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COST OF THE INITIATIVE

Law Making by the People Comes High.

WILL BE \$15,214 IN JUNE

Initiative Election Will Cost One-Fourth That of a Legislative Session.

The submission of 19 measures under the initiative and referendum will cost the state of Oregon approximately \$15,000 or one-fourth as much as a legislative session. This does not include the cost of printing and circulating the original petitions, which expense was borne by those citizens who were particularly interested in the measures. The total expense cannot be accurately stated at this time, but the chief items can be roughly estimated.

The act governing procedure under the initiative and referendum requires that the Secretary of State shall cause all the measures submitted to be printed in one pamphlet, together with the arguments for and against each measure and to mail one copy of this pamphlet to each legal voter whose address the secretary can obtain. The secretary will secure the names of all registered voters and mail a copy to each. To carry out the provisions of this law will require approximately 100,000 copies of the pamphlet. State Printer Duniway has already secured a carload of paper, 30,000 pounds, for use in printing the pamphlets. It is expected that the pamphlet will contain 125 pages and the postage on each copy will be 5 cents. The postage alone will be \$5,000—an amount that looks good to the people of Salem who want the Salem postoffice to make a big showing of business.

Each copy of the pamphlet must be placed in an envelope and the envelopes cost \$714. To put 100,000 pamphlets in envelopes and address them to voters will take a lot of work. But before this is done the county clerks must send the lists of names to the secretary of state, so that it is apparent that the work of writing the 100,000 names and addresses must be done twice at public expense. Just what the

actual cost will be will never be known, for the work will be interspersed with other official duties, the clerks employed for this purpose putting in part of their time on something else, but it is estimated that this part of the work will cost \$1,000.

Printing the pamphlets will cost \$7,500, but a portion of this expense will be borne by the persons who furnish the arguments, each person filing an argument being required to pay the cost of printing it. Probably \$4,000 of the expense will be borne by private individuals leaving \$3,500 to be paid by the state.

Then these 19 measures must be printed upon the official ballots. Each measure is designated by a title that occupies several lines, and in almost every county the portion of the ballot devoted to initiative and referendum measures will be larger than the portion devoted to names of candidates. In other words, half the cost of printing ballots will be due to the submission of measures to a vote of the people. As this cost is paid by the several counties and at greatly varying rates no definite statement of the cost can be made. The amount will run up to \$4,000 or \$5,000.

In some instances the fact that these measures are to be voted upon will lengthen the time of counting the ballots so that election judges will draw pay for an additional day. This will not be true in all instances, but will be in some.

Summing it all up, the cost of submitting these measures under the initiative and referendum will be about as follows:

Postage on pamphlets.....	\$ 5,000
Envelopes.....	714
Printing.....	3,500
Writing names and addresses.....	1,000
Printing ballots.....	4,000
Additional pay of judges.....	1,600
Total.....	\$15,214

CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Parker, of Dexter, Lane county, celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding last week. They were married in Lane county in 1858, by Rev. E. L. Bristow. The only living witnesses to the marriage are James Parker and E. P. Williams, both of this county, although many relatives and friends were present. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are both pioneers of 1853, having come to Oregon with ox teams. They settled, after marriage in the Cloverdale country, a few miles from their present home. After about 20 years residence there they moved to Lost Valley where they have been living since.

GOOD NEWS TO ENTRYMEN

Remarkable Change In Conduct of Land Office

HITCHCOCK IS RELEGATED

Secretary Garfield's Broad and Liberal Public Land Views and Stated Policy.

It will be glad tidings to the intended homesteaders and settlers of the Pacific Northwest to know that the obstruction methods employed by Secretary Hitchcock during his administration of public land affairs, will be relegated to the record vaults by the bright, energetic and up-to-date successor of Mr. Hitchcock, Secretary Garfield, who states that it will be his purpose to so conduct the Interior Department and so interpret the public land laws as to actually aid every bona fide entryman who is endeavoring to establish a home on the public domain. Secretary Garfield holds that the land laws were enacted for a purpose and so long as the law is not abused, he intends that the entryman shall enjoy its provisions and so long as he acts in good faith shall have the encouragement and aid of representatives of the department. In other words, Secretary Garfield is proceeding on the theory that every man is honest until proven guilty; he is human enough to recognize that honest men may make errors which do not lay them, or should not lay them, liable to the law. A reading of Mr. Garfield's annual report, will convince any man that there has been a phenomenal—an almost incomprehensible—change in the matter of conducting the Interior Department.

Under Secretary Hitchcock, the entire force of the Interior Department and General Land Office, or special instructions from the secretary, proceeded on the theory that the public-land laws were enacted to prevent men acquiring public lands; every technical failure to comply with the law was regarded as ground for criminal prosecution; every obstacle was placed in the path of the honest, as well as the dishonest entryman, and Mr. Hitchcock retired from office with the astounding record of having actually deprived hundreds of honest settlers of their lands, while he permitted shrewd thieves to gobble up large tracts under his very nose. The report of Secretary Garfield will carry encouragement to every entryman who is striving to acquire public land for an honest purpose. The change is manifestly in the interest of the West. Secretary Garfield, it will be noted, is determined that the law shall not be violated, yet he recognizes that fraud can be arrested without hindering or hampering the great majority of entrymen whom he believes to be honest.

