

GEER REPLIES TO BUSHEY

AND SHEDS QUITE A LITTLE OF THE DESIRED LIGHT.

He Hints, Also, That Republican Support is Desirable Before as Well as After Nomination.

SALEM, Feb. 24.—(To the Editor.)—It must not be supposed that all those attacking the present state administration will be gratified by a notice of their invitations in that direction, but the pathetic plea of Mr. Bushey, "and some of my friends for information, was so childlike and bland that I will see what can be done for him, and especially "for his friends."

It is in the interest of the conservation of space that he sums up his grievances in a list of seven questions, to which he yearns for answers. The first noticeable thing about his questions is that the name of General W. H. Odell is mentioned in each of them. The first question which I am to answer inquires if General Odell "is in the business of furnishing information as to 'base lands' for a compensation charged by himself." Really and candidly, I have so understood that he is. I am also credibly informed that Marconi is experimenting with wireless telegraphy, but I have thought best not to interfere in either case, although I have the right to regulate Marconi's business that I have General Odell's. Whether the compensation is charged by him—as alleged—or whether other members of the board are to charge it for him, or whether he furnishes it free, I have really neglected to inform myself.

The second question asks "If it is not a fact that Odell keeps records for the state, showing the base lands and selections of lieu land by the state?"

My only information about this momentary question is what has been seen in the papers. If he is guilty of the alleged crime, especially if he prepared them for himself instead of turning them over to Mr. Bushey, he should undoubtedly be punished to the extent of his discharging his duties. It may be that General Odell retains a knowledge of the multiplication table which he acquired when at school, and that he is using it to his own benefit. I shall certainly look into this grave matter at once and report direct to Mr. Bushey. It is quite likely that if General Odell prepared records for himself, that in some way I should have prevented it.

"This Same Odell." This is not also a fact that this same Odell has his office in the Statehouse at Salem, and has a desk in, and occupies as an office, the room which is occupied by the State Agent, who was appointed by the Governor, without the intervention of the other members of the board?

There is a man named Odell who has a desk in the office of the State Land Agent, and he may be "this same Odell." I confess the names are strikingly similar. In 1886, while Clerk of the State Land Office, Odell was appointed as State Agent of the Interior against the allotment to the Indians of that part of the Klamath Indian reservation which would come under the swamp land grant to the State of Oregon, and which was estimated to be 115,000 acres. This is a good claim, involving, however, an immense amount of work in making out the lists and preparing affidavits from competent persons who knew the character of the land three years ago, and as the Land Commissioner of the State, I employed General Odell—"this same Odell"—as agent of the state to do the work. He was a competent man, and a more competent man to act as the agent of the state in the matter could not be found. He has already made one trip to Klamath County on this business, and the office work has been enormous, as any one at all familiar with the red-tape methods of the Interior Department well knows. There is no question of the quality of the work he established his right to this land, or to most of it, which will amount in value to the State Treasury to nearly or quite \$100,000.

If I had known that in doing this work his occupying desk room in the office of the State Land Agent was even in the remotest degree offensive to Mr. Bushey I should certainly have procured a room for "this same Odell" and stretched it for use under one of the spreading oaks in the Statehouse grounds. Or, I might have appointed Mr. Bushey in the first place, but his well-known fitness for such work was entirely overlooked, for which, carelessly, I sincerely apologize to him, as well as to his friends.

Fourth—The act of 1889 recites "this same Odell" pays rent for his desk room or not. The Secretary of State has exclusive control of the Statehouse, and what his arrangements with Mr. Odell may be I have not inquired. I have a letter of inquiry addressed to Secretary Dunbar, Salem, will no doubt receive prompt attention.

Control is Limited. The fifth question is similar to the first, except that Mr. Bushey wants to know "if it is not a fact that W. H. Odell has been receiving a salary, and, in fact, cash, for his information about 'base lands'?"

