the land. Under a government of law this ought to end the controversy. But the railroads have long felt above the law and the courts, and in this matter refuse to submit to the decision.

The railroad points at our heads its old familiar weapon of vexatious litigation and says to the people of Oregon if it does not get what it demands the lands will be kept in the courts for years and the development of the state retarded, says the Medford Mail Tribune.

The assistance of our governor, whom the people chose to uphold the law, must have exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the railroad. When it started its absurd bluff, it, of course, knew its satellites and heelers would yawp loud approval, but we sincerely doubt if they ever hoped to see the governor leading the pack. Is it possible that in the mind of our chief executive there is no admiration of right and justice?

Piracy no longer exists at sea. Its sphere of action these days is on the land. The claim of the railroad that the timber is separate from the land is a cheap bluff and was only meant as a cover under which the railroad could organize opposition and delay action until a change of administration would possibly give it what it demands.

Governor Withycombe wants the railroad that has willfully violated the terms of its grant to be handed a few millions, possibly as a reward for its lawlessness. The excuse is made that the matter could be settled more quickly in that manner. We can easily settle with the robber or burglar by handing over our purse or showing him how to find the silver. The land has been withheld from settlement for many years. If we have endured it that long we can stand it twenty years more, and we should do it rather than pay tribute to the amount of one dollar.

Oregon's senators are trying to get part of the value of these lands for Oregon's schools and Oregon's roads, and if left alone they will. But if they are to be hamstrung by state officials and the partisan press they may fail. But of course if the railroad is to get a present of \$5,000,000 above what the court finds it entitled to, at the request of the governor, that five million dollars will come out of what will be considered Oregon's share. It would mean a gift of \$5,000,000 taken out of the pockets of the Oregon taxpayers and handed over to the Southern Pacific. A sagacious, virile man should be ashamed to advocate such truckling expediency.

Unless you register as a Democrat or Republican you cannot vote at the primaries. The law provides that all parties polling less than a certain number of votes shall nominate by convention. So if you are a prohibitionist, socialist or progressive, or belong to any other political party you can take part in the convention. If you are a Republican or Democrat with a liking for prohibition you cannot register as the latter and vote as one of the regular party at the primaries. At the general election—no matter how you are registered—you can, of course, vote for any person or party you please.

A cheering bit of news comes from New York, which in substance is that the average price paid for horses at the mid-winter sale at Madison Square Garden was \$56 in advance of that paid last year for the same quality. The price paid this year for 270 head sold averaged \$342. The thoroughbreds placed under the hammer are not the kind that are being bought up by representatives of the foreign nations for war purposes, and so the friends of the horse are taking encouragement from the leading horse sale in the country.

Broccoli, or winter cauliflower, is proving a profitable crop for coast farmers, who ship mainly to Chicago, and obtain a net of about \$1.35 per crate of a dozen heads. Its special value lies in the fact that it matures in the winter season.

A New York boy committed suicide because he had the toothache. That is one way of curing it.—Florida Times-Union.

HEALTH INSURANCE TAX

Oregon is to be asked to go into the health insurance business. The proposal will come before the next legislature. Unless taxpayers prevent, it will pass within the next few years, and another costly philanthropy will be added to the tax burden, says the Oregon Voter.

This year the bill is before the legislatures of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, and is one of the principal issues in those states. Its supporters will not be dismayed if it fails there this year, for they look to Oregon as the state where new-fangled ideas will be most easily adopted, and already are lining up strong support for the campaign in this state.

This bill makes health insurance universal for all manual workers and for others earning less than \$100 a month.

The benefits to be provided are medical, surgical and nursing attention, including necessary hospital care, medicines and supplies; a cash benefit beginning on the fourth day of illness, equal to two-thirds of the patient's wages, and given for a maximum of 26 weeks in one year; and a funeral benefit of not more than \$50.

The cost of these benefits and their administration, amounting to about three per cent of wages, is to be borne two-fifths by the employee, two-fifths by the employer, and one-fifth by the state. The employee is asked to contribute because he is to some degree responsible for his own ill health and because he receives the benefits. The contribution of the employer is justified on the ground that illness is, to a considerable extent, occupational in origin. The state's share in the joint contribution is justified by the present cost of sickness to the state and by its recognized responsibility for community action to prevent ill health. It is believed that this distribution of the cost will lead to co-operative action in "Health First" campaigns.

