## Coos Bay Times

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THE COOR BAY TIMES PUBLISHING CO.

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LAND TRIALS.

The trial of Senator Borah in Idaho for alleged land frauds is being watched by many of the brilliant senator's friends with perfect con-fidence that he will be acquitted. Certainly it will be the earnest wish of all who have observed his career that he will be able to secure a com-plete vindication at the hands of the Jury. His friends attribute his in-dictment to the bitter enmity of United States District Attorney Ruick, who is charged with forcing tne grand jury to return the indict-ment. Whether Ruck has sufficient physical or hypnotic power to accomplish such a feat over from twelve to twenty-three men, cannot be stated at this distance. Even Borah is not immune from indictment and pun-

ishment if he is guilty. But in the course of the trial it developed that the quest for convictions in the land fraud cases had become so argent that peculiar methods were resorted to for the purpose of procuring evidence and that for the sake of obtaining immunities or profits both criminals and detectives had introduced vicious practices into the channels of justice. The history of nearly all at-tempts to purify the political system seems to be a history of spasms. For a time corruption is rampant. until some strong official hand is raised to correct or punish. Then the current is reversed and runs as strongly in the direction of morals. The public, which was callous before, is horrifled at conditions which it long knew to exist and judges, juries and press hurry the accused to conviction and prison. This spasm in favor of moranty continues until prosecutions become fanatical and intemperate and the thinking public disgusted, whereupon a reaction sets in and a halt is called. Perhaps the prosecution of Borah and the methods and motives of his prosecutors mark a turning point and the beginning of a reaction in the public mind, and that the era of rabid pursuit of criminals in high places is drawing to a close. Whether this is so or not, it cannot be denied that morals and honesty is great. It will have to be admitted, however, that very little of all the very little of all the vast losses which rogues, convicted and unconvicted, have imposed on the people. has been recovered, and all the cor rupt wealth of millionaire swindlers still remains in swindlers' hands. The stolen goods are still with the thieves and there is no effort made to recover them. Untold acres of land fraudulently acquired are held out of reach of the people who need them. Would it not be more useful and sensible to employ all the money, talent, ingenuity and senti-ment which are being expended in punishing a few unfortunate knaves in effecting a restoration to the pub-lic domain of what has been stolen? Surely the great state of Oregon would fare and feel better.

THE FIRE ORDINANCE.

A large number of people who own property in Marshfield have been intending to construct buildings on their lots located in what is now designated as the fire limits. Many of them yesterday, after learning of the passage of the act in question, were quite loud in their lamentaalready to commence building, and that they would now have to give up the plan. All these good people may get busy at once, however, for It seems that under the referendum law the act is inoperative for thirty days after passage. It is shrewdly suspected that many of those who were disposed to assert their enter-prising intentions after they thought themselves checkmated, really had no intention of building. If they did now the bluff is called. If they did they have ample time to get their elevations erected, and when that is done the law cannot reach them.

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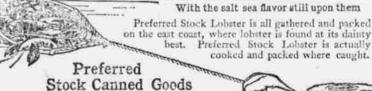
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