

# The Madras Pioneer

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NO. 24

## NORTHERN PACIFIC DOES WELL IN WASHINGTON

Portland Journal.  
The Northern Pacific's recent annual report showed that great railroad to be in a splendid condition, and to be doing a far larger volume of business than ever before, so that Mr. Hill can well afford to hint if not specifically to promise, as he has done several times during the past year, that rates would from time to time be reduced in the future, as they have been in the past.

A gratifying feature of this report not only to the people of the state of Washington, but to those of Oregon also, is the proportion of business handled in our neighbor state. With a total mileage of 5,676 miles, the Northern Pacific has 1,535 miles of track in Washington. This is 27 per cent of its entire mileage. With gross earnings of \$50,771,070 for the whole system, its earnings in Washington were \$14,132,304, or nearly 28 per cent of the total. To about the same degree the receipts from passengers and freight in Washington have exceeded the average for the entire system. The average receipts for carrying passengers per mile were 2,326 cents, while for the whole road the average was 2,231 cents. On freight Washington paid the company .879 of a cent per ton mile, while the system as a whole collected only .832 of a cent. The lines in Washington carried a disproportionately large share both of passengers and freight. Out of 5,142,891 fare-paying passengers on the whole line, the Washington passengers numbered 2,117,529. Out of 13,036,780 tons of revenue-producing freight for the system, the Washington lines carried 5,204,190 tons. Of course, a large part of this traffic, both passenger and freight was interstate business.

No wonder, in the face of this showing, that Mr. Hill is in love with Washington, and appreciative of its great resources and rapid development, nor that, knowing Oregon to be an equally resourceful state, he at last broke loose from the "traffic arrangement between gentleman," the division of territory agreement, and invaded Oregon. He will soon have a terminus in Portland, and we may be sure that he will not stop with getting into this city over the natural and best route, but will invade other parts of Oregon. He understands the Pacific northwest thoroughly, and that Oregon is or can be made as good a state in which to do business as Washington.

Prineville Review: The First National bank has moved into its new quarters in the stone building. Removal was made the first of the week. The building would be a credit to any city.

## TO DEVELOP POWER.

The Pilot Butte Development Company, by A. M. Drake, president, filed notice of appropriation with the state engineer last week for 2000 cubic feet a second of the water in the Deschutes river at Bend, Oregon, for electric power and other purposes.

This is in accordance with the plan of this company to erect a dam at Bend which will im-

pound the waters of the Deschutes in a reservoir covering about 90 acres. The reservoir is to be used to store logs for a big sawmill. This is the only place where logs can be stored in a mill pond near Bend. The fall obtained by the erection of the dam will furnish about 1500-horsepower, which will be used to develop electric power for use in mills and factories at Bend and for other purposes.

## Z. F. MOODY FILES ON WATER

Ex-Governor Z. F. Moody filed notice of an appropriation for electrical power purposes of 5000 cubic feet a second of the water in the Deschutes river.

The proposed dam and reservoir is to be located near the mouth of the Deschutes, in Wasco and Sherman counties. The water filed on will develop about 5000 horsepower.

During the past three months there have been a number of filings made in different parts of the state on the water in rivers and mountain streams. There is reason to believe that the same financial interests are back of many of these filings.

The reservoir of the power project filed on in the State Engineer's office this morning is to be located on land belonging to Mr. Moody.

Central Oregonian: As an illustration of what may be produced on a dry land farm in this part of Central Oregon, with proper management, look at the Prader place, in the Summer lake region; under the immediate supervision of G. J. Woodward. For years before Mr. Prader got the place it had been considered almost worthless, a number of persons having tried, but with indifferent success to make it pay. There were last year raised on the farm 4,500 bushels of barley 140 tons of alfalfa hay, and 17,000 pounds of potatoes, bringing in an income of something like \$4,400, not a bad showing for one season. We cite this merely as an instance to show how badly some folks may be fooled in their estimate of the productive possibilities of a piece of dry desert land.

Oregonian: The "Holy Rollers," after having been disbanded in this state through the imprisonment of their leader and placing some of their more demented victims in the insane asylum, have broken out in Walla Walla. With rant and shout and groveling on the ground, they have driven one woman insane and caused her children to come to evil plight. The authorities should not palter with the leader of these unseemly antics, but should deal with him promptly as a dangerous man, guilty of and inciting to disorderly conduct. The small colony of these religious fanatics would speedily disrupt if their leader was restrained from mischief.

The building of the North bank road down the Columbia is resulting in the establishing of a number of new towns along the route, the latest of these being the townsite of Roosevelt, just across the river from the old town of Arlington, and which was platted last Saturday. A choice corner lot in the new town has been deeded to President Roosevelt, and the deed conveying the lot in the town bearing his name has been forwarded to the President. If each of the new towns along the North bank road should prove equally generous, the President would soon become bankrupt paying recording fees.

Frank Murk and Jesse Harter of Laidlaw and Oscar Johnson of Idaho were in town over Wednesday night. Mr. Murk is in the dairying business at Laidlaw.

Posters are out announcing a masquerade ball for the 14th of February.

Born to the wife of Fred Killingbeck a girl on January 29, 1906.

## PROPOSED REFORMS IN THE LAND LAWS

Repeal of Timber and Stone Act to be Among Changes.

From time to time at recent sessions of Congress attempts have been made to bring about certain needed reforms in the public land laws, but these attempts have been blocked and the only reform of any importance which has been accomplished was the repeal of the law permitting lieu land selections. At the present session of Congress, however, prospects of important legislation in the way of land law reforms are good, and it is highly probable that those land laws responsible for the tremendous land frauds which have been unearthed in Oregon and other states will be either wiped off the statute books by repeal, or so modified as to meet the urgent demand being made for reform. Among the proposed reforms will be the following:

Repeal of the timber and stone act.

Appraisal of timber and sale at auction under rules to be made by Secretary of Interior.

No land chiefly valuable for timber to be patented under commutation clause of homestead act.

Desert Land claimants to show that they take land for own benefit, and have made no agreement to sell; claims to be limited to 160 acres instead of 320 as at present; actual residence of at least two years to be required; actual production of valuable crops on one-fourth of area, and actual irrigation to be required.

Commutation clause of homestead to be repealed, or to be so amended as to become effective only after three years actual residence.

Agricultural land within forest reserves to be opened for agricultural land entry.

Grazing districts to be reserved by Presidential proclamation; Secretary of Interior to classify and appraise grazing value, appoint officers in care of each district, collect fee for grazing permits, and make regulations; regulations to aim at largest permanent occupation by actual settlers.

It is impossible yet to predict what action will be taken by Congress when these reforms are proposed, but it is likely that the recommendations of the Public Land Commission appointed two years ago by the President, will be followed.

Western congressmen have been opposed to the repeal of the commutation clause of the homestead law, for the reason that its repeal would retard the development of the great West. It is a fact recognized by all that the first settlers in any country are rarely permanent residents. They flock in when the rush comes, take up a homestead and by a bare compliance with the law acquire title, to sell later to the farmer who has been crowded out of the middle West by the high price of land and has come further out in search of a home. The position has been taken that the sooner the first settler can dispose of his homestead, the sooner will the country pass into the hands of actual farmers. It is this view of it which has defeated any attempt to repeal the

(Concluded on page 5)

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