

PUBLIC LAND LAW NEEDS REFORMING

President Points Out, in Keokuk Speech, Changes Are Advisable.

LAW IS MADE FOR IOWA

Hence Do Not Fit Conditions in Northwest—Stone and Timber Laws and Coal Land Laws Especially Need Changes.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 7.—It is evident from the President's Keokuk speech that he is going to undertake seriously to bring about a reform in the public land laws at the coming session of Congress; not a general revision, perhaps, but such changes as will make the laws applicable to present-day conditions. Here, before the law reform has been practically out of the question because a majority of the House committee on public lands was unfavorable to the reforms sought by the President, and because a few powerful senators stood ready to block legislation in the upper branch of Congress.

Fortunately for the President, and for the bona fide settlers, there is to be a reformation of the House Public Lands Committee this coming session, due to the fact that Representative Lacey, of Iowa, former chairman, was not re-elected to the 60th Congress, and the further fact that several other members of the committee will not be members of the new Congress. This will give an opportunity for injecting new blood into the committee, and this new blood, if carefully selected, can do much to promote such reform legislation as is desired by the President and by the entire West.

Representative Lacey was an honest man and he sought to do right, but Mr. Lacey came from a state which is climatically very different from the states of the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast regions, where the bulk of public lands are to be found today. Unfortunately for the West, Mr. Lacey knew little of conditions in the West outside of his own state, and being a man of narrow vision, he believed that land laws applied to Iowa should be adequate for every other state. This view was particularly criticized by the President at Keokuk, and he pointed out that one of the great reasons why the land laws should be reformed was to meet conditions found in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states.

Reforms for Arid and Grazing Land

The National reclamation law adequately provides for such of the arid lands as can be rendered arable by irrigation, and up to the present time it is not apparent that any law needs modification. But there is a vast domain which will not be affected by the reclamation act, but which at the same time will never pass to private ownership under the homestead law in its present shape. The President clearly points out the necessity for amending the homestead law so that lands of this character may be taken in tracts of more than 160 acres, his reference being to lands susceptible of dry farming, or lands that are valuable only for grazing purposes. In his speech the President did not stipulate the amount of this land that should be patented to any one individual, leaving that question for Congress to solve.

The second reform which he specifically recommends is in regard to the control of public grazing lands. The present law absolutely prohibits the erection or maintenance of fences on the public domain, the law being aimed primarily at large cattle barons who, to serve their selfish purposes, and to crowd out small stock owners have, in the past, been taken to monopolize millions of acres of the public domain. Yet this law, while striking at the barons, has also affected the small stockman, quite a number of whom had erected small fences for their own protection, and in a way that would not prevent permanent development of the country. The President realizes that the removal of these fences has worked a hardship on many instances, yet the law is specific, and while the law stands the administration has no preference in the matter. It must remove the small fences with the large ones.

What the President evidently desires is a modification of the fencing law, so as to permit the fencing of small areas of the public grazing lands when such fencing acts as a protection to small stock owners who are permanent residents in the region where their stock is grazed. At the same time he desires the exaction of a nominal grazing fee, but only such amount as is required to pay the cost of administration.

Again, the President makes no specific recommendation as to the exact type of legislation that should be enacted, leaving Congress to decide just what is best to meet present conditions in the West.

General Revision Unnecessary.

It is doubtful if the President will urge Congress generally to revise the land laws at the coming session. There is not so much demand for change in the laws as for change in the manner of their enforcement. By instance, it is doubtful whether new legislation would materially reduce land frauds.

What may be urged, however, in addition to the legislation referred to by the President at Keokuk is a modification of the timber and stone act, and a change in the absolute coal land laws.

WRONG MAN IS ARRESTED

Oscar Blaven, of Pendleton, Has Unpleasant Experience.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Railroad ticket number 15,223 is responsible for the fact that Oscar Blaven, 21 years old, of Pendleton, Or., spent two uneasy nights and a day in the four courts, where he was held as a murderer suspect.

Blaven was arrested Saturday night at Union station by Detective John Howard on a telegram from Sheriff Taylor, of Pendleton.

"Why, the Sheriff was the last person to bid me good-by before I departed," said Blaven, after his arrest. "There

must have been some mistake—I am not wanted for anything."

The police wired to Pendleton that they had arrested the holder of ticket 15,223.

