The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SATURDAY.....MARCH 27, 1886

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

On the 17th inst. the secretary of the interior made an important ruling, reversing a recent decision of the commissioner of the general land office. In the case of a settler who had made a pre-emption cash entry and afterwards made a homestead entry, subsequently commuting the homestead entry to a cash entry, the land office commissioner held the last mentioned entry for cancellation on the ground that he had exhausted his pre-emption right with his first entry and that the last entry was therefore illegal. The effect of such decision was that the commutation of a homestead entry was, in fact, a change of such entry to a pre-emption, thus exhausting the settler's pre-emption right.

Secretary Lamar reverses the decision, overrules the matter, concurring with and endorsing the ruling of a previous land commissioner who held that when a party legally entitled makes an entry under the homestead law of May 20, 1862, and thereafter at any time after the expiration of five years, shall come forward, make proof of his actual settlement and cultivation to a given day, and then pay for the tract, the proceedings merely consummate his homestead right as the act allows, the payment being a legal substitution for the continuous labor the law would otherwise exact from his hands, and that a claim of this character is not a pre-emption, but a homestead, and as such, will be no bar to this same party acquiring a pre-emption right by virtue of actual settlement and cultivation on another tract at a period subsequent to the consummation of his homestead. The only limitation upon his right under this interpretation is, that he shall not be permitted to consummate both entries at the same time.

GOLD AND SILVER.

Notwithstanding the export of gold, the treasury gold funds continue to steadily increase. On January 1st the net gold in the treasury was $147,921,808. On February 1st, owing to large disbursements on account of interest, the gold was reduced to $136,086,610. During February a portion of this loss was recovered, the amount on hand March 1st being $144,164,037, and this sum has been further increased since the 1st of the month, the amount now held being $148,455,521. This increase of $120,000,000 since February 1st is the more marked when it is considered that since February 1st two calls for bonds amounting to $20,000,000 have matured and that a very large proportion of these bonds have been redeemed.

For the past month the department has issued no silver certificates above the denomination of $10, and this course will be continued until the amount issued is equal to the amount that can be maintained in circulation. It is believed by Secretary Manning and Treasurer Jordan that the large withdrawal of national bank-notes consequent upon the reduction of bonds can be supplied by the issue of ten-dollar silver certificates, and that the daily necessities of business will maintain these coins in active circulation. Since the adoption of this policy the amount of outstanding silver has increased, and it is believed that the increase will be greater in proportion to the amount of certificates of large denominations canceled. There is now outstanding in silver certificates nearly $85,000,000, an increase of $6,000,000 since March 1st. A large amount of silver in the form of certificates has been placed in circulation through the medium of the pension agencies, thus distributing silver among the people in all sections of the country.

Some of the principal frauds developed under Commissioner Sparks' administration have been the stealing of timber from public lands. In the case of the Sierra lumber company of California, the special agent found that the company had constructed expensive flumes and several railways, fifteen or twenty miles in length, for the sole purpose of facilitating its trespass upon public timber, and 65,000,000 feet were identified as having been cut by this company. The depredations upon public timber in Utah and Idaho territories have been equally extensive and flagrant. In Washington territory and northeast California, it is said, lumbermen have hired hundreds of transient and irresponsible men to make fraudulent entries on lands containing the finest and most valuable timber in these sections. The vigorous course of Commissioner Sparks toward the companies is having its effect and several delegations from the west have been in Washington for the last few weeks trying to postpone action in their cases or have the suits against them dismissed.

A new congressional apportionment is demanded in Iowa, for, at present, the Democrats elect six congressmen from that state by an aggregate majority of 7,162, while the Republicans can choose only five with a total majority of 14,192.

Chicago will put its new election law to the first test April 6th, when the spring election occurs. The old system of voting on affidavits is swept away, and every voter must be registered three weeks before election.

It now appears that the phrase "innocuous desuetude," to be found in the president's recent message to the senate, was used by Senator Evarts in a college essay, as far back as 1836.

Two clergymen have been selected as arbiters of the great strike of coal miners near Pittsburg—a Catholic priest and a Presbyterian minister.

NEW TO-DAY.

Notice.

There will be a special meeting of the legal voters of School District No. 1 of Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon, at the school house in said district on Saturday, April 3rd, 1886, at 7:30 P. M., for the purpose of electing one Director to serve two years, in place of Mr. N. Clinton resigned, also for the election of one Directer to serve for three years, in place of Mr. E. W. Tallant resigned.

By order of the Board of Directors.

J. G. HUSTLER, Clerk.

Astoria, March 24th, 1886.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

O. R. & N. CO.

EXCURSION!

Tickets to Portland and Return

For $2 50.

Good on any of the Company's boats

E. A. NOYES, Agent.

Administratrix' Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the County Court of the state of Oregon for Clatsop county, administratrix of the estate of Edward N. Murphy, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are notified to present them, with the proper vouchers, to the undersigned at her residence corner of Chenamus and Washington streets in Astoria, Oregon, within six months from this date.

MRS. JOHN RODGERS.

Astoria, March 2nd, 1886.