

# Crook County Journal.

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## BULLY FOR BINGER.

### An Attempt to Oust Him Fails.

### Is An Honest Official.

#### His Decision in the Warner Valley Land Case is Sustained.

The following article from "The Sunday Globe," Washington D. C., refers to the contest between the settlers of Warner Valley and the State of Oregon and the Warner Valley Stock Company, over the lands in Warner Valley in litigation for so many years. The article, which is no doubt correct in the main points, shows commissioner Binger Hermann to be an honest public servant and a manly man. The Sunday Globe says:

The General Land Office has had some of the ablest and most distinguished statesmen at its head from the days of Lincoln, to the present occupant, ex-Congressman Binger Hermann of Oregon. The great Lincoln, at one period of his eventful life aspired to the position as the height of his ambition, but at the time lacked both the influence and standing to secure the coveted prize.

It is unnecessary to state that the General Land Office is in the Department of the Interior, as it has come to be understood, even among those who are not familiar with government affairs, that everything under the Government is in the Department of the Interior, if it hasn't been provided for especially elsewhere. The Commissioner or head of the General Land Office is, therefore, a subordinate, so to speak, of the Secretary of the Interior, but as a rule the Commissioner runs the office, and the Secretary perfunctorily approves his rulings.

In the case in point, however, an effort was not only made to set aside the Commissioner's ruling, but also to take his official head, that the way might be open to seat in the office a more compliant tool of the syndicate which sought to oust the settlers of Oregon and California from their lands and homes. The conspiracy had its inception in the office of Mr. Hermann, and its ramifications extended to the Secretary's private office. Every effort and pressure was brought to bear upon President McKinley to remove Herman, and it is miraculous he didn't yield, as the President has the rare faculty of substituting the right man with the wrong one. But in this instance, to his credit, be it said, he resisted the pressure, and Hermann remained.

Assistant-General Vanderver was very active in the fight waged, which came about in this way:

The settlers in Oregon and adjacent territory who had either settled on or improved their holdings, and who had obtained their right and title by the act of settlement, were to be ousted by a land syndicate, which based its claim on the defective condition under which the settlers took possession of the lands. The syndicate was powerful, and it had sufficient reasons to think that the squatter sovereigns would soon be its subjects, or ousted bodily from their

holdings. After the usual pleadings, statements and investigations the question came up to the General Land Office for adjudication. The Commissioner's character was known as one of singular integrity. In this era of compliant tools of trusts, syndicates and monopolies such a reputation indicates a dangerous man, from this point of view, and hence after "feeling him out" the syndicate set to work to oust him from office; and in pursuance of its plans secured the active aid of the conspirators in the Land Office itself. The people interested in a fair decision of the land question were not idle, and relying upon the absolute honesty of Mr. Hermann for a just decision they rallied to his support, and rival delegates daily visited the President, the one composed of syndicate tools, the other representatives of the people.

Now Mr. McKinley knew Mr. Hermann; he had served with him in congress, and as the President is himself an honest man, he entertained for the Commissioner that high esteem which one honest man has for another, and he resented all pressure for his removal.

The hour of the decision was approaching, the secretary's views were known to favor the syndicate and so were Vanderver's. Then a last effort and rally was made on the President, but he stood firm, and when the friends of Mr. Hermann called to stiffen the Presidential backbone, if necessary, Mr. McKinley said:

"I know the Commissioner. I served with him in congress, and I saw when he assumed the duties of his office no better man could have been selected. I say the same now, and he shall remain."

Mr. Hermann announced his opinion in favor of the settlers as against the subsidized legal views of the syndicate tools. The uprisings all along the Pacific slope on the Commissioner's decision admonished Secretary Hitchcock to get on the Hermann band-wagon which he immediately proceeded to do when he found how popular it was. The press and people unanimously approved the Commissioner's views, and the Secretary, much against his will, had to approve the same in the face of the verdict of public opinion. The Secretary gracefully did the act, however, and per consequence came in for his share of the applause, and much of the credit, as the modesty of the Commissioner shrunk from the orations which were being tendered the Land Office, and adroitly turned, as well as he could, the applause and approval towards the Secretary and the Administration.