While I would delight to accommodate Mr. Bushey in his quest for knowledge, I must say that I have not the authority to pry into other people's business, hence I do not know. I have heard that there are scores of men engaged in "hunting base," either in person or by hiring men to go into the mountains to do the necessary facts to establish the base character of lands, but whether it is their custom to donate this information to the public or not, I do not know. I have no more control over such men than has King Edward VII.

I have read that Mr. Bushey has had some experience surviving in the mountains, and he probably knows as much about the customs of the class of men he refers to as any anybody else.

The present State Land Agent was appointed under the act of 1886, and which amendment Mr. Bushey studiously avoids referring to. The purpose of the act of 1886 had been fulfilled, as the retiring agent, W. Devenport, reported to the Legislature, and would have been repealed but for the reasons set out in the amendment referred to. Indeed the act of 1889 is entitled, "An act to amend" the act of 1886, and recites in its preamble that the State Land Agent, in addition to the duties which devolved upon his predecessor, should, "under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners"—not under the supervision of the Governor—"have general supervision of all lands secured by the state, by reason of the foreclosure of mortgages or conveyances to the state by deed or otherwise, shall supervise the leasing of such lands, and the collecting of rents accruing therefrom, and from time to time make such investigations relating to securities held by the state as the said board shall deem advisable, and perform such other duties as said board may require."

It is still the selecting agent of the state, and makes all selections of lieu lands, but the man who thinks he could do all that is required of him under the law, and travel over the state in search of scattered tracts of base lands, is either helplessly stupid or purposely blind. As to Mr. Bushey, he is probably the victim of both misfortune and misapprehension. Mr. Bushey's sixth question is a repetition of two of the others, but in the seventh he asks: "Is not this man, Odell, the man who publishes the laborious four-column article in defense of the State Land Board in the Oregonian?"

HAS NO JURISDICTION

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT IN THE MERGER CASE.

End of Minnesota's First Move Against Northern Securities Company—Will Try Another Way.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Supreme Court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

This is the case in which the State of Minnesota made an effort to secure the intervention of the Supreme Court to prevent the merging of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads by the purchase of the latter by the former. The court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

Imputed Animus of the Attack. In closing "these few lines" allow me to suggest to the general public that Mr. Bushey's motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is not an innocuous matter, but rather a serious one, and that the other so-called members are not permitted to read his statements, and that other Senatorial candidates have not—or if they have not—similarly declared in no fault of mine. I am sure the way to do so is still open.

There is a man named Odell who has a desk in the office of the State Land Agent, and he may be "this same Odell." I confess the names are strikingly similar. In 1886, while Clerk of the State Land Office, Odell was appointed as State Agent of the Interior against the allotment to the Indians of that part of the Klamath Indian reservation which would come under the swamp land grant to the State of Oregon, and which was estimated to be 115,000 acres. This is a good claim, involving, however, an immense amount of work in making out the lists and preparing affidavits from competent persons who knew the character of the land three years ago, and as the Land Commissioner of the State, I employed General Odell—"this same Odell"—as agent of the state to do the work. He was a competent man, and a more competent man to act as the agent of the state in the matter could not be found. He has already made one trip to Klamath County on this business, and the office work has been enormous, as any one at all familiar with the red-tape methods of the Interior Department well knows. There is no question of the quality of the work he established his right to this land, or to most of it, which will amount in value to the State Treasury to nearly or quite \$100,000.

If I had known that in doing this work his occupying desk room in the office of the State Land Agent was even in the remotest degree offensive to Mr. Bushey I should certainly have procured a room for "this same Odell" and stretched it for use under one of the spreading oaks in the Statehouse grounds. Or, I might have appointed Mr. Bushey in the first place, but his well-known fitness for such work was entirely overlooked, for which, carelessly, I sincerely apologize to him, as well as to his friends.

Fourth—The act of 1889 recites "this same Odell" pays rent for his desk room or not. The Secretary of State has exclusive control of the Statehouse, and what his arrangements with Mr. Odell may be I have not inquired. I have a letter of inquiry addressed to Secretary Dunbar, Salem, will no doubt receive prompt attention.

