

The Timber Land Law.

Commissioner Hermann urges in his annual report that the timber lands be turned over to his office, in which he thinks business relating to them should be attended to, rather than directly by the Secretary of the Interior and his assistants, as it seems is now the practice.

However that may be, the Commissioner's recommendation as to the price of timber lands is timely, and ought to be acted upon by Congress at the earliest opportunity. Under the law, passed 30 years ago, timber lands, regardless of real value, are sold at \$2.50 per acre.

If these lands were actually taken in good faith, secured and held, as contemplated by the law, by actual individual settlers, it would not be so important to raise the price; the Government would then be simply giving a great many citizens a good bargain.

As it is, a comparatively few capitalists are simply making millions of dollars out of the people. Mr. Hermann says that during the 30 years that the law has been in force, the Government has received only \$13,000,000 for its timber lands, and that such lands sold in that time are worth at least \$130,000,000; that is, the Government has made a gift of \$117,000,000, less some expenses and interest, to the purchasers of the lands, most of which are owned by a comparatively few persons or syndicates.

This is wrong, even shameful; yet it is to be observed that these lands, if held in single tracts of 160 acres each, by as many individuals, as contemplated by the law, would have a far less value than they now have.

I admire the position you are taking in regard to setting out forest fires, and could you see the devastation to the farmers here from the carelessness of hunters and campers with their fires, you would say that a law making it a misdemeanor to hunt or put out a camp fire during the dry season would be about the proper thing.

Respectfully yours, L. W. VAN DYKE, Sec'y Springwater Fire Relief Committee.

The statement made since Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's death that she had no belief in immortality or a future life will jar harshly upon many a sensitive soul, who cannot understand how any person, especially a noble-minded and exceptionally gifted woman like Mrs. Stanton, could be devoid of such a belief, common to most people, and almost universal among women.

Great Lack of an Editor.

"For two years all efforts to cure Eczema in the palms of my hands failed," writes Editor H. N. Lester, of Syracuse, Kas., "then I was wholly cured by Bucklen's Arnica Salve."

Timber Loss By Fire.

The Timberman: It is with pleasure that I comply with your request of 25th inst. The damage done in Clackamas county by the fire of September 11-13 is rather hard to estimate. The committee here, of which your correspondent is secretary, are gathering data as fast as possible. The information I am giving you in this letter only covers a territory of about forty square miles, that is, a strip about ten miles long and four miles wide. The strip includes the settlements of Kickapoo, Rocky Point and Springwater. I am unable at this time to give the losses sustained at Beaver creek, Highlands, Viola and other points in the county; but I may in the near future be able to supply the deficiency.

Now a word to the timber. This part of Clackamas county is not noted for its first class timber, for as a rule, the trees are short and very limby. I find by close inquiry that about 10 sections have been burned over, and with the exceptions of about two sections, the timber stumpage would amount to no more than for cordwood.

While the people of Springwater and vicinity have received considerable aid from Oregon City and elsewhere in the way of clothing, money, etc., for their immediate wants, yet much suffering will be experienced before spring. While losses have been very heavy, insurance has been very light as only a very few were insured, and then for only a nominal sum.

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Such a belief is in many if not most cases a constant correcter of life; such a hope is to the average woman a consolation in sorrow and a "very present help in time of trouble." Mrs. Stanton was an exceptionally "strong minded" woman; she was the victim of few if any delusions; in spite of her lack of faith in a future life, she lived a happy, and useful life here, lived in and for the present and with regard for this world and its people only.

I know not where thy islands lift Their fringed palms in air; I only know I cannot drift Beyond his love and care. And so beside the silent sea I wait the muffled oar, Knowing no harm can come to me On ocean or on shore.

Jumped on a Ten Penny Nail.

The little daughter of Mr. J. N. Powell jumped on an inverted rake made of ten penny nails, and thrust one nail entirely through her foot and a second one half way through. Chamberlain's Pain Balm was promptly applied and five minutes after the pain had disappeared and no more suffering was experienced.

Oregon Lawyer Disbarred.

In the case of State of Oregon ex rel grievance committee of the State Bar Association vs. Henry St. Rayner, disbarment proceedings, the Supreme Court ordered St. Rayner's disbarment the opinion being handed down by Chief Justice Moore.

The charge against St. Rayner is the wilful withdrawal of two pages of testimony from the records in the case against Frank McDaniel, afterwards convicted of the killing of Adelaide Claire Fitch, and the substitution of two other sheets reading differently, in lieu thereof. The evidence is so convincing of the guilt of St. Rayner that the Supreme Court is forced to its unpleasant conclusion.

"Last winter an infant child of mine had croup in a violent form," says Elder John W. Rogers, a Christian Evangelist, of Filley, Mo. "I gave her a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and in a short time all danger was past and the child recovered."

Government Work in the Mountains of Idaho.

The United States Geological Survey has just issued reprints of the Bear Valley and Idaho Basin map sheets, which cover portion of the mountainous country of Western Idaho. Portions of Idaho, Custer, Boise, Elmore, and Alturas counties are included on the maps, as are also the Idaho City region and the rugged crest of the Sawtooth Range for much of its length.

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W. I. Lawrence, Agent, Biggs, Oregon.

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