The Land Office, which, up to its head, now began to wake up to the fact that a man and an honest statesman was at the helm, and with the customary acrobaticism of mere office holders, the flunky officials who had been aiding and abetting the conspiracy to get the scalp of their chief, now prostrated themselves with disgusting sycophancy and sang the praises of the Commissioner, whom they sought to destroy. But Mr. Herman, who was not dismayed at their hostility was just as indifferent to their flattery and he has pursued the even tenor of exact justice and compliance with his oath of office to the present moment.

It was a great triumph for Commissioner Hermann, and The Globe is proud to be able where so much is to be criticized, to eulogize, or rather record, the truth itself, which is the best eulogy, of one of the purest, and ablest, and the most incorruptible men who has ever held the important position of Commissioner of the Land Office.

## NATIVE GRASSES.

### Prof. Scribner Experiments With Others.

### Arid Land Stock Feed.

#### Turkestan Alfalfa, Brome Grass and Hairy Vetch Are the Best.

The old pioneer bunch grass was and is the best natural forage plant that ever grew, but it could not be expected to stand the stocking it had to and continue its existence. It was given no chance to seed and perpetuate itself, so that in many localities where it flourished it is now almost extinct.

To take its place many other grasses are being experimented with, and Prof. Scribner, a government grass expert of Washington, is coming out to see how they are coming on. He has given the subject of forage plants for semi-arid areas a great deal of attention, and it was upon his recommendation that the more successful varieties, Turkestan alfalfa, smooth brome, bromus inermis, and hairy vetch were distributed so widely. These three varieties are fitted to slightly different physical conditions, and where one will not thrive to any great extent, another produces excellent results.

All three of these grasses yield heavy crops, and are today believed to be the best forage plants known in this country, as adapted to localities where there is but a slight rainfall. Specimens of each grown at the department in Washington have proven excellent grasses, both as to hardiness and to the amount of production per acre. The alfalfa especially give heavy yields, the patch producing three crops a year and averaging 18 tons to the acre for the season.

Both the brome and vetch are heavy growers, the former being a pure grass, and the latter a specie of vine. Turkestan alfalfa, in its early stages closely resembles what is commonly known as wild clover. The only difference is that the alfalfa grows much thicker and generally higher.—Dalles Chronicle.

### New Incorporations.

In the Department of State, last Thursday the following articles of incorporation were filed:

The Columbia Dry Dock Company, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, in shares of \$100. The avowed purpose is the building of one or more drydocks on the Columbia river, the docking, building and repairing of sailing vessels, steamships and other water craft and do all things necessary to conduct such a business. The principal office is to be at Astoria and the incorporators are D. H. Warren of Warrenton, Clatsop county; Walter C. Smith of Portland, and A. B. Hammond, of Missoula, Mont.

The Haynes Printing Company with C. H. Thompson Frank Bolam and Edward Mendenhall, incorporators for the general purpose of job printing and publishing. The headquarters are at Portland and the stock is \$1500, in shares of \$50.—Statesman.

### The Bondsmen Sued.

Last Monday, at Salem, Attorney General Blackburn filed a complaint against the bondsmen of George W. Davis, the defaulting clerk of the state land commissioners. The complaint alleges that from January 1, 1890, to Dec. 13, 1894, with Sylvester Pennoyer, governor, G. W. McBride secretary of state, Phil Metchan, state treasurer, constituted the board of land commissioners and as such elected G. W. Davis clerk of their board; they fixed his bond at \$5000 and Davis gave bond in that sum with G. G. Bingham and E. P. McCormack as sureties.

