

### OREGONIAN EXPOSED METHOD OF FORMER GOVERNOR T. T. GEER

Man Now Working for Dr. Withycombe Charged With Land Manipulation.

#### THREE COUNTIES IN DEAL

News Articles Lay Bare "Unsavory Methods" Employed Under Administration.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)  
Salem, Ore., Oct. 19.—How former Governor T. T. Geer, who is now enthusiastically working for Withycombe for governor, allowed the school lands to be manipulated for the benefit of speculators is told in the Oregonian of Nov. 19 and 21, 1902. Geer is high in the Oregonian's favor just now because he is working hard for the candidates of his big interests.

L. B. Geer, cousin of the former governor, was state land agent when the articles, under a Salem date line, appeared in the Oregonian. W. H. Odell, executive officer of the state land board, was engineering a scheme whereby large tracts of land in Baker, Grant and Malheur were to be declared mineral in character and used as a base in a lion-land business being carried on. The tracts in Baker and Malheur counties aggregated 64,000 acres and those in Grant county 49,000 acres, making a total of 114,000 acres.

**Tells Odell's Purpose.**  
"It is Odell's purpose to have this land declared mineral, whereupon it will be relinquished by the state and he will sell the base thereby created to whomsoever may wish to buy," the Oregonian declared. Odell had his desk in the office of state Land Agent Geer and the Oregonian says that "the state encourages the adjudication proceedings and has recently raised the price of the land excepting those lands secured upon mineral base adjudicated or in progress of adjudication, and the governor makes the application by which the lion land is selected from the base thus created."

The Oregonian found that strange practices were indulged in by the state of Oregon, through its officers. The fact was disclosed that a policy had been entered upon by the state to avoid the state's own deeds by using as "base" lands which had already been sold. The state, it was related, had begun selling its lion lands, first selling the land in place at \$1.25 per acre, and then permitting base hunters to condemn the land as mineral, whereupon the state would renounce its title to the land, relinquish it to the government, select other land in lieu of it and sell the lion land to another purchaser. The first purchaser was ousted from possession and given back his \$1.25 per acre, with interest at 6 per cent.

"If a private individual should do what the state is doing, he would be branded as a fraud," the Oregonian quotes a "prominent man" as saying. The motive for the state's strange actions is explained fully. General Odell, who operated from the office of the state land agent, sold the base at the rate of \$1.50 an acre and on a sale of 190,000 acres he would get \$150,000.

The Oregonian said: "Since the state has raised the price of lion land to \$1.50 per acre, excepting therefrom lands which will be secured under General Odell's present proceedings, all persons except General Odell are shut out of the lion-land business, and he may be able to realize more than \$1.50 for the base he is now creating. Should all things work in his favor, he may be able to take in \$250,000 by the work he has in hand, though a portion of this sum would have to be paid out in expenses of adjudication."

**Alive to Possibilities.**  
From this will be seen that Governor Geer, State Land Agent Geer and General Odell were alive to the possibilities of moneymaking at the state capitol.

The Oregonian thus describes how the scheme was worked: "The manner in which a purchaser from the state may be ousted under this lion-land scheme, may be stated in the form of an illustration. John Smith, a school teacher, had a piece of land which he believes to be worth the price the state asks for it. He pays the amount required, and receives either a certificate of sale or deed. He sells it to a newcomer from the east, and it passes through the hands of several persons, who rely upon the deed or certificate from the

### RECENT APPOINTEES TO HIGH OFFICIAL POSITIONS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL



Left to right—Thomas Watt Gregory, of Austin, Texas, named by President Wilson to succeed Attorney General McReynolds; Carl Schwarz Vrooman, of Illinois, new assistant secretary of agriculture; Andrew J. Peters, former congressman from Massachusetts, who succeeded C. S. Hamlin as assistant secretary of the treasury when the latter became a member of the federal reserve board.

state as an absolutely safe title. Finally some operator in "base" land discovers that this land has mineral on it. He begins proceedings to adjudicate its mineral character, publishes his notices in some obscure paper and gets his decision from the federal land department without the owner of the land knowing anything about it. This done, he asks the state land agent to permit him to use the land as "base," and the request is granted. This land, which has already been sold by the state, is then surrendered by the state to the general government, and the state takes other land instead. Some new purchaser, who has paid the base hunter \$1.50 per acre for the base, gets a deed to lion land and the first purchaser finds himself a trespasser on government land. If he will come to Salem and surrender his deed, the state will give him back his \$1.25 per acre and interest, but he is out his improvements."

