

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 settler in making final proof has been required to handle the truth in but a half-serious way.

But it now develops, also, by a dispatch from Washington, published in yesterday's Oregonian, that the discrimination against the Oregon homeseeker antedates his relations with the General Land Office. Under the direction of the Interior Department he is discriminated against in the matter of surveys, which must be made before he can locate a homestead.

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 preliminary report to the Surveyor-General for a survey of that township.

These agents, who are always Eastern men, unacquainted with the conditions of the 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 and should be reserved for the national forest.

The settler must then comply strictly with the laws relating to residence and improvements. He must live on the land for the time required by the homestead laws. 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 settler can formally file on the land he has selected years before for a homestead.

Senator Bourne's Reforms.

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An 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 came to Oregon a few years ago and settled on unsurveyed land in the Roseburg land district. They erected houses on their respective claims, one man investing \$1600 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. A report was made by the special agent sent from Washington and the survey was not ordered. 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 railroad company which filed its land scrip on them.

Delayed Half a Century.

In another case, the heirs 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 title. 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 Department. There are now pending in this state 30 such unsatisfied claims, aggregating \$13,913.30. Of that amount \$28,250 is for work done during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906. The balance in-

WINNERS 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 harbor tonight. 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. Moen. Bottom row: William Kjelberg, L. Morken.

WORK BEING CRUSHED

New Bailey Gatzert Will Soon Be Completed. The Dalles-Portland Route Will Have One of the Finest Stern-Wheel Craft to Be Found in the United States.

VESEL WILL BE LONGER

Work on the new steamer Bailey Gatzert 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 has settled.

STEAMER INTELLIGENCE

Table with columns: Name, From, Date, To, Date. Lists various steamers and their routes, including Costa Rica, Alliance, Roanoke, Argonia, Columbia, Geo. W. Elder, Johan Paulsen, Niomedra, Numanita, Arabia, and others.

ASCERTAIN WATER SUPPLY

The Columbia Southern Irrigating Company is planning to employ a competent engineer for the purpose of securing accurate topographical maps of that section of Crook County in which its irrigation project is located.

Wishes No School-Book Change.

PORTLAND, Or., April 8.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of last Thursday I noticed an article speaking of a change in school books.

Master of the Mathlona Will Go to the Arago.

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

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MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ASKS OUT FOR LANE

Prime Factor in Last Election Shows Strong Interest in Campaign.

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.

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 of the candidates acceptable to the league and to fill in the rest of the ticket with men selected by the league.

Albee May Contest Place.

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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.

Arrivals and Departures.

ASTORIA, April 7.—Condition of the bar at 5 P. M., obscured; wind, south, 40 miles; weather, cloudy and foggy. Arrived at 6 and left up at 11:30 A. M.—Steamer Roanoke, from San Pedro and way ports. Sailed at 6:45 A. M.—Steamer Santa Ana, for San Pedro. Sailed at 7:10 A. M.—Schooner Alvena, for San Pedro, and barkentine Lahlaina, for San Francisco. Sailed at 8:45 A. M.—Steamer Columbia. Sailed at 7:15 A. M.—San Francisco, April 7.—Arrived at 5 A. M.—Steamer Geo. W. Elder, from Portland. San Pedro, April 7.—Arrived yesterday. Schooners James Rolph and W. R. Hume, from Columbia River.

Automobile Club Election.

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, Sol Blumauer.

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 score back to the coming campaign it is not to be wondered at that he only smiled when Chairman Thomas informed him that he was not to be a Democratic candidate.

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SHAKE WELL IN A BOTTLE

RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS FROM KIDNEY TROUBLES.

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Advertisement for Pacific Coast Gas & Oil Co. featuring the headline 'An Oil Well Near Astoria Flowing 2000 Barrels Per Day'. The text describes the well's output and offers free prospectus information. Contact: Phone Pacific 316, 401-402 Commercial Building, Washington Street, Portland, Oregon.