OREGON SETTLERS DONE INJUSTICE

Discriminated Against for Several Years by General Land Office.

TANGLED UP IN RED TAPE

System Which Senator Bourne Is Attempting to Reform Makes It All but Impossible for Homeseekers to Obtain Their Patents.

Under the most favorable conditions it has been next to impossible for the average Oregon citizen to acquire a homestead. Even with a liberal interpretation of existing land laws, the bona fide cettler in making final proof has been required to handle the truth in but a half-serious way. From the time he has selected his claim, erected a cabin or house on it and established his residence, until he finally gained his patent, he has been hounded by an array of special agents, inspectors and 'spotters' that would effectually discourage other than the intrepid Oregon homesceker.

than the intrepid Oregon homeseeker.

But it now develops, as shown by a dispatch from Washington, published in yesterday's Oregonian, that the discrimination against the Oregon homeseeker antedates his relations with the General Land Offics. Under the direction of the Interior Department he is discriminated against in the matter of surveys, which must be made before he can locate to homestad. Journal of the Office. cate a homestead. Inquiry at the office of United States Surveyor-General Daly, in this city, discloses that innumerable surveys of townships, for which applications have been made, have been un-favorably reported by a representative of the Interior Department. Twenty sur-veys, representing as many townships, that have been completed, are being held-up in the Interior Department at Wash-ington, a few of them dating back as far as 1899. There are, in addition to these surveys already mentioned, a doz-en surveys that have been made, sub-mitted to the Interior Department and by it approved, that are being held-up in the Surveyor-General's office in this city under instructions from Washington.

Routine Now Most Tedious. Under the present system, the routine to be followed by the settler in locating and acquiring a homestead is long and tedious. He first selects land within an unsurveyed township and, with two other settlers, makes a written application to the Surveyor-General for a survey of that township and the survey of the township and the surveyed to the surveyed t that township. This application cannot be made until after the settler has erected a cabin or other dwelling on the land and established his home there to the exclusion of any other place of residence. This application is then forwarded by the Surveyor-General to the Interior Department at Washington and a special agent is sent to investigate the claims located within the township and to determine if the applicants are bona fide settlers and have compiled with the homestead laws as to rest-

fence and improvements.

These agents, who are always Eastern men, unacquainted with the Oregon country, almost invariably report that the improvements do not come up to the requirements of the law, or, observing some timber on the land, contend that the land is timber land unfit for agricultural purposes. If the special agent by chance reports favorably on the application for a survey, the Surveyor-General advertises for hids and the contract is awarded to the lowest bidder, who is required to give a \$10,000 bond for the faithful performance of the work. When the survey has been completed it is exthe survey has been completed it is examined carefully by the Surveyor-General, who, finding it correct, informs the Interior Department of the fact.

An inspector is then dispatched to ex-

amine the survey. If any inaccuracies are found, the contracting surveyor is required to correct the defects. This proceeding usually requires from three to four years. The survey is then accepted and made ready to be filed in the General Land Office and it is not until this is done that the patient settler can formally file on the land he has selected years before, for a homestead.

Senator Bourne's Reforms.

The settler must then comply strictly with the laws relating to residence and improvements before he can get a patent the land at the expiration of the time required by the homestead laws. This protracted "red tape" procedure has been called to the attention of the Department of the Interior by Senator Bourne who makes suggestions for the expedition of the process. expedition of the process. He would have the applications for surveys and the actual surveys examined and passed upon by examining surveyors and dis-pense with the long delayed programme that is now followed. By the plan sug-gested by Senator Bourne, it is claimed that fully two years can be saved in the time that is now required to have a survey ordered and finally approved. This twould necessitate appointing a number of examining surveyors. At the present time there is but one such officer as-signed to all of the Western states, while there is sufficient work in Oreson alone to keep this one man con-

and instance of great injustice to one group of bona fide settlers is recorded in the office of the Surveyor General for Oregon. A company of Eastern people same to Oregon a few years ago and settled on insurveyed lends in the Desc. came to Oregon a few years ago and estried on unsurveyed land in the Rose-burg land district. They erected houses in their respective claims, one man expending siee for a home. When the improvements had been completed and the settlers had established their residence on the land, they applied for a survey of the township. An adverse report was made by the special agent sent from Washington and the survey was not or Washington and the survey was not or-dered. Afterwards a second attempt was made. Another special agent made a similar report and the settlers, becoming discouraged, accepted nominal sums from the Northern Pacific Company and abandoned their lands which were promptly appropriated by the rallroad company which filed lieu land scrip on

Delayed Half a Century.