Control is Limited. The fifth question is similar to the first, except that Mr. Bushey wants to know "if it is not a fact that W. H. Odell has been receiving a salary, and, in fact, cash, for his information about 'base lands'?"

While I would delight to accommodate Mr. Bushey in his quest for knowledge, I must say that I have not the authority to pry into other people's business, hence I do not know. I have heard that there are scores of men engaged in "hunting base," either in person or by hiring men to go into the mountains to do the necessary facts to establish the base character of lands, but whether it is their custom to donate this information to the public or not, I do not know. I have no more control over such men than has King Edward VII.

I have read that Mr. Bushey has had some experience surviving in the mountains, and he probably knows as much about the customs of the class of men he refers to as any anybody else.

The present State Land Agent was appointed under the act of 1886, and which amendment Mr. Bushey studiously avoids referring to. The purpose of the act of 1886 had been fulfilled, as the retiring agent, W. Devenport, reported to the Legislature, and would have been repealed but for the reasons set out in the amendment referred to. Indeed the act of 1889 is entitled, "An act to amend" the act of 1886, and recites in its preamble that the State Land Agent, in addition to the duties which devolved upon his predecessor, should, "under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners"—not under the supervision of the Governor—"have general supervision of all lands secured by the state, by reason of the foreclosure of mortgages or conveyances to the state by deed or otherwise, shall supervise the leasing of such lands, and the collecting of rents accruing therefrom, and from time to time make such investigations relating to securities held by the state as the said board shall deem advisable, and perform such other duties as said board may require."

It is still the selecting agent of the state, and makes all selections of lieu lands, but the man who thinks he could do all that is required of him under the law, and travel over the state in search of scattered tracts of base lands, is either helplessly stupid or purposely blind. As to Mr. Bushey, he is probably the victim of both misfortune and misapprehension. Mr. Bushey's sixth question is a repetition of two of the others, but in the seventh he asks: "Is not this man, Odell, the man who publishes the laborious four-column article in defense of the State Land Board in the Oregonian?"

HAS NO JURISDICTION

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT IN THE MERGER CASE.

End of Minnesota's First Move Against Northern Securities Company—Will Try Another Way.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Supreme Court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

This is the case in which the State of Minnesota made an effort to secure the intervention of the Supreme Court to prevent the merging of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads by the purchase of the latter by the former. The court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

Imputed Animus of the Attack. In closing "these few lines" allow me to suggest to the general public that Mr. Bushey's motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is not an innocuous matter, but rather a serious one, and that the other so-called members are not permitted to read his statements, and that other Senatorial candidates have not—or if they have not—similarly declared in no fault of mine. I am sure the way to do so is still open.

There is a man named Odell who has a desk in the office of the State Land Agent, and he may be "this same Odell." I confess the names are strikingly similar. In 1886, while Clerk of the State Land Office, Odell was appointed as State Agent of the Interior against the allotment to the Indians of that part of the Klamath Indian reservation which would come under the swamp land grant to the State of Oregon, and which was estimated to be 115,000 acres. This is a good claim, involving, however, an immense amount of work in making out the lists and preparing affidavits from competent persons who knew the character of the land three years ago, and as the Land Commissioner of the State, I employed General Odell—"this same Odell"—as agent of the state to do the work. He was a competent man, and a more competent man to act as the agent of the state in the matter could not be found. He has already made one trip to Klamath County on this business, and the office work has been enormous, as any one at all familiar with the red-tape methods of the Interior Department well knows. There is no question of the quality of the work he established his right to this land, or to most of it, which will amount in value to the State Treasury to nearly or quite \$100,000.

If I had known that in doing this work his occupying desk room in the office of the State Land Agent was even in the remotest degree offensive to Mr. Bushey I should certainly have procured a room for "this same Odell" and stretched it for use under one of the spreading oaks in the Statehouse grounds. Or, I might have appointed Mr. Bushey in the first place, but his well-known fitness for such work was entirely overlooked, for which, carelessly, I sincerely apologize to him, as well as to his friends.