Land Agent Geer is quoted at some length in defense of the practice. He did not think that the state ought to protect its purchasers, saying that the government doesn't protect homesteaders or other persons who take public land.

While Geer pointed out that the state was not a party to the adjudication of the land by which it was "wrested" from the state, General Odell had his desk in Geer's office and the state administration encouraged the practice.

The articles lay bare the unsavory methods employed under the Geer administration.

**Candidate Opposed To Public Market**  
Republican Candidate Says "Unorganized, Chaotic Method of Doing Business" "Disgracing Spectacle."

In a letter to the Medford Mail Tribune, which had criticized his position on the public market, Dr. James Withycombe, Republican candidate for governor, expresses strong disapproval of public markets.

### HASTE IS NECESSARY IN PREPARATION OF GIFTS FOR XMAS SHIP

Contributions Must Positively Be in by Friday in Order to Reach N. Y. in Time.

**By Vella Winner.**  
Think of what a beautiful picture the United States is today in foreign eyes! The little children and the women all working industriously in every part of the land to make gifts for the poor widows and orphans of Europe.

The American Red Cross, whose beneficent hand has succored the wounded and helped the stricken throughout the world, has put the power of its charity behind the Christmas Ship.

It is believed that from this cooperation will come closer relations between the giftmakers and the Red Cross and other relief societies in the war stricken countries, which will see to the actual delivery of the offerings on Christmas day, and a wiser and more equitable distribution of the gifts among the countries at war.

**HUSBAND MADE WELL BY AKOZ:  
ASTORIA WOMAN LIKewise HELPED**  
Mrs. J. W. Brock Tries Remedy for Stomach Trouble—Ailment Now Gone.

have a chest of new baby clothes made for the little stranger who came to our home several years ago but did not stay, and I have decided that they can be put to no better use than by covering one of the diminutive little sufferers from this terrible war.

**High School Girls Help.**  
The head of the sewing department of the Washington High school telephoned this morning for some instructions regarding the making of garments. "My girls have taken up a collection among themselves and on Saturday they went to the woolen mills and purchased flannel, which they will this week make up into petticoats for the Christmas Ship."

Isn't such beautiful consideration for others worthy of emulation? Mrs. R. E. Bondurant called up this morning to say that the Sunnyside Parent-Teacher association, of which she is president, has decided to give two dozen pairs of hose as its contribution to the Christmas Ship cargo.

A most practical and acceptable gift was received today from Mrs. J. C. Gambell in the form of a pair of cotton blankets. We would like a dozen more pairs; who will help with the bedding?

Clothing and toy contributions have been received since the last report was made from Warren Day, Willard Day, Junia Day, Mrs. A. H. Park, Mrs. E. Loew, Miss Lenore Loew, F. Quinn, Dorais Alphin, Mrs. Kirkup, Miss Kirkup, a Friend, Roger G. Caldwell contributed 50 cents and Mrs. H. A. Gatcher brought in a bundle containing a complete outfit for a mother and baby.

By mail there was received this morning a bundle of picture books, lawn, Wash., and a package of books and \$1 from Evelyn Darr of Edgewater, Wash.

**HARD NAME PRONOUNCED**  
How to pronounce Przemysl, the Galician battle town, has been one of the puzzles of the present European war. Here is a letter addressed to The Journal that tends to settle the matter authoritatively:

"The proper pronunciation of the noun Przemysl is Psh-mis-l. I have lived in Gallicia-Austria for 11 years, and am well acquainted with the present cities of Europe."  
"MARIE F. K."  
"Pupil St. Lawrence Academy."