In another case, the helrs of a man, who settled on land 45 years ago and who was unable to have a survey of the township, are now seeking to have the land surveyed in an attempt to acquire

Many of these surveys are suspended after reaching Washington. This works a great hardship on contracting surveyors who do not receive their pay from the Government until the surveys are finally approved by the Interior Depart-ment. There are now pending in this state 20 such unsatisfied claims, aggre-gating \$18,18,18, of that amount \$838,55 is for work done during the flexal year ending June 20, 1996. The balance inWINNERS OF PORTLAND ASSOCIATION TUG-OF-WAR TOURNAMENT



NORWEGIAN TUG-OF-WAR TEAM, CHAMPIONS OF CITY.

The Portland tug-of-war championship was won by the Norwegian team, which defeated all comers in the recent tournament held in the Auditorium at the Lewis and Clark Pair grounds. The members are:

Top row: Joseph J. Libak, captain: O. Endresen, H. Anderson, E. Dahl. Second row: A. Johnson, O. Hjorken, T. Kvalvik, anchorman; O. Nergard, K. C. Moss Bottom row: William Kielberg, L. Morken,

cludes claims for work that was done six or eight years ago.

All the blame does not rest with the Interior Department for the extremely cautious policy it has adopted in treating with the public land situation in this state. The wholesale tudictment of public officials and prominent citizens on charges of land stealing is no more responsible for this policy, however, than is the lax method by which the office of the Surveyor-General of this state awas administered a few years ago. At that administered a few years ago. At that time extensive surveys were made un-der bogus applications and an investi-gation that followed disclosed gross frauds against the Government.

Surveyors Cheated Government.

Many of the surveys that were ordered under this particular administration were made by inexperienced and incompetent men, if some of them were ever made at all, and this officer, having the authority, certified to their correctness. The Interior Department thereupon took steps to prevent a repetition of these abuses. but in doing so the settler, even though he acts in good faith, finds it almost impossible to obtain an opportunity to get the preliminary surveys made in or-der to file on a claim. It is now impossible for an incompe-

tent or inexperienced surveyor to secure a contract from the Government to sur-vey public lands in Oregon as this devey public lands in Oregon as this de-partment of the work is now administered by Surveyor-General Daly. These surveys are no longer optional with the Surveyor-General, but are now awarded by competitive bidding to the lowest bidder. On no condition is the contract awarded unless the successful bidder presents the proper credentials, showing that he is a competent and an experienced surveyor and even then he is re-quired to furnish a satisfactory bond in the sum of \$10.000 for the performance of the contract. Upon complying with these conditions a certificate is granted direct-ing the performance of the work. Sur-veyors of mineral lands are required to take a thorough examination before ap-plications to survey any such lands can be considered.

All Regarded as Thieves.

"There appears to be an impression in the interior Department that the people of Oregon, without exception, are land thieves, said an official who is connected with the Land Department, yesterday. "It begins to look like the officials at Washington have adopted a systematic policy to prevent the development of the state through the settling of homeseck-ers on public lands. This policy is sert-ously retarding the growth and development of the state and is discouraging bona fide settlers from making attempts to acquire homesteads. "The trouble is that these special

agents who are sent to Oregon from Washington are all Eastern men whose knowledge of conditions in this state are entirely theoretical. They have no knowledge of the value of improvementa settlers make on their claims and it is not surprising that these representatives of the Government invariably report adversely on applications for surveys, hold-ing that the improvements are not what are required under the homestead laws.

"There is nothing that would better serve the interests of the settlers and at the same time give the Government ade-quate protection from abuses in the dis-position of public lands than to have practical Western men charged with the performance of the work of inspectors and special agents who are now officiat-ing and who have no knowledge of act-

ual conditions here on the Coast.
"There is no desire on the part of Oregon homeseekers to defraud the Government. These people are honorable citizens and bona fide settlers, but under the present conditions it is practically impossible for them to live up to the requirements of the Interior Department and finally acquire a homestead."

BANQUET TO COUNCILMEN

Retiring Members Give Spread for Mayor and Officials.

George S. Shepherd and W. Y. Masters, who recently resigned as mem-bers of the Portland Council, will ten-der a banquet to Mayor Lane and their former associates in the Council at the Portland Commercial Club rooms

Other than Mayor Lane and the Councilmen, the guests will include the heads of the different departments of the city government.

New Bailey Gatzert Will Soon Be Completed.