Fourth—The act of 1889 recites "this same Odell" pays rent for his desk room or not. The Secretary of State has exclusive control of the Statehouse, and what his arrangements with Mr. Odell may be I have not inquired. I have a letter of inquiry addressed to Secretary Dunbar, Salem, will no doubt receive prompt attention.

Control is Limited. The fifth question is similar to the first, except that Mr. Bushey wants to know "if it is not a fact that W. H. Odell has been receiving a salary, and, in fact, cash, for his information about 'base lands'?"

While I would delight to accommodate Mr. Bushey in his quest for knowledge, I must say that I have not the authority to pry into other people's business, hence I do not know. I have heard that there are scores of men engaged in "hunting base," either in person or by hiring men to go into the mountains to do the necessary facts to establish the base character of lands, but whether it is their custom to donate this information to the public or not, I do not know. I have no more control over such men than has King Edward VII.

I have read that Mr. Bushey has had some experience surviving in the mountains, and he probably knows as much about the customs of the class of men he refers to as any anybody else.

The present State Land Agent was appointed under the act of 1886, and which amendment Mr. Bushey studiously avoids referring to. The purpose of the act of 1886 had been fulfilled, as the retiring agent, W. Devenport, reported to the Legislature, and would have been repealed but for the reasons set out in the amendment referred to. Indeed the act of 1889 is entitled, "An act to amend" the act of 1886, and recites in its preamble that the State Land Agent, in addition to the duties which devolved upon his predecessor, should, "under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners"—not under the supervision of the Governor—"have general supervision of all lands secured by the state, by reason of the foreclosure of mortgages or conveyances to the state by deed or otherwise, shall supervise the leasing of such lands, and the collecting of rents accruing therefrom, and from time to time make such investigations relating to securities held by the state as the said board shall deem advisable, and perform such other duties as said board may require."

It is still the selecting agent of the state, and makes all selections of lieu lands, but the man who thinks he could do all that is required of him under the law, and travel over the state in search of scattered tracts of base lands, is either helplessly stupid or purposely blind. As to Mr. Bushey, he is probably the victim of both misfortune and misapprehension. Mr. Bushey's sixth question is a repetition of two of the others, but in the seventh he asks: "Is not this man, Odell, the man who publishes the laborious four-column article in defense of the State Land Board in the Oregonian?"

WILL ANCHOR THE SAND

O. R. & N. CO.'S WORK FOR PROTECTION OF ITS TRACK.

Trees Planted to Keep Wind From Carrying Sand, and Sod Will Then Be Grown.

Ever since President Mohler introduced the policy of bringing the O. R. & N. lines up to the highest condition of physical excellence, some method has been sought whereby the shifting sands along the Columbia River might be anchored and kept off the railroad track. A number of experiments have been made, which, though not in themselves successful, have yielded considerable practical information on the subject. One of the most interesting of these experiments was conducted at Rowena, where a rapid-growing grass was introduced as a sand binder. But

the sand moved so much faster than the grass grew that the plants were soon hid from view and completely smothered. The sand continued to drift in the wind that sweeps up the Columbia gorge, and the only protection for the railroad track was in the movable wind breaks and gangs of section men with shovels.

Another experiment will be made this year, and there is little doubt that it will prove successful. This test is being conducted 16 miles east of Portland, at a point almost midway between Arlington and Willows station. This season's efforts will be confined to the reclamation of a strip of sand about a mile long and half a mile wide, at the easterly end of which a rock promontory forces the track to bend a little to the river to pass around it. At that point the wind insists in piling sand almost incessantly, to the great annoyance of the railroad people. Now, if the wind can be prevented from lifting that sand waste and drifting it along and on the railroad track, two things will be accomplished—the railroad will be relieved of the difficulty, and a considerable tract that is now worse than unproductive will be transformed into fertile fields.

