

Crook County Journal.

VOL. VII.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, DECEMBER 25, 1902.

NO. 2

LAND LAWS TO STAND

No Changes Will be made this Congress.

Repeal Lieu Land Law.

Game Warden Quimby Recommends Many Changes in Game Laws.

It was practically decided at a meeting of the house land committee yesterday not to attempt any legislation in the direction of reforming the land laws, as recommended by President Roosevelt in his annual message, says a Washington dispatch of Dec. 12. The Quarles-Powers bill repealing the timber, desert and homestead communication laws was taken up informally. The committee was practically unanimous in rejecting all three sections of the bill, the only constructive legislation suggested being a proposition to increase the price of commuted homesteads from \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre, and to increase the price of timber lands in states west of the Rocky mountains from \$2.50 to \$5 or even \$10 an acre.

The timber law was favored as it stands, especially by the members from Colorado and Wyoming, on the ground that the law is being honestly carried out and was benefiting the arid states. The committee also took the ground that commutation of a homestead should be allowed to provide for cases in which it was a hardship on the settler to reside five years upon his claim before securing title. In fact, the recommendations of the president found not a single supporter in this committee.

Chairman Lacey stated this afternoon that he was in favor of disposing of the matter at once and if that course is taken it means that no bill will be returned by the committee to the house—this notwithstanding that Mr. Lacey himself a day or two ago introduced separate bills repealing the desert and commutation laws. He seems to regard this action as a temporary aberration on his part.

Mr. Lacey maintains that it would be a practical repeal of the irrigation law to repeal the present land laws, as proposed, on the ground that notwithstanding the provisions of that law, no settler on land irrigated by the government will ever pay back into the treasury any of the cost of putting water on his land, thus indicating the probable passage at some future of another free homes bill to apply to the government irrigated area. His solicitude for the reclamation fund is not entirely in accord with his opposition last winter to the enactment of the law creating the same.

The senate land committee has practically agreed not to take up the Quarles bill until the latter part of January. There is now considerable doubt as to the attitude of this committee toward any changes in the land laws. The majority one way or the other would be narrow and the report would probably be divided. There are no active interests behind these measures except the recommendations of the department and of the president. The bill carries no appropriation for expenditure in the states affected, and in fact would have rather the effect of limiting operations. The suggestions are looked upon as purely matters of public policy, and local interests are apparently opposed to legislation which embodies the idea of the greatest good to the

greatest number. Like the tariff the land question is a local issue.

Prospects at this time for any land legislation at this session of congress are slight. There is an equal probability that the interior department will make little or no headway in securing a law for the protection of timber on the public domain at this session. In discussing the status of the land laws, nearly every member of the house committee stated that he believed the laws as they stood to be theoretically correct, and that if they are properly administered no loss should fall upon the government, and that lawful settlement of the country would proceed to the advantage of all.

Coupled with these statements, however, and considerable criticism of the administration of the land office, to the effect that the administration was lax in investigating the legality of filings and final proofs, and in accepting alleged improvements which did not really comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

Commissioner Herman, of the general land office, has conferred with the chairman of the public lands committees of both house and senate relative to the pending bills to repeal the timber and stone act, which he regards, in its present shape, as bad legislation, says a Washington dispatch to the Oregonian. But before that law is repealed the commissioner urges the repeal or modification of the forest reserve lieu-land law, which he says is the most vicious law on the statute books.

The repeal of the timber and stone act would cut off all ways of procuring title to government timber lands save by scrip filings. The minute this situation is brought about, the commissioner argues, lieu base will immediately take a jump in price and will ultimately find its way in large quantities into the hands of corporations or speculators. With all other timber entry cut off, they would then enjoy the undisputed right to secure, in full accordance with the law, the very best government timber land that is on surveyed lands. Either repeal the lieu land law entirely, says the commissioner, or amend it to provide that when lands within reserves are relinquished to the government the tracts selected in lieu shall be not only of the same area but of approximately the same value as the tracts turned back to the government.

While both Senator Quarles and Representative Lacey were inclined to admit the right of the argument, they gave no assurance that the proposed change will be enacted this session. In fact, the chances are decidedly against action.

New Use for 'X Rays.'

New York, Dec. 16.—A Philadelphia firm, according to a press dispatch from that city, has received an order from the Japanese government for several X ray machines which are to be used for a novel purpose. The firm some time ago sold to a representative of the Mikado an X ray machine which the Japanese explained, was to be used in the governmental mints in Japan for the detection of dishonest employees who stole by swallowing them. The machine was used to examine suspects as they left the mint daily, and of course it revealed the presence of any coins "in the midst." The test was so satisfactory that the Mikado ordered several more machines, hoping to prevent the form of theft referred to.

SOME GOOD WORK.

Representative Moody Stops Steal.

A Neat Little Game

Does The Prosperity and Permanence of Prineville Depend Upon a Railway? Moody Does Some Good Work.

