LAW FAIR ON FACE, IN PRACTICE BAD

Borah Says Settlers on Forest Reserves Are Discouraged by Government.

MANY CLAIMS REJECTED

Specimen Letter Written by Supervisor Declared to Show Mockery of Regulations—"Special Use" Is Farce.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 27.—The present law providing for the homestead entry of agricultural lands in forest reserves was declared by Senator Borah, of Idaho, to be a farce and almost entirely inoperative, especially as it is not being enforced. In support of this contention Senator Borah said:

"There is not better illustration of the harsh, uncertain methods of administration of our laws with reference to the acquisition of title to our public agricultural lands than that which is found with reference to acquiring a homestead in a forest reserve. We have, I think, about 200,000,000 acres of forest reserves in the United States, an area larger than France, and, of course, a great deal of this land is agricultural land.

Law Unfair in Operation.

"It was perhaps necessarily so in the beginning by reason of the fact that the forest reserves were created without full knowledge of the nature of all the lands included within them. So in 1906, I think it was, we passed a law by which settlers might take up agricultural lands in forest reserves. The law upon its face seems to be reasonably fair, and yet in its operation it is wholly impracticable and is now practically a dead letter. In other words, if I say to you, 'If you will go upon a piece of land and cultivate so many acres, build a house upon it, and reside upon it for five years, I will give it to you,' if you want the land you will likely go; but if I say to you, 'If you will go upon that piece of land and remain there three or five years and I come to the conclusion that you have made a success of it as a farmer, I will give you that land,' unless a man is blessed with far more credulity than ordinarily belongs to human nature he will not go on such an uncertain proposition. That is the effect of this law with reference to the acquisition of title to land in forest reserves. The party must make his application, and if the Bureau finally becomes satisfied that he has made a success of it, that he is a farmer, and that the land is agricultural, at the end of five years, or at a proper time, it will give him title to the land.

Settlers Are Discouraged.

"To show how successfully that works, I desire to quote some figures. I get them from an article written by a prominent citizen of the West, Mr. Knapp. During the entire year of 1908 1181 claims were reported favorably for action in forest reserves, 1057 were reported on adversely, and 800 claims were not reported upon at all. In the same year 1675 ranger headquarters were selected and withdrawn from entry. Seven ranger headquarters out of 10 are good homesteads, and not only that, Mr. President, many of them were homesteads before they were selected as ranger headquarters. I know of my personal knowledge of instances where parties have been upon agricultural lands actually raising crops and producing in a successful way for from one to three years, at the end of which time the beauty of location and position enabled him to come to the conclusion that the land should be withdrawn for public use, and it was withdrawn. The result has been that settlers have practically quit trying to go into these places to acquire such lands.

"Special Use" Permit Ironical.

"I will give you a few more figures. In 1907 only 780 reports on homestead claims were transmitted to the General Land Office by the Forestry Bureau. During that year they selected 1552 ranger headquarters. So, approximately, we had during the years 1907 and 1908 an approval of 1516 homes for settlers and 2327 ranger headquarters.

"I want to read a letter, which is genuine, I think, from a forest supervisor in California to a man by the name of Hutchings, and it is well worth attention of those who desire to know how this law is administered.

"'Dear Sir: Your application, No. 19, for forest homestead is on file in the office of the district forester may determine what lands to recommend for listing. It is desirable that a demonstration be made of its agricultural possibilities, and to this end I would suggest that you take out a special-use permit for 40 acres of the tract applied for and the experiment upon it. It is believed that two years should be sufficient to demonstrate whether the land will produce farm crops of enough value to justify its listing for agricultural entry. If results are such that your application is rejected, but if you still desire to continue occupancy of the 40 acres under special-use permit, you may be allowed to do so upon the payment of the usual annual charges.'

Satires of Juvenal Outdone.

