

The Morning

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CHANGES LAND LAW

Bingham Bill Increases
State Revenue.

PREVENTS BIG STEALS

Notary Public Must Know Per-
sonally Witnesses and
Purchaser.

RAISES THE SELLING PRICE

Measure Corrects Loopholes in Pres-
ent Law—Members of Legislature
Vote Themselves Raise in Sal-
ary—House Kills a Bill.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 1.—In order that the state will derive more money from its lands Senator Bingham has introduced a bill at the request of the state land agent, the measure being drawn by Oswald West. It is also intended to correct loopholes in the present law and prevent land-grabbing.

Perhaps the most radical change is that when applying for state lands it will no longer be necessary to swear that they are not being secured for speculative purposes. No one buys land without expecting to dispose of it at a profit, and people with a tender conscience hesitate at the present clause.

The slipshod methods of making the affidavit are also amended. The Bingham measure provides that the notary public must know the man buying the land and he must also know the witnesses and where they live. A provision of this character would have prevented the wholesale looting of lands in the past when anyone signed as a witness and in many instances the notary did not even meet the witnesses. Through the ring of land robbers thousands of acres were disposed of to people in the East. Now they will be compelled to come to Oregon to sign the papers. If the bill passes no one can remove timber from state land until he has a deed.

There are five kinds of land in the state. School land brings \$2.50, indemnity land sells at \$5, tide lands at \$2, swamp land at \$1, and college and university land at \$1.25. The Bingham bill empowers the State Land Board to raise the prices and provides that swamp land and college and university land shall not be sold for less than \$2.50 an acre. This is a raise of \$1.50 an acre on swamp land and \$1.25 on the college and university lands. The largest raise is in the tide-lands. The measure provides that the State Land Board shall sell tide-land to the highest bidder, but shall not accept less than \$5 an acre, and that no tide-land shall be sold for the next ten years.

With the backing of the State Land Board it is believed that the measure will pass the Senate by a good majority.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 1.—Instead of \$120 a session, members of the legislature are to get \$400, according to a joint House resolution passed this morning. An attempt was made to fix the amount at \$300 by the resolution committee, but the House boosted the amount \$100 and allowed the speaker and president \$15 a day each. Members are also to get \$3 for every twenty miles traveled.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 1.—With a whoop the House killed the resolution by Purdy, instructing the committee on ways and means to provide for but

two Normal Schools in the next years. The final vote stood 53 to 26 in favor of an indefinite postponement of the resolution. This is the third time the Normal School issue has been brought up and indications are all four will get the usual allowances. The Multnomah delegation split on this question, the leaders opposing appropriation for more than two schools. Those favoring but two schools were: Barrett of Washington, Bayer, Beals, Belknap, Bone, Brix, Campbell, Coffey, Connell, Crawford, Donnelly, Driscoll, Holt, Huntley, Jones of Clackamas, Merryman, Newell, Pike, Purdy, Reynolds, Simmons and Upmeyer.

The Davey resolution for an amendment to the constitution, providing for the election of the speaker and the president of the Senate, was unfavorably reported by the resolutions committee and was killed by the House without protest.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 1.—A substitute Oregon City lock bill, offered by the committee today, provides that the state shall raise \$300,000 for the purchase of a site and construction of the locks on the east bank, provided that the government gives a like sum to own and operate the locks free to all river traffic. This bill takes the place of No. 7, while appropriated \$400,000 for the locks and provided that the state should take up the work alone.

OBJECT TO VACCINATION.

HAVANA, Feb. 1.—The health authorities are having difficulty with the residents of the zone surrounding Laus Animas hospital where the smallpox has spread. The people strongly object to vaccination and are trying to move away rather than submit. The health officials are doing their best to prevent escapes in order to avoid a further spread of the disease.

PITTSBURG BLAZE

Destroys Property Valued Over One Million Dollars.

FIRE GETS BEYOND CONTROL

Starts in Heart of Business District and Spreads Despite Efforts of Firemen and Burns Several Big Buildings.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 1.—A long distance telephone message from Harrisburg, Pa., says that a serious conflagration broke out in the heart of the business district early today and many buildings have already been destroyed by fire.

The origin of the fire is not known. It was discovered in the Grand Opera house, and this building, which is valued at \$200,000, is entirely destroyed. The firemen were unable to check the flames and in a short time the Park hotel was burning. The Bijou Amusement Company, Hanna's drug store, a cigar store and several other business blocks were quickly burned.