"Ask him if he knows Stock Clerk for construction company and has finger off at first joint," read the telegram from Pendleton, which reached St. Louis Monday. Blaven was thereupon released and continued toward his destination, Bristol, Tenn.

DISASTER CAUSES SUICIDE

Charles Gray Broods Over San Francisco Fire and Ends Life.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Nearly two years after the earthquake which made San Francisco and its sister city, Oakland, the scene of death and desolation the horrors of the catastrophe so preyed upon the mind of Charles Gray that after trying to secure relief in health resorts all over the country, he ended his life at Washington Park on Saturday night by sending a bullet through his brain.

He had come here from Portland, where he visited James B. Gray, of Gray Brothers. Letters found upon his person indicated his identity. A letter addressed to Gray Brothers, lawyers, Oakland, Cal., referred to the collection of streetcar transfers from Portland as well as from Butte and St. Paul. A second letter addressed to R. S. Gray and all the family, told of

stopping at Portland, Or. This letter had been written in Chicago, October 3.

champions will meet the Chicago National League champions in the first game of the world's championship series.

This series promises to be eventful, for the two contenders for baseball supremacy are more evenly matched than in any preceding contest since annual world's championship series was inaugurated. The speed and cleverness of the Rocky Mountain contenders is offset by the hard-hitting profiles of the American representatives. The teams are equally proficient in the field, and the result of the series will undoubtedly be one of the most exciting of the game in which each excels.

INCREASES COAL SHORTAGE

Fire in Ravensdale Mine Will Seriously Hamper Railroads.

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Aside from the economic effect on the county by the throwing out of work of some 500 men, the fire in the mines at Ravensdale threatens to add materially to the already serious coal shortage of this part of the country. The Ravensdale mine has been producing between 30,000 and 40,000 tons of coal a day. All of it was used by the Northern Pacific Railway Company. There is one small slope at Ravensdale which does not communicate with the burning portion of the mine.

As the fire worked, but it will not furnish much fuel. Until full-capacity operations can be resumed the railroad will have to rely on its collieries at Roelyn and Cle-Eben and the fuel bought in market.

CEMENT ARRIVING FOR TUNNEL

Union Pacific Ready to Begin Bore in South Tacoma.

TACOMA, Wash., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Material for use in the construction of the Union Pacific tunnel in the southern part of the city is now being assembled in Tacoma. Eight thousand barrels of cement were received yesterday from London on the French bark Jeanne Corbionier, and more is en route. It is reported that a large number of the big fleet of cement ships bound from Europe for the Sound have cargoes for Harrison.

The road's engineers are still sinking test shafts along the line of the proposed tunnel to learn the nature of the soil and the depth of the water. The railway will be ready to begin the big bore.

OREGON ENROLLMENT GROWS

Registration at State University Has Reached 370.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Enrollment in the University now stands at the 370 mark, and a few students are registering every day. A number of old students who are out with surveying crews will not return to college until next month, and there will be a good-sized entering body for the opening of the second semester. Registrar A. R. Tiffany expects the enrollment to go as high as 425 before the end of the college year.

ENDS QUARREL WITH BULLET

Charles Churchill Shoots and Kills W. Zeigler, Ex-Policeman.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 7.—Following a barroom quarrel this afternoon, Charles Churchill, son of an old-timer, met William Zeigler, an ex-policeman of this city, tonight and shot and instantly killed him. Zeigler received the bullet in his breast. Churchill escaped, but surrendered to the police an hour later.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR

Is now here when lighting fixtures, fire-place appliances, grates and andirons are a necessity. Phone The M. J. Walsh Co., or call at their salesrooms, 211 Stark, between Fifth and Sixth, and have your lighting fixtures installed. Office and residence lighting promptly attended to. Both phones.

Crowds for Portland Day.

Anticipating a large crowd of Portland people at the fair at The Dalles next Wednesday, which is Portland day, the O. R. & N. will add additional equipment to care for the people. Extra cars will be put on the morning local, and have your lighting fixtures installed. Office and residence lighting promptly attended to. Both phones.

LOCAL FANS PICK DETROIT TO WIN

World's Championship Baseball Series Attracts Much Attention Here.