"Mr. President, in my leisure hours of life I have found great pleasure in reading the satires of Juvenal, the letters of Junius, and later the humor of Mark Twain and Dooley; but I never have seen concentrated into so brief a space such a combination of irony and grim humor as is found in this letter. I take it that it was written in a spirit of humor, because no man who was not a driveling idiot would write that kind of a letter to a bona fide homesteader.

"That is not an unusual letter. It is more than usually classic in its make up, but it is in effect what they write to the homesteader. They say to him, 'You go upon this land and remain there for two or three years, and if at the end of that time we are satisfied that you have made a success or that it is agricultural land, we will give you the land; but if we are not satisfied with you as a farmer, we will either rent it to you or else we will make a ranger's headquarters out of it.'"

ST. JOHNS MEN GROOM

Registration Opens, Many Would-Be Candidates Are in Field.

ST. JOHNS, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Registration books for the city election of April 1 were opened this morning and will be open continuously until voting time, except for five days before the primary election, March 2.

It is believed that Mayor Couch has his eye on a state office and will not be a candidate for re-election. The Socialists are grooming Councilman G. L. Perrine for the Mayoralty, while H. W. Bonham, H. W. Brice, J. E. Hiller and A. C. Gesler also are ambitious to hold the city's highest office.

F. A. Rice, Recorder, will be a candidate to succeed himself and A. W. Markle, editor of the St. Johns Review, is the only other candidate mentioned for that office. W. S. Kellog, Treasurer, has served two consecutive terms in the office and therefore is unavailable. J. E. Tanch, ex-Treasurer, is expected to have no opposition.

Mr. Gatzmeyer and Perry C. Stroud may be candidates to succeed City Attorney Esson, who will not be a candidate.

J. W. Davis, D. F. Horsman and A. A. Muck, Councilmen, are expected to be candidates to succeed themselves. P. Hill says he will not run because city business interferes with his Summer fishing and hunting.

All the work of preparation for the election will go for naught if the Supreme Court hands down a decision ruling that St. Johns was legally annexed to Portland last Summer.

ROSEBURG FOREST SUPERVISOR IS A VETERAN IN FEDERAL SERVICE.

S. C. Bartrum.

ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Thirteen years' service as forestry supervisor has earned for S. C. Bartrum, of Roseburg, the distinction of being the man longest employed in such a capacity in the United States, according to records discovered at the recent convention of representatives and forest supervisors at Portland. Besides establishing miles of trails through the forests, Mr. Bartrum has succeeded in extending the Government telephone system, until now communication is possible with almost any part of the Umpqua district. Miles of excellent roads have also been constructed, as have many substantial bridges. Mr. Bartrum usually passes the Summer in assisting and directing the fire-fighters in protecting the Umpqua forests. In past years fires have been frequently reported, but in no instance have they resulted in any great amount of damage.

ASYLUM HEAD ACCUSED

STATE ROBBED BY NAPA MANAGEMENT, IS CHARGED.

Superintendent "Lives Like Lord" in State-Owned Bungalow, in Beautiful Game Preserve.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 27.—Serious irregularities in the management of the State Hospital for the Insane at Napa are charged in a report to Governor Johnson by John F. Neylan, a member of the State Board of Control, who has investigated the institution.

The report accuses Dr. Elmer E. Stone, the superintendent, who has tendered his resignation, with the embezzlement of $1130, which, it is declared, Stone admitted taking. It is said that he gave a check for the amount, offering also a check for $1800 to cover extravagant personal expenses, which the Board of Control refused to accept.

It is charged in the report that within four years the state paid $12,000 for meat that was never delivered and for other supplies in proportion. Stone, it is said, lived "like a lord" in a beautiful bungalow, erected, the report says, at the expense of the state and surrounded by a private hunting and fishing domain. A storage reservoir on the place was stocked with 180,000 trout by the state, it is declared. Numerous other charges of like nature are made.

The responsibility is placed upon the old board of managers, of whom Henry Meacham, J. H. Steves and Richard Belcher have resigned "by request." Several of the employes have been discharged as a result of these disclosures.

