

SOUTHERN OREGON SWAMP LAND ACT SCANDALOUS GRAB

Correspondent Shows Corporation Cinches Large Bodies of Rich Lands and Can Dictate State's Price.

Salem, Or., Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—I think I but give voice to the general sentiment of the people who are at all conversant with the provisions of H. B. 186, passed at the 1911 session of the Oregon legislature, vetoed by the governor and passed over his veto by the present session, when I say this is one of the most pernicious and infamous measure ever enacted into law in this state.

This is an act "authorizing the state land board to contract for the drainage of lakes, marshes and swamps; the reclamation of the land forming the beds of, or submerged by such lakes, marshes and swamps, and for the sale of such lands to the person, company of persons, associations or corporations reclaiming and draining the same, and fixing the rights of riparian owners."

I learn from Mr. Brown, clerk of the state land board there are 270,000 acres of such lands involved in this scandalous grab, which, when drained, will be of the best in the state, such as those of Lake Labish, worth from \$100 up per acre.

Of course Senator Thompson, who is probably a Lake county whippersnapper for some large cattle company, or corporation, and, perhaps made the legislators believe, that the land would be of little value, and not suitable for small holders.

The Swamp Land Steal.

One of the most nauseating, the bold and most palpable scandals growing out of the disposal—I might say frittering away—of the vast domain of land given to the state by congress, was the "swamp land steal," as it was familiarly called, when I came to the state in 1870. The generalissimo of that steal was said to be one "Hen" Owens, dubbed the "swamp angel."

Is this to be another steal—another scandal? And will another "swamp angel" appear? Just wait. Think: 270,000 acres of rich swamp land, at only \$10 per acre, equals \$2,700,000; at \$20, \$5,400,000; at \$40, \$10,800,000; at \$100, \$27,000,000; such is not an improbability.

People's Rights Examined.

But are not the rights of the state and the people securely guarded by the law, so as to prevent a monopoly of these reclaimed lands, and as to the price at which they are to be sold? Let us look at the law. Does it secure us against monopoly? Read again the title of the act, as above quoted. You will note that it is to be a law "authorizing the state land board to contract for the drainage of lakes, marshes and swamps" and for the sale of such lands to the person, company of persons, association or corporation reclaiming or draining the same.

Section 1 authorizes the board to enter into contracts with persons or corporations for the drainage of any lakes, marshes or swamps lying in the state of Oregon, and for the sale of such drained and reclaimed lands to the persons or corporations that drain and reclaim the same.

Section 2 says: "The state land board shall by said contract fix the amount which shall be paid to the state of Oregon by such person, company of persons, association or incorporated company for the land which is drained and reclaimed by said work."

Section 3 says: "The state land board shall determine the price per acre for which said lands shall be sold to the person, company, association or incorporated company draining and reclaiming the same" and "shall make and execute deed conveying said land, or such part thereof as is shown to be drained and reclaimed, to the person, company of persons, association or incorporated company reclaiming the same."

Bill Creates Monopoly.

Thus the intelligent reader will readily see that this law, instead of guarding against a great land monopoly, actually creates one, because the board will have no authority to sell or deed this reclaimed land to any other person, association or corporation than the party draining it. The board has no authority to cut it up in small tracts, to actual settlers, or to require the purchasers to do so, or at any fixed price.

Did it ever occur to the wise legislators who enacted this law over the governor's veto, that the parties securing this land monopoly may also with it secure all the water, and thus also secure a virtual monopoly of the hill pasture lands surrounding these lakes and swamps? I have heard of such, even in Lake county.

Matter of Price Considered.
And the price—are we right sure that the board will have the power to exact a price commensurate with the full value of the land? The board can sell to only one party—the party that reclaimed. If the seller has only one party to whom he can sell, is he on equal terms with the buyer? I doubt it. Is not the state at the mercy of the purchaser? But it may be replied that the state land board can refuse to contract if the price offered is not satisfactory. Then business would stop, and the law be an abortion, and the lakes remain undrained and unproductive for years, or until a wise and adequate law could be enacted.

Other Objections.

