

HIGH-PRICED TIMBER

Olympia Doctor Accused of Taking a Rake-Off.

A SENSATION IN CAPITAL CITY

Dr. David Mitchell is arrested on charge of larceny by embezzlement, on the complaint of a wealthy Michigan man.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Dr. David Mitchell, one of the best-known and most prominent citizens of this city, a Mason in high standing, a former representative in the State Legislature and a church member, was arrested today on a charge of larceny by embezzlement. To-day he is out under \$1000 bonds. The complaint against Dr. Mitchell is made by Dr. Oliver LeCron, a wealthy eye specialist of Kalamazoo, Mich.

The story as told by Dr. LeCron is an interesting one, and has to do with what, according to his statements, is a very clever timber swindle. He says that he and his associates were approached by Dr. Mitchell and urged to buy a valuable tract of timber, on which it was represented, there were from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 feet of timber, worth \$1.50 per thousand. It could be bought for \$10,000. The owners were the Tacoma Mill & Lumber Company. Dr. Mitchell was to act without commission, out of friendship, and in consideration of the parties investigating a mill project at Tenino. Dr. LeCron, through Dr. Mitchell, also bought a quarter section of logged-off land in the Tenino area. This land was to be sold to Mitchell's son, J. K. L. Mitchell. Both land deals were consummated and the money sent to Dr. Mitchell, who forwarded the deed for the timber land and the other quarter section.

Dr. LeCron and his associates were so pleased with their bargain and Mitchell's accommodation in the matter that they clipped in and bought a handsome rubber-tree carriage and shipped it to him. At present, Dr. LeCron arrived in the West a few days ago to look into the mill deal. Through the death and probating of the will of a farmer of Tenino, he learned that J. K. L. Mitchell had paid him \$1000 for the quarter section of logged-off land, which had been turned over to them at \$3000.

This started a further line of investigation. The timber land was cruised, and found to be worth \$1000. The rubber-tree carriage was sold for a consideration of \$1000 had been paid for with \$3000. Today the arrest of Dr. Mitchell followed.

In conjunction with the criminal action, which is against Dr. Mitchell alone, a civil suit for \$5000 has been brought against Dr. Mitchell and J. K. L. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell and his associates are refused to make statements tonight. The arrest of so prominent a citizen was little known tonight, but the news tomorrow will stir the social and business circles of the city to their depths.

WILL FORCE TEST CASE.

McBride Anxious to Test Scope of Land Law Enabling Act.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—Attorney General McBride is immediately in the Superior Court of this county a case which will be carried at once to the Supreme Court, for the purpose of testing the question of whether the National School Lands Law, which provides that certain state lands may be sold for not less than \$10 per acre, applies to only common school lands or to the several grants of land for the support of the education, charitable, penal and reformatory institutions. The case will also determine whether the custom now in vogue, of turning the proceeds from the sales of granted lands into a permanent fund, from which only the interest may be used, is the proper interpretation of the law, or whether such proceeds may become a current fund for the benefit of the institutions.

The action is being brought at the instance of Governor McBride, who desires to have a decision reached before the preparation of his message to the coming session of the Legislature. It is stated, will have an important bearing on the recommendations of the Governor in regard to the wisdom of increasing the facilities for the education of the State. The State Scientific School, Agricultural College, School for Defective Youth, Penitentiary and Reform School, and will also have an important bearing on the question of the investment of the permanent school fund in the outstanding warrants drawn against the various funds that will be affected by the decision.

The Governor spent most of yesterday in consultation with Chief Justice Reavis, and the Supreme Court, and is said to have the assurance that the Supreme Court will act without the least delay in the matter. The action will be in the form of a mandamus proceeding against the State Treasurer to compel him to cash a warrant drawn on one of the funds in question. There are five grants of land involved, the Normal School, Agricultural College, State University, Scientific School and the charitable and penal institutions. The entire acreage is over 500,000 acres.

CHARGED WITH STAGE HOLD-UP.

George Kramer Held in Custody at Grant's Pass.

GRANT'S PASS, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—George Kramer, a former employee of the Sunset Telephone Company, has been arrested and is in custody here awaiting a preliminary hearing to answer the charge of robbing the United States mail. Kramer is suspected of being the man who held up the Grant's Pass-Williams Valley stage last Friday. His wife was arrested on a farm near Korb, where he asked permission to sleep in the barn over night. He was seen on the road just after the hold-up, and asked a number of passers-by as to the right way to Crescent City. It has been positively identified by the stage driver and other parties who were held up as being the highwayman. Kramer, however, denies any knowledge of the robbery. He says he has been in the employ of the Sunset Telephone Company, and quit work Friday noon, intent on returning to his home at San Francisco. He intended to walk to Crescent City and board the steamer there for the remainder of the journey. The three men who were arrested last Saturday, and who were suspected of holding up a farmer near Dry Diggins, have been released, as the man who was held up could not identify them as the guilty parties.

