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INCRE#SED TILLABLE ACRES.

According to Assessor Cornelius' re turn for the present year, Clatsop county has 5764 acres of tiliable land and 412.504 acres of non-tillable. The proportion is as 1 to 72, that is for every acre of tillable land there are 72 acres of non-tillable. This is a little better showing than last year when the returns showed 4660 acres of tillable and 292,013 of non-tillable, or a ratio of 1 to st. According to the assessor's cnumer ation for last year the average for each 160 acres or quarter section of land was approximately 2 acres of tillable to 155 acres of non-tillable land; and an entire section of 649 acres, would contain only 8 acres of tillable land. This year's returns shows between two and three for each quarter section and nearly ten acres for a whole section.

The prependerance of non-tillable lands, it is to be noted, is more apparent than real. In listing lands, it has been the rule, generally to call that which is actually under cultivation tillable and that which is not, though cap able of cultivation, non- tillable Furthermore, tillable land is valued at \$4 to \$20 an acre for assessment pur poses while non-tillable is rated at \$1 to \$2 per acre and the temptation exists for the owner, in giving in his lands, to swell the acreage of non-tillable. It is patent to every one accominted with Clatsop's lands that 5764 acres is only a fractional part of the area that may be made productive of small fruits and vegetables, and as stated by Professor grown in temperate climates for dairy cows can be produced on the bench-

of Westfall, Malhuer county, shows the recent pardon of Balley from the penitentlary to have been a miscarriage of justice. Filled with liquor, the Balley boys on horseback, rode upon William Humbert, an unarmed young rancher, and put four bullet holes through his body with 38 and 44 calibre revolvers. murdering him within sight of his family. After the murder the Balleys told ranchman in the vicinity if he in formed on them he might expect the same fate. A fury found the Baileys guilty of murder in the second degree and their punishment was fixed at imprisonment for life. .It was a surprise to the community, so Mr. Becker says that the verdlet was not murder in the first degree, and the punishment hang-

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MALTHOID

After they had served a few years of their sentence a Baker City lawyer set out to secure their release. A petition in their behalf has been on file in the executive office for years, but it never received favorable action until Governor Chamberlain a few days ago decided to grant them freedom, after serving about eleven years. This causes Mr. Becker, who lives in the vicinity where the crime was committed to remark that "Just such cases as this makes an outraged community look to Judge Lynch for justice."

The Oregonian, commenting editorially on the pardon suggests that the state board of pardons was grossly imposed on, by the petitioners. The govASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1903

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Astoria, Oregon, May 8, 1903

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