

# Oregon City Enterprise

CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

Published Every Friday.

### Subscription Rates.

One year.....\$2 00  
 Six months..... 1 00  
 Trial subscription, two months..... 25  
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Entered at the postoffice at Oregon City, Oregon, as second-class matter.



### THE PUBLIC LAND FRAUDS.

The reports of the commissioner of the general land office for the last two or three years show beyond any possibility of question that large areas of the public domain are passing into the hands of speculators in violation of the purposes for which the land laws were intended. Whether or not there has been collusion in any respect on the part of government officials or employees is something for the future to show. The latest charges to the effect that some of the speculators have had valuable advance information as to the creation of forest reserves are exceedingly serious, if they prove to be true.

That a strong effort will be made at the coming session of Congress to change the land laws on the lines of President Roosevelt's suggestions is certain. The desert land law, the timber and stone act and the commutation clause of the homestead act are all under fire as lending themselves in their present form to the manipulations of the speculators of the speculators. Last winter the public lands committee of the Senate reported by a majority of one in favor of the repeal of all three laws, while the minority of the committee favored amendment instead of repeal.

Senator Hansbrough, the chairman of the committee, is now, it is said, preparing several bills on the lines of the minority report. He proposes to amend the desert land law so as to prohibit the assignment of a desert right prior to the making of final proof, or, in other words, three years from the date of entry. The timber land act he would amend by providing for an examination and estimate of the value of the timber by federal agents, and for the sale of the stumpage to the highest bidder, with a fixed minimum price below which no timber shall be sold. The commutation clause of the homestead act he believes can profitably be left as it is for the present.

The subject has become of the highest importance and must be given thorough consideration.—Exchange.

### DON'T KNOW WHAT HURTS.

Commissioner Richards, of the U. S. general land office, thinks there has been much "collusion" in timber land entries during the past year or two, in the interest of syndicates and corporations and will recommend some material modifications of the timber and stone act under which the timber land claims have most been taken.

Evidently Mr. Richards knows there is an evil somewhere, but doesn't know where to locate it. Like the sick boy "he knows he hurts somewhere but can't locate the hurt." One of the greatest evils connected with securing title to timber lands that has been practiced on the coast is that of permitting syndicates to file script on these lands. By this method they have gained title to thousands of acres that should have been reserved for individuals, and at light expense. But under the workings of the present timber and stone act, or in fact under the workings of any act that may be passed, syndicates will get control of the most valuable timber lands in a very short time, for so long as the government sells the land to individuals, it becomes their property so soon as patent issues, and they will sell it to the highest bidder.

There is but one way to check the increasing holdings of syndicates in timber land, and that is for the government to cease selling timber lands under any conditions. If such action were taken, and the government allowed timber used only under strict regulations, whereby the young growth would be protected, a reform would be effected, and future generations would be protected from the avarice of syndicates. But this would be savoring somewhat of socialism, and perhaps Commissioner Richards is too conservative to recommend such a course.—The Dalles Mountaineer.

### OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK IN PORTO RICO.

Accounts of the remarkable material progress made by Porto Rico under American rule have come to us from time to time, indicating that the promises of an industrial awakening throughout the island through the stimulus of American occupation have been more than fulfilled.

Some time ago in The Outlook George Marvin gave a graphic and comprehensive review of this industrial progress since American intervention, paying particular attention to the invasion of the American trolley car and the automobile, the establishment of telephone systems in Ponce and San Juan, express and telegraph service, the building of ice-making plants,

sugar mills and American cafes, as well as the improved methods of agriculture. That this progress has been reflected in the export and import statistics was also shown in statistics presented by Mr. Marvin. From these figures it appeared that our shipments to the island have multiplied eight times since 1898, while within the same period Porto Rico exports to the United States have increased from \$2,415,000 to \$12,000,000.

More gratifying than all this, however, is the extension of the American school system in the island and the work already accomplished in educational lines. There was not a public school on the island when Geo. Wendell Moore, of Newark, Ohio, was appointed superintendent of education. In an interview in The Record-Herald Mr. Moore states that there are now twenty graded school buildings, costing from \$10,000 to \$25,000 each, four high schools and twenty-five rural schools, costing about \$2000 each. The enrollment for the coming year, it is thought, will exceed 30,000, with 1000 native teachers and 200 American teachers.