The new plan is to plant trees. This is easier said than done. The trees must not only be able to get a living on very stony ground, but at the windward edge of the sand there is no soil to speak of, but they must also be able to withstand the annual freshets that will keep them deep in the water for weeks every summer. Industrial Agent Judson, who is conducting this work, thinks he has hit a combination that will work. He has a gang of 40 Japanese, in charge of a foreman who understands the language, and they are taking willows and cottonwoods from a favorable location near Rowena and transplanting them to the windward edge of the sand strip to be reclaimed. These trees range from one to two inches in diameter and from six to 10 feet in height. In all, 12,500 trees are to be thus transplanted, and the work is expected to be done by tomorrow noon. Four thousand trees were planted the first day, Saturday.

These trees are set one to three feet apart in the rows and the rows are about 10 feet apart. These are expected to operate as a wind-break and whatever sand may be in the breeze when it strikes the trees will be deposited before passing the third row at most. The wind will then pass on quite a distance before becoming again laden with the sand and other rows of trees will be so placed as

to take the sand out of the wind again. By judicious arrangements of the trees, it is expected that the movement of the sand will be controlled or prevented so that a sod may be grown on the surface or ordinary crops tilted with safety and profit. Nothing can be grown on soil that changes its location every hour in the day, or even every day.

The rows of trees will extend from the railroad track toward the river, not quite at right angles to the prevailing winds, but with enough obtuseness to cause the wind to shear away from the track. The idea running through the whole arrangement is to make the wind drop its burden of sand before it gets near the railroad track. It will not pick up another load without a considerable free sweep, and that will be prevented. Cuttings of the willows and cottonwoods are set thickly between the trees, and if they thrive it will be but a few years when a grain of sand will get lost trying to work its way through the trees. It is hoped that these cuttings will get started before the June rise this year.

On one part of the plot to be reclaimed the sheltering trees are being planted irregularly—without regard to rows. This is done to observe whether this plan will serve as well as the other. In the fall a lot of live cottonwood logs will be buried where they will take root and grow trees for wind-breaks where shifting sand is troublesome. A thorough test of this method of sand-binding will be made this year.

DANISH WEST INDIES. Commercial and Other Statistics of Our New Possessions. WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—(The Danish West Indies) is the title of a monograph by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics which will appear in the forthcoming issue of the Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance. It describes the islands included in the recently-ratified treaty of the United States and Denmark, by which the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix are to be transferred to the United States. These islands, it shows, lie off the eastern coast of Porto Rico, and are in fact a more extensive part of the marine elevation of which Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and Porto Rico are the principal representatives; while they also form a connecting link between the Greater and the Lesser Antilles. St. Thomas, the best known of the group, lies 28 miles due east of the northeastern extremity of Porto Rico; St. John lies 12 miles east of St. Thomas; while St. Croix lies about 40 miles south of St. John and St. Thomas and 60 miles southeast of the southeastern point of Porto Rico. Two small islands already belonging to the United States, the Virgin Islands, which were obtained through the cession of Porto Rico, lie directly between Porto Rico and this newly-acquired group.

The islands are small, with a comparatively small population, and their chief importance being by reason of their harbors, which they offer, and their value as a strategic as well as general commercial center. The population of the group of them, is about 20 miles long and from one to five miles wide, with an area of about 80 square miles, and a population of about 20,000. It is also the most fertile of the islands. The soil is rich, and a large area being devoted to the production of sugar cane and tropical fruits, and agriculture being the occupation of a large proportion of the population. There are two towns on the island, Frederiksted, with a population of 3700, and Christiansted, with a population of 3500. The latter is located upon the chief harbor of the island, which, however, is sheltered with mud and of lesser importance than the harbors of either of the other islands. St. John, the smallest of the islands, has an area of but about 24 square miles, and a population of about 10,000. It is also the most fertile of the islands, and is chiefly valuable for harbor purposes, the natural harbor of Coral Bay being described as one of the best-protected natural harbors in the West Indies, but at present little used. St. Thomas, which lies nearest to Porto Rico, is by far the most important group, and having been during all that time a central point as a harbor of refuge and a coaling station for vessels from all parts of the island, which, however, is sheltered which it is easily reached, a good depth of water, and excellent protection from the hurricanes to which that region is subject. The island is also one of the most valuable harbors, and when an extremely valuable harbor, and when Denmark in the early part of the Nineteenth Century made it a free port it became the distributing point for the commerce of the entire West Indian group. As a consequence nearly the entire population of the islands is clustered around