The watchfulness of Representative Moody in the committee of Indian affairs, has prevented another land grabbing scheme of the first water slipping into the appropriation bill as an innocent looking amendment. Just as the House committee was about to report the bill, Acting Chairman Curtis presented an amendment which, he said, was recommended by the Indian office, providing that, where Indian reservations, created subsequent to the grants to transcontinental railways, were found to embrace alternate sections belonging to such railroads, the companies should have the right to relinquish these sections and select in lieu thereof lands of equal area anywhere on the public domain, either from the surveyed or unsurveyed lands.

Mr. Moody recognized that this was a provision even more sweeping than the forest reserve lieu selection was proving, and so informed the committee. After the evil effects were pointed out, the provision was sent back to the Indian Office with a request that the Commissioner frame an amendment either proposing to purchase these lands direct from the Indians or permit an exchange on an equitable basis.

As he pursued the case further, Mr. Moody found that the legislation was suggested by one of the land grant roads which owns over a million and a half acres of land in Indian reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, lands worth not over one cent an acre, but which under the proposed legislation could be exchanged for lands worth \$10 an acre and more. This is only one of several roads that would benefit.

Now that the purpose of the innocent looking provision is known, there is little danger of its incorporation in the bill. When the railroad attorneys laid their case before the department they grossly misrepresented the facts and managed to throw a blind over the eyes of Indian Office officials. Had it not been for Mr. Moody, this scheme would have gotten in the bill and probably passed.—Oregonian.

Mr. Epton:—

As I view the matter from all practical stand points I must answer in the negative, providing we prepare for the struggle that will come in the event of railways outside of our city, to dislodge and remove the county seat from us.

How can we help it, is asked, if the balance of power and population is located west of us?

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Let us make Prineville a city of "no mean" reputation by such institutions as I have already proposed and let us build a court house that will not and cannot be duplicated for a generation to come. We have some of the best material in the world accessible, and Crook county is able to put up a structure that will be an honor to her people for a hundred years to come. "Let us arise and build" a \$25,000 or \$30,000 court house, and let us secure these other buildings also by our generous and freewill offerings,

and we shall not need to fear for the future of Prineville, nor for the lack of Railway facilities, if they come within reach of us at all. Business men of Prineville and Crook county! "There is that with holdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty; while there is that which scatterth and yet it increaseth." Such is the conclusion of the wisest man the world ever knew. Is it not wisdom yet and does it not apply today?

Our attention to irrigation is timely and well done. "Yet these things ought ye to have done and not to leave others undone." For the doing of the first will be the cause of Prineville's undoing, unless we lay in store against the day of its successful operation.

E. A. CHILD.

To Get More Settlers.

Potter & Chapin, of Portland, have just received from Immigration Agent G. M. McKinney, of the Harriman lines, appointment as land and immigration agents for Oregon, and their headquarters will be in Mr McKinney's office in Chicago. These men receive this appointment by reason of their connection with the Tumello irrigation enterprise. The 27,000 acres covered by that project offers so important a field for settlers that it is deemed worth while to offer special facilities for bringing it before the attention of Eastern homeseekers.

The Three Sisters Irrigation Company which has obtained the contract for reclaiming the Tumello valley is closely allied with the Columbia Southern Railroad Company, and the preparations are now being made to change the name of the corporation to the Columbia Southern Irrigation Company. The company has a force of men in the field clearing right of way and doing rock work. Three miles of canal are already completed, and the intention is to bring a large share of the entire tract under ditch for next season's crop. With this understanding, Potter & Chapin are going after the settlers, using the advantages of the Harriman immigration agency to help them in the work. Results of considerable importance to the state are expected from this movement in the Deschutes valley.

The Three Sisters irrigation project is off at one side the main valley, and it has escaped the criticism that has been directed against some of the reclamation enterprises. The board of trade of Bend has formally indorsed the operations of the Three Sisters Company. Potter & Chapin will enter the immigration office in Chicago about the first of next month.

Uncle Ephraim's Philosophy.—De watermillion dat is greenest in de rind may hab de reddest heart.

A catfish on de line is wort a whale in de watah.

De biggest thoutah ain't allers de man what sees de contribushion plattah.

When de possum thinks he's slyest he's closest to de fryin' pan.

Cole pertaters from yo' own patch is bettah dan chicken from yo' neighbor's coop.

If yo' don't pull up de weeds yo' won't dig up a crap.

De longah de face de longah de mis'ry.

Sleep's mighty good, but de rabbit ain't a gwine to wake de gunnah.

De higah de white collah, de blackah de colahed pusson looks.

De man whats allers gibbin, away ginnerally has to go a-borrowin' to de man what keeps what he gits.

Emptyin' de pantry fer dinnah ain't a-gwine to set de table fer suppah.—Youth's Companion.

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Callings From Our Exchanges—News Notes of the Week—Timely Topics.