VESSEL WILL BE LONGER

The Dalles-Portland Route Will Have One of the Finest Stern-Wheel Craft to Be Found in the United States

Work on the new steamer Bailey Gatnert is being rushed as fast as possible and it is the intention of the company to have her on the run between Portland and The Dalles by the time the weather hou wattled

When the Bailey Gatzert again enters the service she will be one of the finest stern-wheel vessels in the country. She has been remodeled and the hull will be

STEAMER INTELLIGENCE.

Due to Arrive.

From. Date.

	F. A. Kilbur Alliance Roanoke Aragonia Columbia Geo. W. Eli Johan Pou Nicomedia. Numantia.	San Fra Coos Bay Los Ang Hongko San Fra der Los Ang Hongko Hongko Hongko	nApr. 8Apr. 10 eles. In port ngApr. 11 nApr. 13 sleeApr. 14 nnApr. 18 ngApr. 23 ngApr. 23
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on entirely different lines from the old boat. Her length has been increased 15 feet and the beam is practically the same. The freight house will be new and the cabins of the old boat will be used on the new Gatzert. The rooms on the hur-ricane deck will be removed and the ap-pearance of the vessel greatly improved. Aft on the cabin deck will be a large promeage.

The steamer Bailey Gatzert was built on Puget Sound in 1890. She was launched from Salmon Bay yards November 22, and was the finest stern-wheel boat on the Sound. In 1891 she was sold to the Co-lumbia River & Puget Sound Navigation lumbia River & Puget Sound Navigation Company and operated between Olympia and Seattle. The following year she was brought to the Columbia River and \$30,000 was spent in remodeling her for the Astoria business. She ran opposite the old Telephone. During that time there was considerable rivalry between the C. R. & N. Co. boats and those of the Columbia River & Puget Sound Navigation Company.

Columbia River & Fuget Sound Naviga-tion Company.

The Gatnert has been on The Dalles run for several years. During the Lewis and Clark Fair she operated as an excur-sion boat between Portland and the Cas-

sion boat between Portland and the Cas-cade Locks.

The old steamer was 177 feet long and 32 feet beam. The new craft will be 192 feet long and 32.6 beam. J. H. Johnson designed the vessel now under construc-

of the river the Mendel will tie up and Captain Tyler will proceed to Astoria and relieve Captain Buchanan, of the Arago, who has been granted a leave of absence for 38 days. The Arago will probably work as far south as Coos Bay.

Marine Notes.

The steamer Costa Rica, from San Francisco, is due to arrive in the local harbor tonight. The steamer Roanoke, from San Pedro and way ports, arrived up last night. The schooner Muriel salied from Rainier yesterday. She is lumber laden for San Francisco.

The old bark Rufus E. Wood, with lum ber from Stella, sailed yesterday.

Arrivals and Departures.

ASTORIA, April 7.-Condition of the bar ASTORIA, April 7.—Condition of the bar to 5 P. M., obseured; wind, south, 40 miles; weather, cloudy and foggy. Arrived at 6 and left up at 11:30 A. M.—Steamer Roamoke, from San Pedro and way ports. Salled at 6:45 A. M.—Steamer Banta Ans. for San Pedro. Salled at 7:10 A. M.—Schooner Alvena, for San Pedro, and barksmithe Lahalna, for San Francisco. Salled at 8:45 A.

M.—Steamer Armeris. Sailed at 5:40 A. M.—Steamer Columbine.
San Francisco, April 7.—Arrived at 5 A. M.—Steamer Goo. W. Elder, from Portland.
San Pedro, April 7.—Arrived yesterday
—Schooners James Rolph and W. R. Hume,

from Columbia River.
San Francisco, April 7.—Salled—Steamer
Umatilia, for Victoria; schooner Oceania, for Gray's Harbor; steamer Mackinaw, for Seat-tie, Arrived—Steamer Jim Butler, from Gray's Harbor Sailed—United States Steam, er Annapolis, for Samoa, Arrived—Steamer Mariposa Lawless, for Tahiti, Queenstown, April 7.—Arrived—Cymbric,

Queenstown, April 7.—Arrived—Cympric,
Boston for Liverpool.
Gibraitar, April 7.—Arrived—Carpathia,
New York for Genos, Naples, etc.
Liverpool, April 7.—Arrived—Etruria, from
New York: Victorian, from Halifax.
Southampton, April 7.—Arrived—Philadelphia, from New York.
Outenstown, April 7.—Salled—Campania.

Queenstown, April 7.—Sailed-Campania, for New York. Glasgow, April 7.—Sailed-Numidian, for

Boston. London, April 7.—Salled—Philadelphia, for Moville, April 7.—Sailed April 6 — Cale-donia, for New York.