the port of Charlotte Amalia, fully 10,000 of the 12,500 population living in this city, and less than 2000 being engaged in agriculture.

The introduction of steam and electricity within the past few years have reduced greatly the importance of St. Thomas as a point for the distribution of commerce, since now all of the islands in the group are visited by regularly plying steamships, and the trade supplied by this process, instead of being compelled to rely upon the supplies formerly drawn from St. Thomas as a distributing point. The importance of the harbor, however, as a supply, repair, coaling and naval station has not been reduced, but rather increased; and with proper development it will, it is believed, prove of great value, while the productive possibilities of the islands, especially St. Croix, in the class of articles so largely imported by the United States, tropical productions, will not be inconsiderable.

The population is chiefly colored, descendants of former slaves, who were liberated in 1848. English being the chief language spoken, especially in the island of St. Thomas, which has been for many years a resort for vessels from English-speaking countries.

The imports into St. Thomas alone in 1900 amounted to \$73,000, and those of St. Croix about \$49,000. They consist chiefly of foodstuffs and manufactures. The exports of St. Thomas in 1900 amounted to about \$5,000 and those of St. Croix \$27,000. The exports of St. Thomas were of a miscellaneous character, largely manufactures destined for neighboring island-ports, while those from St. Croix were chiefly sugar and other tropical products for the United States markets. Of the \$73,000 worth of imports into St. Thomas in 1900, \$38,206 were from the United States; \$18,902 from Great Britain; \$8,944 from other West Indies; \$33,668 from Germany; \$25,372 from Belgium; \$20,742 from British North America and \$14,607 from Denmark. Of the imports, the most important were flour, \$33,770; cotton goods, \$6,348; hardware, \$11,114; rum, \$13,852; cigars, \$19,007; butter and oleomargarine, \$16,967; cheese, \$7,284; rail, \$7,254, and other provisions, \$21,123.

HAS NO JURISDICTION

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT IN THE MERGER CASE.

End of Minnesota's First Move Against Northern Securities Company—Will Try Another Way.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Supreme Court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

This is the case in which the State of Minnesota made an effort to secure the intervention of the Supreme Court to prevent the merging of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads by the purchase of the latter by the former. The court today delivered its opinion in the case of Minnesota versus the Northern Securities Company in application of the state to file a bill of complaint in that court. The opinion was read by Justice Sutherland and the motion for leave to file the bill was denied on the ground that this court was without jurisdiction.

Imputed Animus of the Attack. In closing "these few lines" allow me to suggest to the general public that Mr. Bushey's motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is not an innocuous matter, but rather a serious one, and that the other so-called members are not permitted to read his statements, and that other Senatorial candidates have not—or if they have not—similarly declared in no fault of mine. I am sure the way to do so is still open.

There is a man named Odell who has a desk in the office of the State Land Agent, and he may be "this same Odell." I confess the names are strikingly similar. In 1886, while Clerk of the State Land Office, Odell was appointed as State Agent of the Interior against the allotment to the Indians of that part of the Klamath Indian reservation which would come under the swamp land grant to the State of Oregon, and which was estimated to be 115,000 acres. This is a good claim, involving, however, an immense amount of work in making out the lists and preparing affidavits from competent persons who knew the character of the land three years ago, and as the Land Commissioner of the State, I employed General Odell—"this same Odell"—as agent of the state to do the work. He was a competent man, and a more competent man to act as the agent of the state in the matter could not be found. He has already made one trip to Klamath County on this business, and the office work has been enormous, as any one at all familiar with the red-tape methods of the Interior Department well knows. There is no question of the quality of the work he established his right to this land, or to most of it, which will amount in value to the State Treasury to nearly or quite \$100,000.