I have not discussed nearly all the serious objections to this law. Let me mention a few others:

There is no requirement that the person, company or corporation entering into a contract with the state to drain, shall give adequate bonds for performance of the contract.

Section 4 says: "But shall be entitled

Raising Turkeys in Bulk on a Douglas County, Or., Farm



Home and turkey yard, also a few of the flock, of Isadore E. Rice of Rice Hill, Or., near Oakland.

to enter upon the lands." "and shall have and retain the full possession, control, use and right of occupancy until said work is completed and deeds issue." If the company fails, then all the state can get is the work done, and that may be nil.

Conclusion: It is just such ill-considered laws as this that grant monopolies to rob the people, that swell the demand for single tax and Socialism. Governor West was not, by the passage of this law, put into a hole, but the people were. Their remedy is the referendum. Will they invoke it? I hope so.

JOHN P. ROBERTSON.

UNION POULTRY SHOW EXHIBITORS KEEN RIVALS

(Special to The Journal.)
Union, Or., Feb. 14.—The second annual poultry show of Union opened yesterday with the finest collection of birds yet shown in the Grande Ronde valley. The judging was done by Professor James Dryden of the Oregon Agricultural college. He also delivered a free illustrated lecture last evening on "Better Eggs and More of Them." In addition to a fine display of birds grown in this vicinity are many of royal lineage from outside points.

Twenty-two silver cups valued at \$250 were awarded last evening to the successful contestants. Rivalry was keen. The grand sweepstakes prize of a \$50 cup was an object of interest.

The management feels more than pleased with the display made and will continue the exhibit until Saturday night.

Busy Times at Falls City.

(Special to The Journal.)
Falls City, Or., Feb. 14.—The new sawmill and planing mill of the Falls City Lumber company, which has been in course of construction for several months, is nearing completion. The planers will be started February 17, the sawmill about March 15.

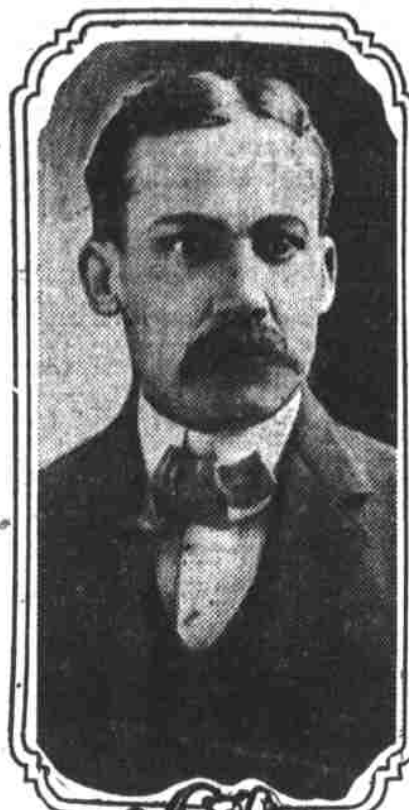
Pioneer Woman Dies.

(Special to The Journal.)
North Yakima, Wash., Feb. 14.—Mrs. Lydia F. Severance, born in Maine and a former resident of Tillamook, Or., died this week, aged 74. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Severance and four children, also by a brother, Joseph Weston of Tillamook, Or. Mrs. Severance was the mother of 14 children. Much of her life has been that of a pioneer with its trials, hardships and privations. She had lived here 12 years.

Logger Found Dead in Bed.

(Special to The Journal.)
Marshfield, Or., Feb. 14.—Tom Milligan, an old-time logger, was found dead in bed at the South Slough camp of the Smith Powers Logging company. It is believed that he died of heart disease. He had been in the employment of A. H. Powers for many years.

TALLMAN IS NEW HEAD OF PENDLETON CLUB



J. V. Tallman

(Special to The Journal.)
Pendleton, Or., Feb. 14.—At a recent meeting of the Commercial club of this city, Joseph V. Tallman was chosen president for the ensuing year. Mr. Tallman is head of the Tallman Drug company of this city and for many years has been identified with the local business world. Being an ardent baseball fan, one of his first official acts was to get behind the movement to retain league baseball here another year, and his attitude had a great deal to do with the decision ultimately reached to keep a club in the Western Tri-State league during the coming season.