Tides at Astoria Monday. High. 1.0w. Low. 10:47 P. M. 7.7 feet 5.52 A. M. 3.0 feet 10:47 P. M. 7.7 feet 4:23 P. M. 0.2-foot

ASCERTAIN WATER SUPPLY Columbia Southern Irrigating Com-

pany Will Map Its Holdings.

The Columbia Southern Irrigating Company is planning to employ a competent engineer for the purpose of securing ac-curate topographical maps of that section of Crook County in which its irrigation project is located. This action was de-cided upon at a conference between the officers of the company and State Engineer J. H. Lewis at Salem, Saturday afternoon. Settlers who had purchased tracts of land from this company recently afternoon filed charges with the State Land Board to the effect that the company was not complying with the rules of the board.

As a further expression of their indignation, the dissatisfied purchasers recently hung in effigy a number of the officers of the company, at Laidlaw, Crook County.

County.

It is the purpose of the company, by having these maps prepared, to ascertain what facilities it has for irrigating the tract. When this has been determined, the company intends to construall necessary ditches for distributing water over all the land that has been

Wishes No School-Book Change.

PORTLAND, Or., April 6.—(To the Ed-tor.)—In The Oregonian of last Thursday noticed an article speaking of a change Now I, as a parent, protest against this

reet long and 228 beam. J. H. Johnson designed the vessel now under construction.

CAPTAIN TYLER TRANSFERRED

Master of the Mathloma Will Go to the Arago.

Captain Tyler, of the snagboat Mathloma, has been transferred temporarily to the steamer George H. Mendel. The latter boat is assisting the United States Engineers on the Lower Willamette.

On completion of the work at the mouth

Now I as a purent, protest against this proposed change. The question of expenso, serious enough in many families, is of only secondary importance where the quality of the work is concerned, and it is just here I would make my strongest plea. Delieving other thoughtful parents will agree with me: Teachers require a certain amount of practice to familiarise themselves with new text books; and pupils, as they move along from grade to grade, can and do derive an advantage in using books of the same series. That we place too high a premium on novelty in this present day all must admit. But let us at, least as far as possible refrain from fads in our public schools. The proposed changing of a system of books adopt-

out by our able rext-Book Commission only five years ago, and, if I am not mistaken, indorsed by The Oregonian at that time, looks to the lay mind decidedly like fad-lam—not to call it by a graver name. Let us hear from other parents on this question. MRS. J. R. FAIRBANKS. A Word of Explanation.

CARSON, Wash., April 6 .- (To the Editor.)—Referring to a recent report in The Oregonian from a Hood River correspondent, the statements made have done us an injustice as regards conditions at the Mineral Springs, Carson, Wash.

The report states that the management

The report states that the management of the Mineral Springs expects to spend a considerable sum in improvements this Spring. This part of the article is true, and that medical men hope the springs may fall into the hands of the Government and be declared public property, or be purchased by an experienced hotel man who will accord guests courteous treatment and ordinary conveniences.

nary conveniences.

We have a strictly modern hotel with steam heat, electric lights, rooms with private baths and, furthermore, there are hundreds of people in Partiand who can testify as to accommodations and treatment at the

Mineral Springs HOTEL COMPANY, MINERAL SPRINGS HOTEL COMPANY, Company, Wash, by F. L. Shipherd, score-

Automobile Club Election.

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SHAKE WELL IN A BOTTLE IS OUT FOR LANE

Prime Factor in Last Election Shows Strong Interest

SEEKS TO RE-ELECT HIM

Mayor Will Either Head the League Ticket or Run Independently, With Full Support of That Organization.

Portland's Municipal League will again take an active part in the coming primaries and June election. At a meeting which will be held either this afternoon or tonight the members of the league will get together and map out a plan of action and there is, every reason to believe that Mayor Lane will be the choice of the league for Mayor. The leagues have which he has conducted municipal affairs, and will again throw their support to him as they did two years ago. Quietly, but none the less effectively, the Municipal League has been conducting a thorough and suppressed urinative to the consult some reputable physician or take a reception pharmacy has the ingredients, and will again throw their support to him as they did two years ago. Quietly, but none the less effectively, the Municipal League has been conducting a thorough and searching in vestigation into the qualifications of the candidates for municipal offices that have declared their intention of running in the primaries. Not all of the candidates will be pieced on the work done by the league in that cambas and have announced themselves are acceptable to the league. These condidates for municipal offices that have declared their intention of running in the primaries. Not all of the candidates will be pieced on the son of the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the work done by the league in that cambas conducting the conduction of the candidates will be pieced on the league.