Morton Tower has been appointed by President Roosevelt collector of customs for the district of Southern Oregon.

Fourteen million salmon were turned out of the government hatchery at Little White Salmon into the Columbia river the past year.

At present there are 243 students registered at the State University. This does not include the students in the medical and law departments at Portland nor those in the musical department at Eugene.

George Smith, the colored wife murderer, will not be hanged in Portland next Friday, as Judge George yesterday signed a certificate of probable cause, which is in effect to stay the proceedings until an appeal can be taken to the supreme court.

A country editor writing on trusts says that the country newspaper combine is the biggest trust on earth. It trusts everybody, gets cussed for trusting, mistrusted for cussing, and if it busts for trusting, gets cussed for busting.

According to last week's Herald, we are now a first class editor and a fourth class postmaster. On looking over the efforts in this issue we discover it to be a third class newspaper for which we will collect second class postage—thus our numerical status is settled.—Antelope Herald.

It is announced that the railroads leading to the Pacific coast will put into effect a special immigration rate next spring, and if so there will be a considerable influx into this country. Eastern Oregon will certainly get its share of the new comers since it offers many inducements to the homeseekers.

They are to have a new line of railroad from Grants Pass to Crescent City; the Coos Bay road may be extended to Roseburg; it is said the rails for the Portland-Nehalem and Tillamook road have been purchased. The Oregon Coast country will yet find out it is a part of Oregon, by stronger evidence than when the people west of the Coast Range pay their State taxes or come to the Asylum or Penitentiary, or the Legislature.

The War Department is having trouble in fitting uniforms to our Filipino scouts. The first 5,000 were cut for the slim physiques characteristic of the little brown men. Col. Humphry now says that they have fattened so rapidly on the subsistence stores furnished that it is almost impossible for them to get into their uniforms.

A case believed to be without parallel in political history was discovered in Montana, when it was found that the electors of Silver Bow county had been casting their votes for a man who had been dead seven days before the polls opened. Another peculiar feature of the case is that the dead man ran ahead of his ticket and was elected county treasurer on the socialist ticket.

Perry McDaniel, who has been out to the desert with his sheep was in Lakeview Monday. Perry says he has his sheep located at the head of Buzzard canyon in Harney

county, 120 miles north-east of here. He thinks the feed on the desert is better than he ever saw it, and accounts for it from the fact that the water there dried up earlier than usual, and the sheep were forced to move off sooner than customary, and thus the grass was saved.—Examiner.

Amended Homestead Law.

Washington.—Bills were introduced by Representative Lacy (Iowa) to repeal the desert land law commutation provisions of the homestead laws.

Dalles Sharpshooters.

It is not often that the best marksmen are able to kill a turkey at 600 yards range, but this feat has been accomplished by four men in The Dalles. A year ago Thanksgiving A. Y. Marsh, who conducts the holiday shooting matches, brought down a turkey at 600 yards and this year the same thing was done by two old men and one youth. The successful nimrods were Dr. Siddall, A. J. Anderson and H. S. Wilson. The doctor is past 70 years and Mr. Anderson is nearly that age, and both are excellent shots with a rifle. Mr. Wilson thinks when he gets the age of his associates on the range he will be able to bring down a turkey at a thousand yards, if he improves in the future as he has in the past.

The killing of a turkey 600 yards away is indeed remarkably good shooting, and it is doubtful if another town in the state can furnish four men who can accomplish the feat.—Mountaineer.

Ashwood Items.

Geo Massamore left here last Thursday for Baker City.

J. M. Hamilton of Antelope spent several days in this vicinity this week.

Jim Wood and Charley Duncan are doing the assessment on the Cymri claim.

Miss Maggie Boyd, sister of Mrs. Stanton Black arrived in town on a visit to her sister.

B. F. German the rustling drummer for Wadhams & Kerr Bros. was in town Monday.

Charley Swanson and Dan Evans are doing assessment work on one of the Kimberly claims.

Wm. Wiley manager of the Antelope G. & S. mining company was here Tuesday looking for some miners to work on the property.

Mrs. P. Lehrman who had been visiting her folks in Prineville returned home on Sunday and Pete doesn't look as lonesome as he did.

The cold weather of the last three days has frozen the mud and traveling though somewhat rough is much better than it was.

Chas. Derham the veteran sawmill man was in town several days this week. He has shut the mill down for the winter and is on a collecting tour.

M. L. Oliver, foreman of the B. S. & L. company's ranch on Upper Trout, arrived home from Silverton on Saturday. He brought a team and wagon with him and came by way of The Dalles.

Miss Mae Smith, who has been teaching school here, and Miss Katie sorts, who has been teaching on Blizzard Ridge, will leave here today to spend the holidays at their homes in the valley. Miss Smith is expected back in a couple of weeks to teach the balance of the winter.

PICK AND DRILL.