Notwithstanding this extension of public school facilities there are 100,000 children who cannot receive the benefits of free education until an insular fund for this purpose can be increased. The progress already made, however, in expending this agency for the rational "Americanization" of the Porto Ricans is highly creditable to the government.

### HOW HE BECAME CONGRESSMAN.

It is related that when Senator Bailey, of Texas, was a struggling young lawyer, there was a Democratic congress convention in his neighborhood, and he started to walk to it. On the way he met a farmer, who gave him a lift. "Going to the convention?" asked Bailey, after awhile. "Yep," said the farmer. "Ever hear of a young lawyer named Bailey 'round here?" asked Bailey. "Nope," said the farmer. "Good speaker and bright fellow, I understand," suggested Bailey. "S'pose so," said the farmer. "Yep," continued Bailey, "and he will be over there today, and I tell you what we'll do. We'll call on him to make a speech. You see all your friends, tell them about Bailey, and we'll call on him." The farmer said "all right." No more was mentioned about the matter until there was a lapse in the convention during the preliminary movements of the body. Suddenly the old farmer up and suggested that the convention hear from Mr. Bailey, "a risin' young lawyer of these diggin's," he said. "an' a feller who talks like puttin' out fire." "Bailey! Bailey! Bailey!" More than a dozen yells went up, and Bailey came forth. Joe Bailey made one of the hottest speeches of his life, and the upshot of the whole thing was that the "risin' young lawyer of these diggin's" got the nomination for congress.

### EDUCATIONAL TEST FOR IMMIGRANTS.

Commissioner General Sargent of the Federal Immigration Bureau, has recommended an educational test as an amendment to the immigration laws. There is sure to be quite a difference of opinion in Congress on this subject, but many undesirable immigrants would be excluded by such a test. A grown man who can neither read nor write in his own or any other language, is not, as a rule, a desirable addition to the country's population, although some good men have come in as immigrants who could neither read nor write. The best interests of the country would be served by an educational test. Another amendment proposed by Mr. Sargent would exclude all immigrants 60 years of age, unless they have ample means or are coming to friends who are able to care for them. Many old people now find their way to this country and then get located in almshouses and other such institutions. Mr. Sargent would not permit any man to land unless he had sufficient means to take care of himself until he expected to find employment. Many do come in without any money whatever. With almshouses and eleemosynary institutions half full of foreign born persons, Mr. Sargent's amendments to the immigration laws are apparently necessary.

With the re-organization for active work of the Oregon City Board of Trade, the time is ripe for presenting in their true light the natural resources and particular advantages that this locality afford. Let's put our shoulders to the wheel and make Oregon City the point of increased importance to which it is entitled by reason of its geographical location. More factories and labor-employing institutions are needed. These can best be acquired by encouraging new people to these parts. By increasing the demand for the products of manufacturing plants, much is accomplished in paving the way for furnishing the means with which to supply the demand.

In the belief that Oregon City and Clackamas county have a bright future, with encouraging prospect of extensive settlement and development, Harvey E. Cross, an aggressive worker for the up-building of the community in every possible way, is advertising for sale desirable property. His advertisement, which appears on the first page of the Enterprise, is a readable presentation of facts and will be worth reading each week.

A HARVARD professor has proposed the latest mathematical problem that at the present time is perplexing the best of them in this state. The puzzler is stated as follows: Mary is 24 years old. Mary is twice as old as Ann was when Mary was as old as Ann is now. How old is Ann?

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His system of treatment is thoroughly scientific and immensely superior to the ordinary methods. It includes several remedies carefully selected to suit each individual case and in the final result of twenty-five years of very extensive research and experience in treating this class of diseases.

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Mr. Julius Keister, of 350 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, testifies that Dr. Miles cured him after ten able physicians had failed. Mrs. R. Trimmer, of Greenspring, Pa., was cured after many physicians had pronounced her case "hopeless."

As all afflicted readers may have \$3.75 worth of special treatment free, we would advise them to send for it at once. Address, Dr. Franklin Miles, Grand Dispensary, 513 to 523 Main street, Elkhart, Ind., Mention Oregon City City Enterprise in your reply.

Now Located at Alameda.—Rev. Gilman Parker, a former pastor of the First Baptist church in this state and for the last six months a missionary in Oregon for that denomination, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the church at Alameda, California.

### It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25cts. Sold by Chamberlain & Co., druggists.

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