### Banks Are Warned Against Bad Man

Swindler Gets Money on Drafts With Genuine Signatures Secured in Old Fashioned Lightning Rod Method.

Banks in Oregon, Washington and Oregon are warned in a circular recently sent out by the William J. Burns International Detective Agency, representing the American Bankers' association and the Oregon Bankers' association to look out for a swindler now operating in the northwest.

The swindler plays his game by appearing at a bank ostensibly to gain information about land, and succeeds in giving an impression that he intends settling in the community or engaging in a mercantile business. When he has worked himself into the good will of the banker, he will present a sight draft on some distant bank, and if not successful in getting it cashed at once will leave it for collection.

About the time the bank should receive the remittance the swindler will call the bank on the telephone. If he learns it has been received he will call at the institution and insist on having the proper amount in gold.

Invariably, it is said, the signatures on the drafts are genuine, having been procured through what is termed the "book trick"; that is, getting some farmer to write his name in what appears to be an ordinary memorandum book.

The swindler is described as being heavy set, with broad shoulders, dark complexion, dark hair, smooth shaven, a smooth talker with a medium pitched voice and having the general appearance of a business man. He is between 35 and 40 years of age, weighs between 150 and 200 pounds and is about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches in height.

## THE GREATEST SALE! 353---Count 'em---353

# Boys' and Youths' OVERCOATS

Now on Sale at Moyer's Third and Oak Street Store at HALF PRICE

\$ 3.45	Overcoats	Now	\$1.73
\$ 3.95	Overcoats	Now	\$1.98
\$ 4.35	Overcoats	Now	\$2.18
\$ 5.00	Overcoats	Now	\$2.50
\$ 6.00	Overcoats	Now	\$3.00
\$ 6.50	Overcoats	Now	\$3.25
\$ 7.50	Overcoats	Now	\$3.75
\$ 8.50	Overcoats	Now	\$4.25
\$10.00	Overcoats	Now	\$5.00

Good, heavy weather-repellers for youths of 17 years down to little boys of 3 years. Grays, browns, tans, fancy weaves; convertible, military and regular collars. The original price ticket remains on each garment—pay me just one-half. Come quickly—it's the biggest bargain in town.

# MOYER

THIRD AND OAK STREET STORE

## Apple Cooking Contest

**Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company**  
proposes to employ a traveling demonstrator to encourage the use of apples in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. With this end in view, the O-W. R. & N. Co. will give to women in an Apple Cooking Contest,

**APPLE DAY, OCTOBER 20**  
THE FOLLOWING CASH PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE	\$20.00
SECOND PRIZE	15.00
THIRD PRIZE	10.00
FOURTH PRIZE	5.00
FIFTH PRIZE	2.50

Winners of Prizes Will Be Given First Consideration for Position of Traveling Demonstrator

### RULES OF CONTEST

(A)—Any woman is eligible to enter the Contest.  
(B)—Contestants must submit dishes prepared by themselves from apples. No limitation as to number or character of dishes each contestant may submit.  
(C)—All dishes must be submitted not later than 1:00 p. m. of October 20 at the exhibit in Yeon Building, Fifth and Alder streets, ground floor, Fifth-street entrance.

### Five (5) Judges to Be Appointed, One Each From the Following Organizations:

PORTLAND COMMERCIAL CLUB    ROTARY CLUB  
PORTLAND AD CLUB    PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB  
PORTLAND REALTY BOARD

For further particulars telephone Main 7564, A-2812 or call in person at Exhibit Room, Yeon Building. (Courtesy J. B. Yeon.) Office opens Monday a. m.

Public Cordially Invited to Inspect Exhibit Afternoon and Evening

**Strengthening!**

There's a tonic influence in good beer—Beer that is scientifically brewed and properly aged.

**Edel Brewery**

is the standard of beer excellence. It's brewed for your table. Phone your grocer or

**PORTLAND BREWING COMPANY**