SCHOOL POLING BLAMED

MRS. TRUMBULL SAYS SEGREGATION OF PUPILS BAD.

Separating Manual From Classical Departmtnt Said to Lead to Class Distinctions.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Minnie R. Trumbull, of Portland, Or., sharply criticised the policy of segregating pupils in the public schools in an address before the National child labor committee, which concluded its 1912 session here tonight. She declared that the segregation of pupils who enter the manual or vocational department from the pupils in the classical courses created class distinction.

She said "there is no way by which we can lift the burden from the shoulders of women and child laborers as long as we show such abject deference to the moneyed men who profit by it, and who stubbornly maintain the system. Regulation is the only thing possible at present."

Declaring that pupils of public schools from the sixth grade on up through the high school and even the colleges derive no economic benefit from their instruction, Miss Edith Campbell, of Cincinnati, startled the conference. She cited numerous instances of college girls who were compelled to work for a smaller wage than women with little or no schooling.

Professor F. M. Levitt, of the University of Chicago, declared schools of the future must provide income-yielding work.

DEMOCRATS SPLIT OVER 'MONEY TRUST'

Leaders Would Put Quietus on Inquiry Proposed by Henry, of Texas.

CAUCUS MAY BE NEEDED

Serious Party Fight Threatened if Texas Member Insists on Pressing Resolution Offered by Minnesota Man.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Inquiry into the "money trust" has become one of the most important problems before the Democrats of the House, and with a difference of opinion existing among them as to the wisdom of such an investigation as is proposed in the resolution introduced by Representative Lindbergh, of Minnesota, Representative Henry, of Texas, chairman of the rules committee, today took the positive stand that the inquiry was imperative.

In a statement urging his colleagues to vote with him to "turn on the light," Chairman Henry assumed leadership of what may develop into a serious party fight before the question is settled.

Leader Opposes Scheme.

It is known that Representative Underwood, the majority leader, and others are opposed to saddling any more investigating committees upon Congress at this time, but whether pressure in this instance will be strong enough to convince them that it is their duty to delve into the secrets of Wall-street finance remains to be seen. It is probable that the matter will not be settled until the House Democrats have fought out the issue in caucus.

Speaker Clark, Representative Underwood and other leaders today declined to discuss the statement issued by Representative Henry in which he positively declared that the party could not decline to prosecute the proposed investigation.

Littleton Fears Panic.

Representative Littleton, though not a member of the rules committee, which is considering the resolution, expressed opposition to the inquiry after a conference with some of his Democratic colleagues.

"I am opposed to the inquiry such as is proposed by Mr. Henry," Mr. Littleton said. "If this plan were followed, a panic might ensue. Why should it not be better to admit that there is a money trust, if such exists, and then set about to frame legislation to remedy the evil? An inquiry such as is proposed certainly will create unrest among the people."

HIGHER RATE IS ADOPTED

Modern Woodmen Vote, 460 to 307, for Increased Assessments.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—The proposition for the revision upward of the insurance rates in the Modern Woodmen of America was adopted today at the convention by a vote of 460 for higher rates against 307 opposing the proposition.

The measure was proposed by the rate committee, and is that which is being urged for adoption by fraternal insurance societies by the insurance departments of many states. The plan increases the rate of insurance in the order from 50 to 100 per cent and provides for 12 assessments each year, while members of the order have heretofore contributed from nine to eleven assessments yearly.

INDEPENDENTS FIGHT BELL

Merger of Indianapolis Telephones Will Be Opposed.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 27.—That independent telephone interests of Indiana are lining up to resist advance of the Bell companies is indicated today in the statement of N. C. Hunter, president of the Indiana Independent Telephone Association, that he will file a protest against the proposed merger of the Indianapolis Independent system and the Bell (Central Union) company.

