

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Excerpts From Hermann's Annual Report.

TRANSACTIONS OF PAST YEAR

There are nearly 35,000 acres of unappropriated and unreserved lands in the State of Oregon.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—The main part of the annual report of Commissioner Hermann, which has just been given out...

According to this report the aggregate area of unappropriated and unreserved lands in Oregon was 37,794,023 acres.

In Washington, Seattle land district, 2888 acres were taken for normal school, 18,823 acres for public buildings, and 790 acres for school land in the Yakima River Company.

During the past year one coal-land patent for 179 acres was issued in Oregon, seven patents for 1921 acres in Washington and none for coal in Idaho.

Mineral and mill site claims were issued as follows: Oregon 25, Idaho 148, Washington 32.

The mineral area covered by these claims is given at 31,792 acres in Oregon, 8723 acres in Washington, and 2,830,111 in Idaho.

Railroad and Water Road Grants. During the year lands were patented on account of railroad and water road grants as follows:

Eight thousand two hundred and four acres in Oregon to the Oregon & California Railroad; 2399 acres in Oregon to the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Water Road Company.

The report shows that selections of 1223 acres of swamp land in Oregon were approved, and 2525 acres of this land was patented. The total amount patented since the date of the grant is 24,975 acres.

Considerable land has been selected by Washington and Idaho for purposes as indicated.

In Washington, Seattle land district, 2888 acres were taken for normal school, 18,823 acres for public buildings, and 790 acres for school land in the Yakima River Company.

The general land office during the year accepted 23,000 surveys in Oregon, 236,656 acres in Washington, and 849,057 acres in Idaho.

Bounty land warrants covering 569 acres were located in Oregon, and 230 acres in Washington.

The amounts set aside for surveys in these States were: Oregon \$23,000, Washington 30,000, Idaho 30,000.

Surveys in Northwest. In reviewing the work of survey in these States the Commissioner says:

"The funds applicable to surveys in this district are derived from the apportionment of \$20,000 from the regular appropriation for public land surveys for the year, and special deposits made by various transportation companies, amounting to \$1,811.50.

The Surveyor-General reports that within the year all the work of examining, platting, transcribing, and transmitting the returns of 46 townships, whole or fractional, has been completed in his office, containing a total of 286 miles of lines surveyed and an area of 737,946 acres.

"The apportionment for extension of public land surveys for Washington for the fiscal year ended was \$20,000, besides \$14,336 of special deposits for the survey of railroad lands.

There were 12 townships surveyed and accepted, with surveyed lines aggregating 1293 miles and an area of 335,285 acres of land.

"To this district the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for public land surveys in the last fiscal year, and \$14,336 in addition was received from special deposits for the survey of Northern Pacific Railroad lands, which, with an additional appropriation of \$800 for surveys in Fort Hall Indian Reservation, make an aggregate of \$33,336 that was available for surveys of public lands.

The total amount of land surveyed, approved and platted in the land division of the office is reported as 2223 miles 27 chains and 85 links, embracing 318,425 acres, in 59 different townships.

More than 25 per cent of the whole area of the State is now surveyed, the portion remaining unsurveyed being estimated at nearly 35,000 acres. The Surveyor-General believes that there will be a constant increase in the requirements for both mineral and agricultural surveys for many years.

"In his annual report the Surveyor-General of Alaska refers to the great need of a rapid extension of lines of survey in the immense areas where rapid settlement and valuable interests already prevail, and presents this estimate for the extension of surveys for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902:

For survey of public lands, mission stations and other reservations... \$108,872. In support of this large estimate he refers to the vast expanse of grazing lands, containing valleys adapted to the production of oats, potatoes and other vegetables; also to valuable coal deposits, to which no title can be acquired in advance of regular surveys.

"The Surveyor-General also protests against the rule of the law of May 14, 1898, by which homesteads are limited to 80 acres, and earnestly recommends to Congress through the department that it amend the said act of May 14, 1898, so as to allow homestead entries to be made in Alaska for 160 acres of land, 80 acres in the United States and 80 acres in Alaska, and to permit the same to be made in other States and Territories."

HOP MARKET WEAK

Developments Have Been Unfavorable to Growers.

BEARS DOMINATE SITUATION

Dealers Report First-Class Hops Available at 10 Cents a Pound—Half of Oregon Product Sold—One-Third Shipped Away.

From the point of view of the grower of hops, the market last week was regarded as unfavorable. Early in the week the bulls found consolation in announcements of 10 1/2 cent hops, but sales toward the end of the week seemed to be on the side of the bears. The product has eased up in the past few days and there has been a much freer movement. Consign-

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TAX LEVY SPECULATIONS.

On Increased Valuation 24 Mills Will Yield Sufficient Revenue.

Now that the assessment of property in Multnomah County has been completed and the Assessor has raised the valuation of the county to be 25 per cent of the real value, taxpayers and tax-dodgers as well as beginning to wonder what the tax levy is going to be.

As to what the tax levy in this city and Multnomah County is to be, it is very early to venture a prediction. While the levy will be lower, it is probable that the amount raised will be something more than was raised last year.

Expectations are that the levy will probably be about 24 mills. Last year the total levy was 23 1/2 mills. It is figured that a levy of 22 1/2 mills on the present valuation would raise as much as the 23 1/2 mill levy of last year did, and that a 24-mill levy will bring in for this city \$60,000 more than the levy of last year produced.

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The School Board last year, in addition to the regular 6-mill school tax levy, made a special levy of 4 1/2 mills. The school district is said to be in better condition now than the past eight or 10 years. With the increase arising from the regular 6-mill levy on the increased valuation, a 1 1/2-mill special tax will give the schools more money than they had last year with a 4 1/2-mill special tax.

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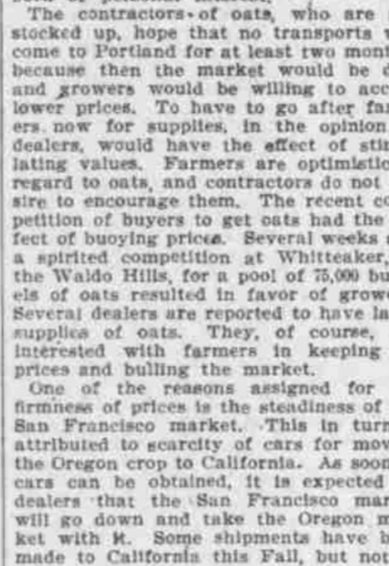
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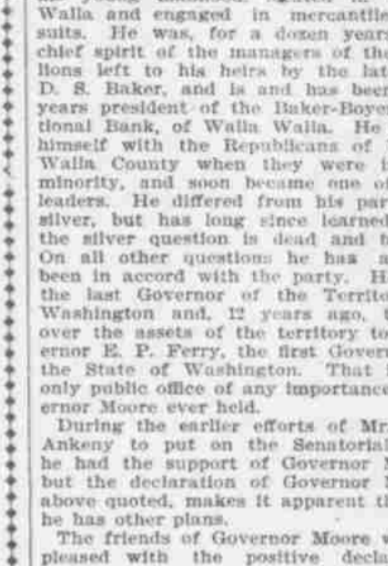
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