HONOR MEMORY OF GREAT AMERICAN

In honor of the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, members of the Lincoln club Wednesday night held a banquet at the Commercial club and a number of prominent people paid tribute to the martyred president. C. A. Johns was toastmaster, and among the speakers were: Ex-Senator C. W. Fulton, Col. Sam White, Mrs. M. L. T. Hidden, Rev. Benjamin Young, L. D. Malone, June McMillan Ordway with her original poem on Lincoln; C. B. Moors, for Abigail Scott Kuniway; Mrs. J. M. Loudon, Hamilton Johnstone, Emma B. Carroll, Lewis H. Dawley and K. K. Kubli. Mrs. Nina Larowe read Lincoln's favorite poem, "Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?" The Grand Army quartet sang and Miss Mabel Baker sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

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SHEEP EPIDEMIC NEAR BAKER IS STAYED

(Special to The Journal.)
Baker, Or., Feb. 14.—While many sheep are still dying on the Lower Powder and in the vicinity of Goose Creek, still it is thought that the worst of the epidemic is over, and that the death rate, which was hundreds a day for several days, will soon be reduced to little or nothing. State Sheep Inspector Dr. W. H. Lytle of Pendleton is still working in the infected district and has not changed his first diagnosis that poison fodder was the cause of the epidemic. While it is impossible to estimate the total loss to sheepmen, it will run into thousands of dollars. Thousands of sheep and lambs had died, which a little later would probably be worth from \$2.50 to \$3.00 apiece.

UPHOLDS REFUSAL TO REDUCE ASSESSMENTS

Circuit Judge Kavanaugh yesterday upheld the board of equalization in its refusal to reduce the assessments of property between Eleventh and Fifteenth streets, on Washington. A total of approximately \$500,000 reduction of assessments was asked, which would mean about \$12,000 in actual taxes. Following the refusal of the board to reduce the assessment the owners appealed to the circuit court. An appeal may be made to the supreme court. The owners complain that they are assessed higher in proportion to values than property owners on lower Washington and other streets.

BAKER PASTOR PLANS UNION OF CHURCHES

(Special to The Journal.)
Baker, Or., Feb. 14.—While he does not advocate strongly the change all at one time nor does he hold that the city is quite ready for the change, yet Rev. Ward MacHenry, pastor of the First Presbyterian church is planning to bring about as soon as possible a federation of all the Protestant churches here.

Men and Women

Old and Young—Use and Endorse

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey because of its great remedial qualities. These friends who have been made strong and vigorous by its use are glad to proclaim its tonic stimulating virtues and recommend it to their friends and neighbors.

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"Eight years ago, when sick, I lost my appetite. I could not eat solid foods. My family physician advised taking Duffy's before meals. Now I feel more like 50 than 69. My appetite is splendid. Duffy's is very invigorating. A dealer tried to sell me a substitute, but the doctor told me to insist on the genuine."—Mrs. A. Campbell, 1111 West Ninth St., Spokane.

Hale and Hearty at 76

"For twenty years I have taken Duffy's and for the last four years I have never been without it. I have used it for malaria and dysentery and found it the best medicine I ever took, and I have been living 76 years. It puts new life in me, and I thank the company for so grand a tonic."—James S. Robinson, 620 Main St., Paterson, N. J.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey

Relieved Stomach Trouble Stopped My Cough

"My husband suffered with stomach trouble for 12 years. Three doctors gave him no relief, but after taking three bottles of Duffy's he was entirely cured. He now looks fine and weighs 180 pounds. We would never be without it."—Mrs. Fred F. Zink, 2223 Saratoga St., New Orleans, La.

"I sincerely believe Duffy's is the greatest medicine ever made. It relieved me of a cough that my doctor could not stop. I had been in poor health 3 years, but nothing did me any good till I took 3 bottles of Duffy's. Now I tell all how it helped me."—Mrs. Ila Benjamin, Woodhull, N. Y.

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"Get the knack of the NOTCH"

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