Owners of Independent exchanges throughout the state say they fear the effect on their business if the Bell interests maintain a monopoly in Indianapolis and then proceed to take over the independent long-distance lines.

SCHOOL OF CORSETRY OPENS

Corset Fitting an Art—Mrs. L. Fountain Returns From Spirella Corset Normal School.

Corset fitting means more than placing a corset on a customer. So says Mrs. L. Fountain, who is manager of the Spirella Corset Shop, 507 Selling bldg. In taking our measurements, which are many, we study our customer very closely. Our schools teach us how to mould and distribute flesh, to improve or conserve the figure. If the lady is large we must fit her in a corset designed for her particular type of figure, made according to her measurements, molding her figure so as to give harmony of figure lines. The small, thin woman requires just as much study as her large sister. We study our figures, the texture of flesh, selections of models, measuring, fitting and lacing. It is our profession to teach women to put their corsets on correctly.

Most every woman knows Spirella corsets are a guaranteed custom-made corset, and with the expert service given in the homes by our trained corsetiers, it is an advantage every woman appreciates.

The Spirella Company is the largest custom corset manufacturers in the world. We are represented in every English-speaking country. For their hygienic and sanitary qualities physicians have indorsed them throughout the universe. All Spirella Corsetiers are thoroughly trained before they are sent out from the office. They take their examinations every month. This is done to keep them growing with the Spirella proposition, which is the most modern and advanced corset concern known.

Mrs. Fountain returned the first part of the week, after spending a few weeks in training at the Normal School in Corsetry, given at the Spirella factory in Meadville, Penn., where their schools are held annually for the managers and instructors. She will open her school of corsetry in Portland February first. **

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY—three more days of 100 per cent profit-taking for Portland women, in this great sale of Fancy Tailored Suits at half price. Fetching models, made of selected fabrics, on which the price has been $25, $30, $35 and $40; for three days more you're welcome to come and choose at $12.50, $15, $17.50 and $20—just half the regular price.

Hundreds of handsomely-dressed women in Portland and the surrounding country are realizing today on their clothing investments here; you and your friends are cordially asked to come and participate. Remember, you save exactly half.

WE HAVE six beautiful satin-lined Velvet Suits in dark blue and black, priced $45, $65, $100, $110 and $125, that will be sacrificed at one-half. The sizes are 14, 18 (misses'), 34, 36 and 38 (ladies'). Two are plainly tailored; the others are richly garnitured with silk braid and fur. All are new, striking models, very effective for functional wear. Our sacrifice on these will enable you to own a handsome costume at an unusually attractive price.

THIS half-price movement now extends to every Ladies' Woolen Coat and Polo Coat that we have. These sharp mornings make them a welcome addition to the wardrobe of every lady who enjoys a ride or a walk in this glorious Winter air.

The prices have been $15 and $20; they're now $7.50 and $10.

THESE London-fog-proofed English Mandelbergs will protect you from any Oregon shower. Buy them while the price temperature is below normal.

They were . .	$20.00	$22.50	$25.00	$27.50	$30.00
They're now	$16.85	$19.85	$21.15	$22.50	$24.85

Ladies' Shop, Third Floor—Elevator Service

BEN SELLING

LEADING CLOTHIER

Morrison at Fourth Street

WORD IS EXPECTED

Williams Thinks Roosevelt Will Declare Candidacy.

DILEMMA BAD, BOTH WAYS

President, in Opinion of Oregon Committeeman, Will Be Stronger Before People Than Ever, if Announcement Comes.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 27.—The Washington Post today prints the following:

"That Colonel Roosevelt will soon make an announceemnt declaring that he will accept the nomination for President, if tendered to him, is expected by some Republicans in Washington, and that this is believed by President Taft was the opinion expressed by R. E. Williams, Republican National committeeman from Oregon. Mr. Williams has been in various parts of the country in the last few weeks, and not long ago saw Colonel Roosevelt in New York.