CITY WATER BONDS VALID.

Supreme Court of Idaho Renders Important Decision for Weller.

WEISER, Idaho, Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The Supreme Court yesterday decided that the \$20,000 water and electric light bonds issued by the city of Weiser are valid in every respect. The election to vote on the issue of bonds was held in August. It carried for bonds about four to one. The bonds were advertised for sale by the city, and the bid of Lack & Smith, of Baker City, was accepted. After the pur-

WORK OF OREGON SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT J. H. ACKERMAN MAKES BIENNIAL REPORT.

His Recommendations—Strongly Urges Legislation for Betterment of Country Schools.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The biennial report of Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman was issued today. Aside from the statistical portion, which was made public several months ago, the report in brief, is as follows:

The revised school laws in the main have given very general satisfaction, but their administration cannot be expected to bring perfection, for were a system of school laws devised today perfectly suited to present conditions, in a short time, in a rapidly-growing state like Oregon, these conditions would change and the laws would need to be amended.

Hence, if a few defects are here pointed out, it means only that conditions have changed or else, when the laws were put into practical operation, it was found that practice could not sustain the theory; it is no way to be upon the ability or purpose of those who framed the law.

With this in mind, and heartily believing that legislative enactments often stimulate educational interest and zeal, I submit the following suggestions as a partial remedy for some of the defects of our present school system:

STUDENT DIES OF TYPHOID.

Citizens Attribute Death to Proximity of Walla Walla Sewer.

WALLA WALLA, Dec. 17.—Miss Nina Hawley, aged 17 years, a student at the Walla Walla College, died today of typhoid fever. The Walla Walla College is at College Place, three miles west of this city, and it is claimed the disease was contracted by the close proximity of the village to the mouth of the Walla Walla sewer system, that empties on the Blalock fruit farm.

Recently the citizens of College Place addressed a protest to the Walla Walla City Council asking that the sewer be closed. The matter was placed in the hands of the sewer committee, and no report has yet been made. This is the third death among the student body of the college within two months, typhoid fever being the cause attributed in each.

Oregon City Notes.

OREGON CITY, Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The Board of Commissioners met today and formally accepted and paid for the new bridge on the Portland road across the Tualatin River. The contractor was J. E. Tillotson, of Albany, and he received \$4900. Under the contract the bridge should have been completed by January 1, 1903, but the contractor rushed the work to completion two weeks ahead of time.

First.—The best educational thought of the common-school teachers of today is given to the question of how to improve the rural schools. There is no valid reason why a child who attends a rural school should be inferior to a child who attends a city school. The conditions can be materially improved by more effective supervision; by securing better teachers; by furnishing school boards with ample funds with which to pay salaries; and by closing one or more small schools and uniting the revenues of the districts in which they are located into one central school, to which the children would be transported at the expense of the consolidated districts. More effective supervision can be secured in many counties by placing the County Superintendent on a salary that will justify him in devoting the whole of his time to the duties of his office.

Better teachers can be secured if school boards would insist that the teachers they employ shall be especially trained for their work, and one of the most hopeful signs for the betterment of the rural schools is that school boards are more and more coming to realize the importance of such training, and are employing only trained teachers.

More School Revenue.

There is a scarcity of rural school teachers. This has been brought about largely by the small salaries paid for teaching in rural schools. Many of our best teachers cannot afford to teach for the small compensation offered; hence, seek and find employment in more lucrative vocations. Many school boards would willingly pay more if they had the means, but with the low level and the heavy tax levies as they are, and it being quite impossible to secure a special tax levy, school officers must perforce conduct the school affairs of the five with the funds received from the five mill county tax and the interest from the irreducible school fund. In view of these conditions, I would respectfully suggest that your honorable body pass such enactments as will provide rural schools with ample funds.

In this connection, I would recommend the following:

First.—Amend section 22, Oregon School Laws, to read as follows: "The County Boards of the several counties of this state are hereby required to levy, at the same time they levy other taxes upon the taxable property in their counties, for school purposes, of at least 6 mills on the dollar, which shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner and by the same officers that other taxes are collected."

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Some of the benefits to be derived from consolidation of small schools and the transportation of pupils at public expense are as follows:

The schools being larger and more closely grouped, better teachers can be secured. Experiences in other states have proved that the per capita cost is reduced.

The larger school employs more teachers; hence, a better classification can be secured than in a small school.

The larger school produces larger classes; therefore, a greater enthusiasm is obtained than can be secured where there are but three or four in a class—the number in the average class in a small school is usually less than one.

Supervision is more thorough and more easily accomplished.

A better and more regular attendance can be secured.

Tardiness is reduced to a minimum.

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Longer and more regular terms of school would result.