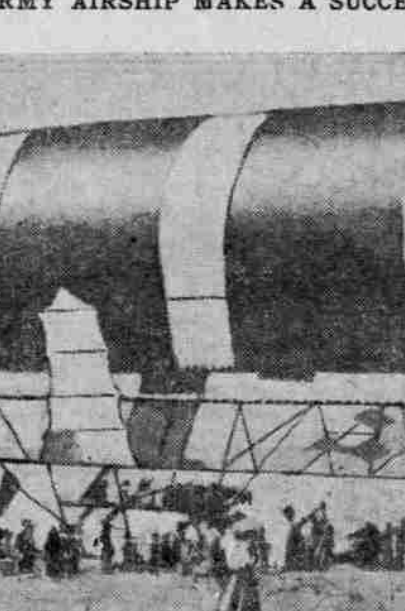
CHICAGO IS BETTER KNOWN

Many of Players of Cubs Formerly on Pacific Coast—Game Struggle of Detroit Makes That Club Favorite.

BY W. J. PETRAVIN.

This afternoon at Chicago will be inaugurated the greatest annual contest in the American game of baseball, when the Detroit American League

BRITISH ARMY AIRSHIP MAKES A SUCCESSFUL TRIP



THE NEW BRITISH ARMY AIRSHIP, "NULLI SECUNDUS."

The Nulli Secundus, designed for the British War Office by Colonel E. Templar and Mr. F. S. Cody, made a very successful trial trip recently. The trip took place under the guidance of Colonel Capper and Mr. Cody, who expressed themselves as very satisfied with the result, two ascents being made. The airship traveled well against the wind.

the best man at that position in the National League.

Of the Detroit team very little is known here of the individual players for none of them have been members of any Coast team. Most of them are known to the rabid fans by reputation, for the eager scanning of the baseball weeklies reveals references to the players of every league.

Umpires Hank O'Day of the National League and Jack Sheridan of the American League will be on hand at Chicago this afternoon and will denounce the strikes and balls and base decisions during the greatest series of the National game.

Opinions of Portland Fans.

O. G. Shurtliff—Chicago should win over Detroit. I believe they have the fastest team in either of the major leagues.

Al. Dique—I believe Chicago should win. I figure Overall to win two games, Reubach one and Brown one, which will make four out of the seven games to be played.

Pete Melle—Nothing to it but Detroit; that's my home town.

Albert Wickham—Detroit should win.

"Block" Keith—That Chicago bunch is all the candy and should run away with the Tigers.

Joe Scott—Chicago has the better of it in team work and on the bases and should win decisively.

George Wigg—Detroit has my money all the way.

George J. Bills—I pick Detroit to win handily.

Ed. Dietrich—You can break me if Detroit loses.

ESTABLISH NEW UTOPIA

CALIFORNIANS WILL FOUND SOCIALIST COLONY.

One Hundred People to Cultivate Tract in Lower California on Idealist Principles.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 7.—One hundred men and women residents of Southern California have banded together in the organization of La Proserpida Colony Association, which has for its object the setting up of a modern Utopia on the eastern coast of Lower California. Byron Hall, president of the association, is now in the City of Mexico conferring with President Diaz relative to the sale and concessions involved in the purchase of 200,000 acres of land.

A city laid out in a scientific manner has been planned by the association, and no saloons will be permitted, and the public utilities. No buildings detrimental to the public welfare and no saloons will be permitted. Families will receive an allowance for each child, there will be no subscribing to any religion, men and women will work equal hours for equal wages, and the initiative and referendum will govern the colony.

The hundred members already enlisted will be the pioneers, it being the ultimate intention to establish two similar colonies when the first is successfully under way. One is to be south of the City of Mexico, and the other in Kern County, California.

RAVENSDALE MINE ON FIRE

While Trying to Close Mouth of Slope Three Men Are Injured.

TACOMA, Wash., Oct. 7.—Fire broke out in the Northwestern company's coal mines at Ravensdale at 1 o'clock yesterday at the pump-house in the bottom of a 90-foot slope. While the men were trying to close up the mouth of an old slope adjoining, the timbers caved in, burying three men in the wreck. Harry McDowell, manager of the company's store, suffered a broken leg and arm and was removed to a hospital in Tacoma. William Duncan's nose was broken, and Booth, night foreman, bruised on the leg. Dynamite was used to close the mouth of the slope and the tunnels in the mine were flooded.