The administration is to be vested in mutual associations of employers and employees organized according to localities and trades, and managed jointly by employers and workers under the general supervision of a state social insurance commission.

Utah Democrats declared for Wilson and national prohibition.

OREGON LEADS AS A LOSER

Oregon is getting some reputation as a loser. Everyone has heard of the "Lost Cabin Mine," which, according to the most reliable authority was first missing in 1851 or '52, and has been undiscovered ever since. Then some years ago a quartz mill was lost up in Greenhorn country, Baker county, and was not found for 11 months. This, however, seemed to be more a case of strayed, for it was found 70 miles from its accustomed range.

Then a whole railroad train was lost up in Eastern Oregon for a week or two. Then a steamboat belonging to a Mr. Stevens and run by Captain "Big Bill" Turabull of Vancouver, ran away and hid behind Switzer's Island, opposite Vancouver. On top of these was a town at one time on the Santiam that disappeared and never was heard of again.

Coming down to recent days, skimping many political reputations that were irretrievably lost, and many more that unfortunately for their bearers were not, the state seems to be keeping up its reputation.

But a few days ago Portland officials announced the city had lost 1,000 cords of wood. Now that would make a woodpile four feet high, the same distance wide and 8,000 feet, or a little more than a mile and a half long. This we submit is "quite a chunk" to lose and would seem to be about the limit, but it is far from it.

It remains for Lincoln county to take the cake, break the records, and flaunt the penant as a loser. The report made by the surveyor of Lincoln county to the Secretary of the Interior in 1914, showed the county had 320 more miles of county road in 1913 than in the succeeding year.

The secretary of the interior was puzzled. He was not familiar with Oregon's ability as a loser. He wanted to know how in the Sam Hill, or any other highway authority, 320 miles of county road could get lost in one brief year. He sent out an expert who expeted in vain. All the roads in the county seemed to be in place, and the farmers hadn't missed any. It appeared to fill the description of the poet, once at large

VESSELS ARE AWAITING
OPENING OF THE CANALCARRIERS EXPECT TO MAKE
PASSAGE ON APRIL 15; WAR
DISRUPTS SHIPPING

A Washington dispatch of April 12 says: In anticipation of the re-opening of the Panama canal on April 15, a number of vessels have gathered at the termini, preferring to wait even a fortnight rather than make the longer tour around South America by way of the Straits of Magellan.

The members of the operating force, who have been on furlough in the United States, have all been recalled to the isthmus.

Vessels drawing up to 30 feet of water will be admitted to the canal at first, but it is expected that the draft can be materially increased soon after, unless the slides show signs of renewed activity.

A great accumulation of goods on the wharves at Cristobal and Balboa for lack of bottoms to carry it away has obliged the Panama Railroad company to place an embargo on all cargoes from the United States or Europe, destined to ports on the west coast. This shortage of bottoms is directly chargeable to the European war, which has disrupted the steamship service and broken up their schedules.

STATE ENGINEER ISSUES 96
PERMITS FOR USE OF WATERSeven Were for the Construction of
Reservoirs; Work Estimated to
Cost About \$140,000.

During the quarter ending March 31, 1916, State Engineer Lewis issued 96 permits for the appropriation of water, of which seven were for the construction of reservoirs. It is estimated that the total cost of the work to be constructed under the permits will be \$140,000. It is proposed to irrigate 3,751 acres of land, develop 891 horsepower and supply water to Yoncalla and Corvallis. One hundred and fifty-four miles of canals will be required in connection with the proposed works.

The following permits were issued in Crook county:

A. L. Simmons, A. Overholt, M. Summerfield and H. Angell of Paulina secured a permit to supplement water supply and also to irrigate 88 acres, diverting water from Grindstone creek. L. J. Zulberg of Sisters, for the supplemental supply of lands already irrigated. B. E. Bennett of Barnes, for the irrigation of fifteen acres, diverting water from Poison creek. G. C. Price of Prineville, for the irrigation of 151 acres, diverting water from Marks, Wild Cat and Hay creeks. J. A. Pausch of Barnes, for the irrigation of 80 acres, diverting water from Long and Wiley canyons. A. L. Bennett of Barnes, for the irrigation of 62 acres, diverting water from Clover creek. C. McKenzie of Paulina, for the irrigation of one acre, diverting water from Beaver creek. A. Millhorn of Roberts, for the irrigation of 16 acres, diverting water from Deer and Cow creeks.

on Fifth Plain, north of Vancouver, who wrote those rather bewildering lines:

"The seeming of the thing unknown,
To thee unknown today;
Now brings it need to fullness grown
To wither and decay."