If I had known that in doing this work his occupying desk room in the office of the State Land Agent was even in the remotest degree offensive to Mr. Bushey I should certainly have procured a room for "this same Odell" and stretched it for use under one of the spreading oaks in the Statehouse grounds. Or, I might have appointed Mr. Bushey in the first place, but his well-known fitness for such work was entirely overlooked, for which, carelessly, I sincerely apologize to him, as well as to his friends.

Fourth—The act of 1889 recites "this same Odell" pays rent for his desk room or not. The Secretary of State has exclusive control of the Statehouse, and what his arrangements with Mr. Odell may be I have not inquired. I have a letter of inquiry addressed to Secretary Dunbar, Salem, will no doubt receive prompt attention.

Control is Limited. The fifth question is similar to the first, except that Mr. Bushey wants to know "if it is not a fact that W. H. Odell has been receiving a salary, and, in fact, cash, for his information about 'base lands'?"

While I would delight to accommodate Mr. Bushey in his quest for knowledge, I must say that I have not the authority to pry into other people's business, hence I do not know. I have heard that there are scores of men engaged in "hunting base," either in person or by hiring men to go into the mountains to do the necessary facts to establish the base character of lands, but whether it is their custom to donate this information to the public or not, I do not know. I have no more control over such men than has King Edward VII.

I have read that Mr. Bushey has had some experience surviving in the mountains, and he probably knows as much about the customs of the class of men he refers to as any anybody else.

The present State Land Agent was appointed under the act of 1886, and which amendment Mr. Bushey studiously avoids referring to. The purpose of the act of 1886 had been fulfilled, as the retiring agent, W. Devenport, reported to the Legislature, and would have been repealed but for the reasons set out in the amendment referred to. Indeed the act of 1889 is entitled, "An act to amend" the act of 1886, and recites in its preamble that the State Land Agent, in addition to the duties which devolved upon his predecessor, should, "under the supervision of the Board of Commissioners"—not under the supervision of the Governor—"have general supervision of all lands secured by the state, by reason of the foreclosure of mortgages or conveyances to the state by deed or otherwise, shall supervise the leasing of such lands, and the collecting of rents accruing therefrom, and from time to time make such investigations relating to securities held by the state as the said board shall deem advisable, and perform such other duties as said board may require."

It is still the selecting agent of the state, and makes all selections of lieu lands, but the man who thinks he could do all that is required of him under the law, and travel over the state in search of scattered tracts of base lands, is either helplessly stupid or purposely blind. As to Mr. Bushey, he is probably the victim of both misfortune and misapprehension. Mr. Bushey's sixth question is a repetition of two of the others, but in the seventh he asks: "Is not this man, Odell, the man who publishes the laborious four-column article in defense of the State Land Board in the Oregonian?"

Both Men in Good Shape. Betting Even on the Tracey-Ferna Welter-Weight Contest. Everything is in readiness at the Exposition building for tomorrow night's boxing contest between "Rube" Ferna, welter-weight champion of the world, and Tom Tracey, of Australia. The eventing of these two men is the most interesting of the season, and the building will be put in better condition to accommodate the spectators than ever before. That old phrase, "in the pink of condition," can be applied to both principals. They have trained faithfully, each realizing the ability of his opponent, and both being anxious to wear championship laurels. Tracey has many friends throughout the Northwest by his game qualities as a fighter and his gentlemanly conduct. He would go into the ring a decided favorite in the eyes of his friends, and the reputation of his opponent. While it is true that Ferna has not impressed all who have visited his quarters as being a fast fighter, he contains victories over Matty Mathews, Frank Erbe, Bobby Dobby, "Dutch" Thurston, Australia Tim Murphy and others of equal prominence in the pugilistic world. They say he is too strong to bet against. This will have a tendency to keep the betting even, as Tracey's friends will not force the odds on their man.