Harriman Behind North Coast.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—There is strong reason to believe, in view of recent developments, that E. H. Harriman is at least one of the backers of the North Coast. It is admitted that he is friendly to the project.

Fail to His Death.

PENDELTON, Or., Oct. 1.—(Special.)—Coroner Folsom was called to Stanton Station, on the Washington and Columbia River Railroad, this afternoon, by a report that a man named Allen, a brother of Mrs. George Carmichael, of Weston, had been killed by falling from a pile of wheat. No particulars could be had. The coroner will return with the body tomorrow.

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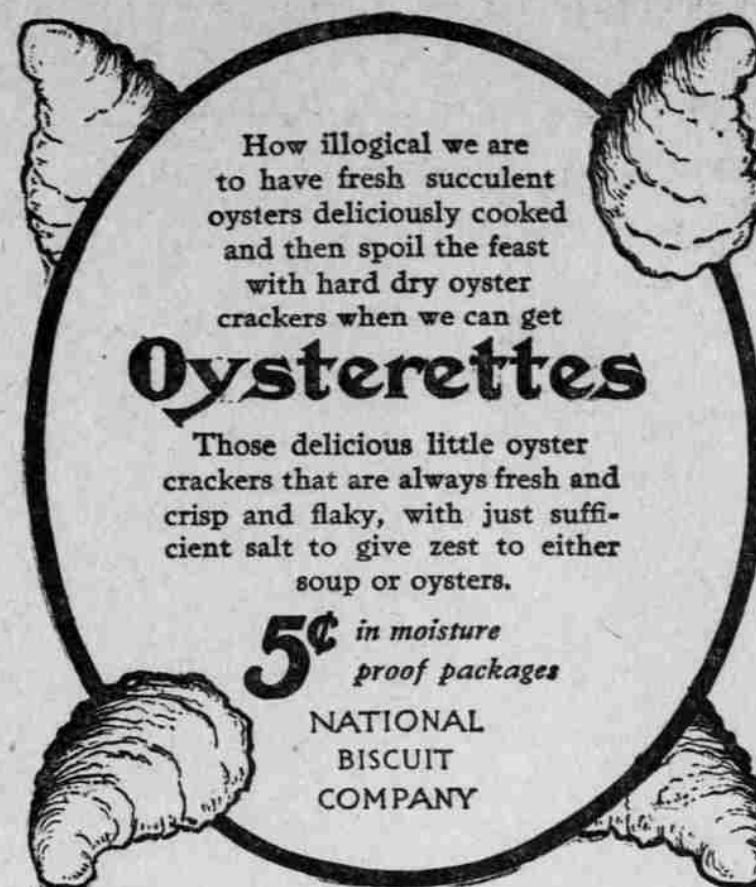
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ject.

The company has purchased right of way facilities at Kennewick for \$20,000. The land purchased stretches for a mile north of the city proper and includes a considerable acreage suitable for freight yards.

Must Comply With State Law.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—In a decision rendered today the State Supreme Court holds that the Co-operative Home Builders, a California incorporation, is doing a building and loan business and sustains the contention of the state Attorney-General that the company be prohibited from doing business in this state unless it complies with state laws respecting building and loan associations, such as depositing securities with the State Auditor, making reports, etc. The decision affects the decision of the King County Superior Court in a case brought by the Attorney-General against the company to oust it from the state.

Charged With Illegal Fishing.

ASTORIA, Or., Sept. 7.—(Special.)—Anton Sarpali, of Seattle, was arrested this afternoon on a complaint sworn to by Walter Ballif Bettum, and charging him with operating a set net without securing a state license. The defendant was placed under a \$20-bond to appear for trial in Justice Goodman's court tomorrow.

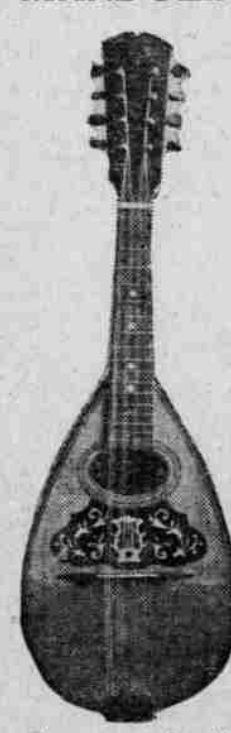
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September 14, 1907.
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Yours truly,
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