The position pharmacy has the ingr the Municipal League has been conducting a thorough and searching investigation into the qualifications of the candidates for municipal offices that have declared their intention of running in the primaries. Not all of the candidates who have announced themselves are acceptable to the league. These candidates will be rejected and men in whom the league has confidence will be placed on the ticket, if the Municipal League places a ticket in the field. If not, those indorsed will be requested to run and given the support of the league.

Albee May Contest Place.

Whether the league will place a full ticket in the field will depend upon the action taken at the meeting. Among certain members, it is said, there is a desire to have the Municipal League place a ticket in the field that will be made up a ticket in the field that will be made up of the candidates acceptable to the league and to fill in the rest of the ticket with men selected by the league. Whether this is done or not, it is almost an assured fact that Mayor Lane can, if he chooses, head the ticket. The place will be offered to him unless such a thing might come to pass that H. Russell Albee should decide to come out as a candidate. There has been some talk of Albee's being a candidate, but he stated last night that he had done nothing in the matter ing a candidate, but he stated has hight that he had done nothing in the matter and did not know what was being done by the league, because he had been out of the city. In the event that Albee should decide to enter the race it is no more than natural, because he is one of the leaders in the Municipal League, that he had of the leader to him offered to him. the head of the ticket be offered to him.

Among the politicians who were aware
of the work the league was doing, the
general impression was that Albee would
not be a candidate and that the entire atrength of the league would be thrown to Mayor Lane. It is believed that Lane knew this and that is why he rejected the Democratic nomination, preferring to run as an independent candidate. There is still a chance that Lane's name will be is still a chance that Lane's name will be placed on the Democratic ticket, for his supporters may yet override the decision of Chairman Thomas and the handful of anti-Lane men who control the county central committee. Even if this should

happen, Lane will get the league support.

coming campaign it is not to be wondered at that he only smiled when Chairman BUSINESS MEN GET PROFITS A meeting of the Automobile Club will be held tonight at the Commercial Club, and officers for the coming year will be elected. This meeting will inaugurate the auto season. The present officers are: President, R. D. Inman; secretary, Will Lipman; treasurer, Soi Blumauer.

RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS FROM KIDNEY TROUBLES.

A Highly Recommended Prescription Which Can Be Filled at Any Good Pharmacy.

Mayer Lane may not come before the people as the Municipal League candidate, for the league may not put a ticket in the field, but there is every reason to believe that he will be an independent candidate, with the indersement of the league behind him.

Whatever is done by the league must be done this week, for this is the last week

for ambitious politicians who intend to make the run before the primaries to get make the run before the primaries to get out their petitions. There is a great deal of hustling among the Democrats to fill up the vacant places on the ticket. At the meeting last Friday night no one could be found that wanted to run for City Auditor, and there was a question whether Mark O'Neill would serve as Councilman from the Fifth Ward. Now there is still another vacancy to fill, and that is City Treasurer.

Would Not Be Treasurer.

D. M. Watson, the restaurateur who entertained William Jennings Bryan on his recent visit to Portland, was nominated at the meeting of Democrats for the office of City Treasurer. Watson was present of City Treasurer. Watson was present at the gathering for a few minutes, but when he caught sight of the storm signals which Pat Powers, Colonel Killfeather and Citizen Parker were flying, he, together with John Manning and Bert Haney, beat a hasty retreat. It was after he had fled the meeting that his name was placed in nomination. Watson was not consulted. Evidently those present were of the opinion that Watson would like the place, but "those present" figured without place, but "those present" figured without their host, for Watson declared yesterday

that he would not accept the nomination.

The restaurant man said: "No; I was Owes Election to League.

Mayor Lane owes his election of two years ago to the Municipal League. He has fulfilled his promises made to the league, and with this same backing in the coming campaign it is not to be weedless.

By using press clippings Phone Allen's Bu-

Schilling's Best is the standard in the American tea and coffee market,

An Oil Well Near Astoria

FLOWING 2000 **BARRELS PER DAY**

The news of an oil well flowing 2000 barrels of high-grade petroleum per day would not only be pleasant news to you as a stockholder in our company, but it would mean wealth to you. If you invest now you are liable to profit by the flow of a 2000-barrel per day well.

Every move we make on our properties brings stronger indications that we have the richest oil field in the country.

The most careful business men in the west are buying stock at the low price of \$10 per share.

Will you be wise enough to accept this opportunity and purchase your stock at once? Write at once for our interesting

FREE PROSPECTUS

PHONE PACIFIC 316 PACIFIC COAST GAS

401-402 Commercial Building

Washington Street

Portland, Oregon