That was what apparently happened to 320 miles of Lincoln county highway. However, when the head of one of Uncle Sam's departments wants anything he wants it bad and generally gets it that way. This applies to information as well as other things. The experts found no vacant places where roads had been, but were no longer there, and so they gave it up, classing it as one of the unsolvable mysteries.

Finally a letter was written by the department to the county judge of Lincoln county, asking him if he knew the whereabouts of 320 miles of county road that was giving the secretary a sample of Villa action. Yes, the judge knew all about it and consequently there was nothing mysterious in it. You see, wrote the judge, the ocean beaches along the western border of the county are of hard sands and make the most beautiful roads in the world when they are not under water. That 320 miles of highway is of the submarine variety, and is, or is not, according to the moon. One surveyor measured the roads when the tide was out, the other when it was in. There was 320 miles difference. And all this inquiry and mystification was caused by the carelessness of county officials in letting the roads stay out of nights and thus getting moonstruck.

REDMOND POTATOES
GAINING REPUTATIONFIRST SECTION TO PRODUCE
POTATOES SCORING A FULL
HUNDRED PER CENT

That the potato industry will become one of the greatest in Central Oregon has been made plain to all by the success of S. D. Mustard in winning every prize for which he ever started since engaging in potato growing several years ago, and to him and his efforts more than any other single agency will be due the great success and reputation which our district now enjoys.

For more than a month now Mr. Mustard has been busy filling orders from all sections for seed potatoes for the coming season.

It was only last week that two such orders came from Chicago from people interested in potato culture, and who had noted his success at the Portland show last fall.

WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD INTERESTING MEETING

The Central Oregon Irrigation Company Water Users' Association held its regular quarterly meeting at Redmond last Saturday. There was a fair attendance and an especially good interest was shown. The secretary, W. W. Goward, who was at one time cashier in the company's office at Deschutes, has been active in preparing information and submitting it to the Desert Land Board in order to keep it informed as to the true conditions in the segregation. He was authorized by the association to prepare a brief setting forth the contentions of the settlers in regard to the various questions which have come up in regard to the rights of the settlers and to submit a copy of the same to the Desert Land Board, the Department of the Interior and to each member of the association.

It was clearly brought out at the meeting that questions of great moment to the settlers are arising and will be settled probably within the next few months, and that unless the settlers get together on some definite policy and co-operate in the bringing together of the proper information before the bodies who are to decide these questions, the settlers will suffer.

It was shown that on account of the "excess acreage" question the Department of the Interior had declared that the patents to lands coming in those lists containing "excess acreage" are defeasible. This and other important questions demanded the attention of the members and settlers present and they were urged to create a more lively interest among the settlers and in that way strengthen the organization.

The advertising staff of the High School Annual has been canvassing the business men for ads for their year book, which is to be published in the near future. The business houses and professional men all responded generously and it is hoped that the copy will be in the hands of the printer within the next few weeks.

The average man would rather lose \$5 on a horse race than a nickel through a hole in his pocket.—Chicago News.

Notice for Publication.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, March 31, 1916.

Notice is hereby given that Wellington P. Simer of Sisters, Oregon, Homestead Entry No. 616783 for the S½SW¼, Section 29, N½NW¼, Section 32, Township 14 South, Range 11 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before George E. Altken, United States Commissioner, at Sisters, Oregon, on the 12th day of May, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: C. A. Burnside, W. R. Abbey, Warren Edmunds, L. G. Grube, all of Sisters, Oregon.

H. FRANK WOODCOCK, Register.

(First publication April 6-May 4)

Notice for Publication.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, March 15, 1916.

Notice is hereby given that Hannah M. Anderson of Cline Falls, Oregon, Homestead Entry No. 07788, for the S½SE¼, NE¼SE¼, Section 20, and NW¼NE¼, Section 29, Township 15 South, Range 12 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five year proof to establish claim to the land above described before W. B. Daggett, U. S. Commissioner, at Redmond, Oregon, on the 28th day of April, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: B. F. Chase, W. F. Wood, J. T. Park and Richard Duggan, all of Cline Falls, Oregon.

H. FRANK WOODCOCK, Register.

(First publication Mar. 23-April 20)

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