Davis was short in his accounts \$30,948 at the time of expiration of his term of office, therefore the state asks judgment against Davis and the bondsmen for \$5000. The complaint is sworn to by J. N. Hart, as district attorney, signed by J. N. Hart and D. R. N. Blackburn attorney for the state.

George G. Bingham, one of the bondsmen, appeared as attorney for all the defendants, and the defendants are allowed till Sept. 1 to answer.

### Imported Stock.

The Baldwin Sheep and Land Co. have secured the services of Dwight Lincoln, of Center, who is considered one of the best judges of sheep in the United States, to go to Germany and France to select some choice ewes and bucks. Mr. Lincoln sailed from New York on the 23d of May, and he is now on the ground making selections. The company secured the privilege from the French government of going into the flocks of France and selecting such bucks as they desire for shipment, a privilege that is rarely granted to anyone outside of that country. When these new importations arrive they will be a most valuable acquisition to the company's choice herds.—Shaniko Leader.

### Protect the Fish.

Irrigation ditches, says an exchange, are becoming a fruitful source of destruction to trout especially in Eastern Oregon where irrigation is used to a far greater extent than in Western Oregon. The trout follow the water, the ditch at its source being an attractive stream to them, until they land high and dry in some alfalfa patch and ignominiously perish. Other western states have laws requiring the placing of screens at the sources of irrigating ditches to exclude the fish but this has been neglected in Oregon.

### Northwest's First White Child.

One of the most remarkable proofs of the amazing growth of that vast region of our country commonly called the Northwest, its numerous sisterhood of States and its population of more than seven million people, is the fact that it only a little more than eighty years since the first white baby was born there. The child was a girl, the daughter of a regular army officer, and she is still living. A fascinating account of her eventful life, the early years of which were spent among soldiers and savages, will appear in an early issue of The Ladies Home Journal.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

### Some Stolen, Others Not

#### Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week. Timely Topics.

Col. B. F. Alley, formerly proprietor of the Baker Republican, is conducting a restaurant in Prescott, Arizona, says the Herald.

C. W. Parrish, of Burns, was elected grand orator by the state body of the order of Native Sons at their recent session in Salem.

Heavy rains and cloud bursts in West Virginia have destroyed the lives of from one to three hundred people and property estimated at \$3,000,000.

Malheur, Baker and Union counties are to have a live, energetic deputy fish and game warden. Walter Moore has been appointed to the position by Warden Quimby.

The run of salmon in the Columbia river has thus far fallen 50 per cent below that of the same period last year, according to P. J. McGowan, the well known cannery man.

Another little white girl was found in a Chinese den in Portland Monday. The child is two years old, and the Chinese who had her showed a bill of sale from her mother, and say they paid \$35 and a ticket to Albany to the mother for the child.

Wayne Starr, who was arrested a few days ago at Sodaville, Linn county, for robbing the postoffice at Dusty, Benton county of \$40 in stamps and \$10 in money, has confessed his guilt. Starr is 22 years of age and is married.

A very important decision to the mining states of the West was recently made by the Supreme Court of Montana, and if sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, all mining claims, patented or unpatented, are taxable property.

Grant Mays, having concluded a horse round-up through northern Crook and southern Wasco has gone to Portland to make arrangements for shipping a train load to Kansas City. Ben Allen and Taylor Hill of Prineville, will help make up the train, which will probably start from Shaniko about the 5th of July.—Dalles Chronicle.

Ex-chief of police W. L. Meredith and John W. Considine, of Seattle, indulged in a shooting bee which ended in the death of Meredith last Tuesday. The affair was the outgrowth of an old feud. Considine is a well known gambler and has for years run a gambling house in Seattle and another in Spokane.

The Dalles Scouring Mills have for weeks been running to their full capacity night and day. They have already handled in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 pounds of wool, counting what is on hand not yet scoured.—Chronicle. The Prineville scouring mills have not yet handled more than a million pounds, but it is not the fault of the wool which goes from here to the Dalles to be scoured.