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The farm surroundings of the community will be greatly improved.

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New Bank for San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—There is to be another new and large banking establishment here. The Germania Trust Company, corner of Sutter and Montgomery streets, on January 30, 1903, will increase its capital stock to \$5,000,000, of which \$1,500,000, and a surplus of \$25,000 will be paid in February 1. The name of the institution will be the Central Trust Company of California.

Proposition May Provoke Clash.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 17.—A special from Ottawa today says:

The proposed establishment of a salmon hatchery at Lillicoet by the government of the Province of British Columbia is likely to bring about a clash between that administration and the Ottawa federal authorities.

Submitted to the Supreme Court.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The case of Finnegan & Bennett Bank, appellant, vs. R. A. Graham et al., respondents, was argued and submitted in the Superior Court today. The case was argued for the appellant by J. C. Finnegan, and for the respondents by J. C. Finnegan, presenting the case for the respondents.

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COMMISSIONER COOPER TALKS AT HILLSBORO INSTITUTE.

The Mossback Spirit Can Be Thrown Off by Making the 1905 Fair a Success.

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"During the last 100 years Oregon increased her farm products from \$13,000,000 in 1800 to \$23,000,000 in 1900, an increase of 100 per cent. I am giving round numbers. I really good, you say. We will see how it compares with the other Lewis and Clark states. Washington increased hers 100 per cent. Montana 50 per cent. Idaho and Wyoming each 50 per cent. While poor old, over-advertised California increased the value of her farm products \$45,000,000, or to make it more impressive, her increase was \$7,000,000 more than the entire product of this state.

"Our Manufacturing Record. "But in manufactures is where we shine. In 1890 Oregon produced manufactured goods to the value of \$41,000,000, while in 1900 her output was \$10,000,000, an increase of 111 per cent. Washington made an increase of 100 per cent. Wyoming 100 per cent. Idaho 100 per cent. Montana 90 per cent. While that over-advertised California increased the value of her manufactured goods over \$30,000,000, or about 40 per cent. The scale, ranging from 900 per cent for Montana down to 11 per cent for Oregon. This comparison holds good in all of the Western group of states.

"Now, what is the cause of all this tail-end business that this state has been following for the last 25 years? It cannot be for the lack of inherent energy. The pioneers who settled the country were the embodiment of energy, enterprise and endurance, and their children are at the forefront of civilization in every part of the world, their sons as heroic as ever fought in battle. The men of the Lewis and Clark Centennial are the equals of the best, our state and county officers and legislators are above the average in the United States. Our newspapers lead our coast and our people are as energetic as the best in the Union. In fact, Oregon is the breeding ground of genius and energy. Energy is not what we lack. We lack co-operation.

"The spirit of the age is toward combination, and with the present coming civilization there can be no success without it. When Portland pulled itself out of the mire and raised \$200,000 for the Lewis and Clark Centennial, the city took on a new fire, its mossgrown nightmare went to the scrap-heap, and it started ahead on an unprecedented era of progress. In order to celebrate an important event and that Oregon may get away from this tail end of creation, the Lewis and Clark Centennial was inaugurated. The board of directors has asked this state and the adjoining states to co-operate with them in this enterprise. They will ask the Legislature to appropriate \$500,000, and I hope to see no investment that insures such profits or will bring as quick returns as this. The very knowledge that the appropriation has been made will increase the value of the property of the state many times that amount.

"We are here to represent the committee on agriculture for that Exposition, and to ask your co-operation. Without the help of the farmers, we can do nothing. Because they represent by far the most important industry in the state. Your State Agricultural College and State Board of Agriculture should help. You can give us something more than a kindergarten display of products. We want your scientific farmers to burn the midnight oil, if need be, to produce the best of earth. Then let the State of Oregon, the City of Portland, the great trans-continental and the great ocean lines combine, and we will have an Exposition worthy of the country it represents.

"The great need of the world's commerce is to produce the good people seeking homes among us, and our children abroad in the world, and the abundance of when their native state is mentioned, but will visit the old homestead with a conscious pride of having first seen the light of day in this land of peace and plenty."

The following committee was appointed to co-operate with the Lewis and Clark Fair Board: George W. Weeks, of Salem; Thomas Froman, of Albany; Harry West, of Scio.

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COMMISSIONER COOPER TALKS AT HILLSBORO INSTITUTE.

The Mossback Spirit Can Be Thrown Off by Making the 1905 Fair a Success.

HILLSBORO, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The second day's session of the Farmers' Congress was attended by many prominent farmers, and proved a very profitable meeting. Hon. J. C. Cooper, of Independence, member of the agricultural committee of the Lewis and Clark Centennial board of directors, presented an able paper requesting the co-operation of the farmers with the spirit of the 1905 Fair. Mr. Cooper spoke in part as follows:

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