At 6 o'clock the fire spread to the Columbus hotel which is burning fiercely with no hope of saving it.

As far as known there are no fatalities, everybody in the hotel having had time to get out.

Soon after the fire was discovered a general alarm was sent out summoning all the fire apparatus in the city. Notwithstanding the many streams of water being poured on the flames, the fire is rapidly spreading to adjacent property. A strong wind is blowing, causing the fire to burn fiercely. At 6:30 the fire was not under control and the damage is estimated at over \$500,000.

Later—the fire is under control. The damage is estimated at over a million dollars.

ARMED TASMANIANS.

MELBOURNE, Feb. 1.—Several earthquakes occurred Tuesday, in Tasmania. No damage followed, but the people were greatly alarmed.

BEGINNING COMPLETED

Twelfth Juror Selected in Thaw Trial.

JEROME IS UNSATISFIED

Prosecuting Attorney Does Not Like Certain Juror in Box.

TRIES TO MAKE EXCHANGE

Consul for Defense Is Satisfied and Refuses to Consider Further Changes—Plea Will Doubtless Be Emotional Insanity.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The Thaw jury was completed today by the selection of Bernard Gerstman as the twelfth juror. This came as a complete surprise at the end of a long and tedious day—the eighth day of the trial—and immediately after this Justice Fitzgerald adjourned court until Monday.

District Attorney Jerome who had been contending yesterday for the removal of one of the men now in the jury box, but who has failed to gain the consent of the defendant's counsel to an exchange, was still reluctant as court adjourned today to begin actual proceedings without a further opportunity to plead with Thaw's attorneys. At his request therefore, Justice Fitzgerald ordered all the talesmen who have not yet been examined to be in court Monday morning ready for jury service in case any are needed. Jerome then announced if there should be no change in the situation in the meantime, that the state would proceed to place all its direct testimony before the jury at the morning session Monday. The defense was notified to be in readiness to proceed by Monday afternoon.

"We are entirely satisfied with the jury," said Clifford W. Hartridge, Thaw's leading counsel, tonight, and he added the intimation that he would not consent to further alterations of the personnel.

After Assistant District Attorney Garvin's opening address, the state will introduce such witnesses as are necessary to prove that Stanford White was shot and killed by Harry K. Thaw on Madison Square Roof Garden June 25 last. In announcing that the introduction will not require more than one session of the court, Jerome is evidently of the opinion that the cross examination of the State's witnesses to the actual events associated with the tragedy will not be very extensive. From the fact that Thaw's counsel have closely questioned the talesmen as to any prejudice against the defense of insanity, it is generally conceded that the plea of emotional insanity will be the main reliance of the young defendant. This will probably lead to a cross questioning of the state's witnesses, in which event the conclusion of the state's direct testimony may take longer than anticipated.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—Harry K. Thaw was the most disappointed man in the courtroom yesterday, when after another day of strenuous work, counsel failed to complete the jury that is to try him for shooting Stanford White. Thaw has been exceedingly anxious for the real trial to begin, and felt sure, when court opened, that this would occur yesterday. He was soon apprised, however, of the



ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1907

The Astorian.

COVERS THE MORNING FIELD ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WAR IS NOT EXPECTED

Root Denies Reports That Crisis is Feared.

NO ULTIMATUM GIVEN

Japan Has Taken no Official Step in San Francis-
co Matter.

MAYOR GOES TO WASHINGTON

Schmitz With School Board, Superin-
tendent and Assistant City Attor-
ney Go to Place Matter Per-
sonally Before Authorities.

ACTRESS DYING.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1.—Six hundred refrigerator cars, the first of a total of six thousand, ordered by the Pacific Fruit Express Company, for use in handling Southern California fruit shipments in opposition to Armour & Company arrived today. The cars will continue to arrive at the rate of 1,200 per month until the order is filled. The Pacific Fruit Express Company is known as an auxiliary to the Harriman roads, but it is claimed will furnish competition to Armour, who has hitherto practically had a monopoly of this business.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Winchell Smith, the manager of the Herald Square Theatre, received a telegram from Rochester last night, stating that Isabella Urquhart, the actress who is ill in the hospital there was not ex- pected to survive through the night.