"'Friends of President Taft are not worried about Colonel Roosevelt's candidacy,' said Mr. Williams. 'It makes no difference whether Colonel Roosevelt declares himself as a candidate or signifies that he will accept the nomination, he is "in bad," any way he moves. If he remains silent, he will stir the hostility of the President's friends, and if he comes out as a receptive candidate, he will at once arouse the opposition of Democrats who might be for Mr. Taft and those Republicans who are of the conservative type.

"'The President will be the one to profit if Colonel Roosevelt announces his candidacy, and he would be stronger with the people, in my opinion, than before.

"'The Democratic press, believing, perhaps, that Colonel Roosevelt might win, would at once begin attacks upon him, and, if he should be nominated, the Democracy would name a candidate like Speaker Clark or Representative Underwood. There is no way in which Colonel Roosevelt's attitude, whether he continues to wear the mask of a sphinx or comes out and declares that he will accept the nomination, can injure the prospects of Mr. Taft.

"'I believe that Mr. Taft is sure to be nominated. Colonel Roosevelt, by signifying that he would take the nomination, would lay himself open to the charge of ingratitude and also of having been working for months to undermine the President.

"'I hope the Democrats will nominate Woodrow Wilson, for then Mr. Taft will have no trouble in winning in the election.'"

LET GEORGE DO IT

GEO. T. ATCHLEY.

Formerly secretary and advertising manager for the Morgan-Atchley Furniture Co., who has been traveling extensively since selling his interest in the firm, has again associated himself with the PACIFIC MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., with which he was connected for ten years before engaging in the furniture business.

For the Best Life Insurance "Come to the Pacific With Ward" And Let George Write It.

"We Sell Only the Better Grades of Diamonds"

The ONLY diamond many a man buys during a lifetime is the ring he gives the girl who is to become his wife.

It is especially appropriate that he buy such a stone from us, where he is sure, and the girl knows, only good diamonds are sold, and at reasonable prices.

If anything could add to the happiness of giving and receiving such a gift, it is the knowledge that nothing but the best has been considered.

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MARX & BLOCH

Largest Diamond Dealers in Oregon

283 Morrison St. - 74 3rd St.

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ACCEPT OUR OFFER TODAY

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, do not fail to call or write today and get our Electrophone on 30 Days HOME TRIAL. It is a tiny but powerful electrical hearing device, a truly wonderful little instrument, perfected to such a degree that many deaf people can now hear the faintest sound and enjoy all pleasures of church, public speaking or ordinary conversation. It magnifies sound, gradually restores the natural hearing, carried in the clothing and leaves both hands free.

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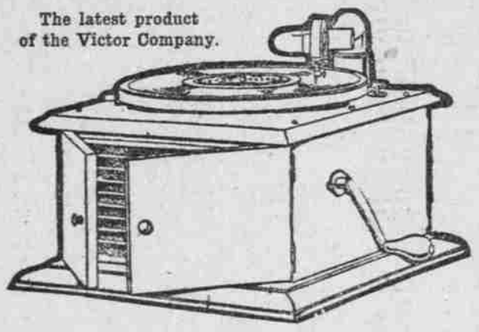
The latest product of the Victor Company.



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$15 and $25

These are the last word in Victor machines. They are good enough in every essential for any home, cheap enough for any purse. They embody every feature that has made the Victor an instrumnt in a class alone—without compare. In tone, the true Victor quality; in mechanism, the Victor superiority; in finish, the Victor beauty. The whole, the aristocrat of all Talking Machines.

You may buy them on very easy payments.

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MORRISON STREET AT SEVENTH

PORTLAND TO HAVE AN Automobile Factory

Am organizing a company to build a classy little roadster, also a light delivery car that will do the work of and cost less than three horses and wagons and cost less than one horse to maintain.

The manufacturing of automobiles is the best paying business in America today.

I would be glad to hear from anyone who would be interested in an investment of this kind.

Address G 768, Oregonian