The men will weigh in at the Hotel McMillan tomorrow afternoon, and as both are at weight, they have no fears of losing the weight forfeit which they have up.

The preliminaries will be of the usual character, and will commence at 8:45 sharp, after which there will be no delay, as the management has assured their patrons in Vancouver, Oregon City and other cities, that they will speak of the show will be over in time for them to catch the 11:15 P. M. cars for their homes.

GOOD RACING PROGRAMME. Early Closing Stakes for Oregon State Fair Announced. The speed committee of the State Board of Agriculture has announced the following early closing stakes for the Oregon State Fair of this year:

Greater State, 2-year-olds, \$2000. Capital City stake, for 2-year-olds, \$1000. Welfoot stake, for 3-year-old trotters, \$500. Inland Empire stake, for 3-year-old pacers, \$500. Millie stake (added), for 2-year-old runners, \$300.

Announcement will be made later on of the closing of stakes of a later character for the events of the entire week. Entries for the early closing stakes must be made on or before April 15.

The Greater Capital City stake, subscribed by the citizens of Salem, is the largest ever offered on this Coast, and the racehorse men of this city are of the opinion that horses from all parts of the Pacific Slope will be entered in the event. Already there has been heard from Utah, Colorado, Montana and California, as well as from all of the Northwest States and British Columbia. Secretary W. D. Wisdom, of the State Board of Agriculture, is of the opinion that the racing at the state fair this year will be "the best ever." On account of the large purses offered and the excellent circuit already made, it is expected that all parts of the country have turned their eyes toward the Northwest, and many of them will be here with record-breaking animals.

The Irvington races, which in recent years have dwindled into insignificance, will be equal to any programme on the circuit this season, and Portland sports feel confident that there will be good racing this year, and that it will be fairly conducted.

Queer Story About Dr. Woodruff. Dr. Wylie G. Woodruff, one of the well-known coaches of the Multnomah football club, is stated to be a "professional pugilist" in the eyes of the authorities, according to a dispatch from Topeka, Kan., and which appeared in the Philadelphia North American newspaper February 19. As a matter of fact, Dr. Woodruff has never left Portland, and he has never been in Topeka, and he has never been in Oregon. He has newly recovered from an attack of typhus fever, and is attending his medical practice.

Multnomah Billiard Finals. The first games of the finals in the M. A. C. C. billiard tournament were played last evening. C. W. Zeller (75) beat J. H. Clark (70) by a score of 5 to 4, and an average of 1.16 to 1.18. H. W. Weis (60) defeated J. H. Clark (70) by a score of 4 to 4, and an average of 2.00 to 1.60. In this evening's games Godfrey (100) will try conclusions with Gay (60), and Weis (60) will meet Foster (60).

Argues for Panama Canal. PARIS, Feb. 24.—Count de Castiglione has written a long letter to the Paris edition of the Herald arguing in favor of the purchase by the United States of the Panama canal. In this letter the state will receive the preference of the Nicaragua route to the preference of some power for brunettes over blondes, and says the United States will not be a really great nation if it sacrifices to blind selfishness and pride its interests to an enterprise of general utility and superior political interest.

Doing Good. A great deal of good is being done in all parts of the Northwest by the Cough Remedy. The most flattering testimonials have been received, giving credit to the efficacy of the remedy, and persistent coughs that have yielded to its soothing effects, of severe colds and influenza, have been cured, and threatened attacks of pneumonia that have been warded off, and of dangerous cases of influenza have been averted. The great popularity and extensive sale of this preparation cannot be a surprise to any one who has seen the remedy in its original bottles. Use it when you have need of such a remedy, and it will do you good. For sale by all druggists.

CABIN PLAN OF THE EMPEROR'S YACHT METEOR TO BE LAUNCHED TODAY.