Under Secretary Hitchcock, the Interior Department and Land Office were largely conducted by Eastern men, unacquainted with Western conditions; men for the most part who had never seen an acre of public land, and who would not know a homestead from a mining claim. It was the Hitchcock policy, if possible, convict every man who had knowingly or otherwise—deliberately or innocently violated any of the land laws. He never favored civil suits; he wanted to land every offender into the criminal court and he carried out his

LONDON SPRINGS

Local Grange Posting up on Campaign Issues.

A LIVE LITERARY SOCIETY

Springs Hotel and Bottling Works Preparing for a Lively Season.

The grange at London has been having some very lively meetings this winter. The literary work under the supervision of our worthy lecturer, D. B. Harris, has been quite interesting. Such questions as the parcel post, government saving banks, postal saving banks, cause of business depression, railroad questions, the question of exempting improvements, buildings, stock, tools, factories, etc. from taxation have been well threshed out as well as many other questions of importance. The tax question has been one of importance and there is a wide range of difference. Some seem to think it would be a nice thing to have a law passed to exempt improvements, buildings, stock, factories, etc.

Now we think that a law of this kind would not be a very good one. It seems to me that it is the first step toward placing all the tax on real estate, which certainly would double the tax on such property and many of our farmers are paying all the taxes that they can afford to pay, and to double their taxes would soon put them out of business.

The argument is made in its favor that some persons and corporations are holding vast tracts of land on which they are not paying their portion of taxes, but would that kind of a law better the matter any. If the large holdings do not pay their just proportion of taxes, it is the fault of the assessor and that kind of a law would not make the assessor any wiser or more honest.

It is also argued that if improvements and factories were not taxed it would encourage more improvements and induce factories to be built, which is true. It is also true that giving our public domain induced the railroads to be built, whereby a few men have become immensely rich.

Now we cannot afford to give all the earnings of our farms to induce improvements and factories that we may make a few more millionaires at the expense of the tillers of the soil. For the last 40 years the grange has stood for equal taxation on all values, which seems to me is the only just way and if some are escaping, it is time we were looking after the matter in a just and reasonable way and not allow the wool to be pulled over our eyes in such a manner that it will put the farmer in a position that he will have the honor of paying all the taxes. We think it would be well to consider the matter rather careful before casting your vote next June.

The London literary is progressing nicely and many of our boys, girls, men and women are developing quite a talent for public speaking. It is a great source of education and to say it is a great source of amusement is putting it very mild. If the world seems dreary, or if you should have a spell of the blues, or you feel old, have wrinkles in your face, or gray hairs on your head, you had better attend the London literary meeting and take a

good, hearty laugh, have a good time and you will forget your troubles, think more of your neighbors, feel younger and live longer. There is not much doing in a business way around London just now, but things will soon liven up. The managers at the springs are preparing for a big run both at the hotel and bottling works. T. J. Geer, who has been running the London hotel is talking some of moving to his farm which he has had rented for some time and the managers are looking for a first class hotel man who would take charge of the hotel and bath house. It would be a fine proposition for the right man. The improvements about the place will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit.

There is services at the London church each Sunday and they are well attended by a live and energetic lot of Christians and people. The subject last Sunday was the "More Abundant Life" which was well handled and many noble thoughts were advanced. I think we all might have a little more "abundant life."

Mrs. Marlow has been quite poorly for a few days but is better now.

It is rather rainy this week with a little snow mixed with it.

ANOTHER LOCAL OPTION ELECTION IN JUNE

There will be another local option election in June, if the petitions now being circulated are properly signed and filled at the proper time. The liquor interests have prepared the petitions and they are now in the hands of different persons. Already a good many signatures have been obtained and the circulators are confident of securing the required number.

TACOMANS SEE THINGS—WHAT DO THEY DRINK?

A dispatch from Tacoma says:—For several evenings strange red and green lights have been seen at high altitudes at Tacoma, Kent and other places along Puget Sound and as far south as Gray Harbor. While a Northern Pacific train was waiting for a drawbridge in the Tacoma yards, the engineer saw a strange object very high in the air and somewhat obscured by the heavy weather. He called the conductor's attention and finally several passengers saw it. Tourists who had fieldglasses declared the object to be an airship and said it carried a Japanese flag.

That it is a Japanese airship, carrying spies who are studying the coast topography, is the firm belief of many persons.

WILL IMPROVE COUNTY ROAD

From Lorane Valley to Cottage Grove.

LIBERAL FUND SUBSCRIBED

Lorane Citizens Meet and Discuss Question With Commercial Club.

A delegation comprising eight of the leading and most public spirited citizens of Lorane valley, came before the Cottage Grove Commercial Club Tuesday evening for the purpose of jointly discussing the improvement of the county road from this city to Lorane, a distance of 12 miles. However, it appears that several miles of this road is already in first class condition, but that part of it on both sides of the low range coast mountain between the two points is in a deplorable and almost impassable condition. The Lorane valley is one of the richest and most productive in Lane county and is surrounded by forests of the finest timber found in the state, while its streams abound with salmon and trout. Yet, with all of these resources the valley is only partially developed owing to its obscure location and poor roads leading to Cottage Grove, its nearest railroad point.

President F. B. Phillips presided at the Commercial Club meeting and the necessity for the improvement of the Lorane, Cottage Grove road was ably presented by M. B. Stone and merchant W. W. Jackson, both of Lorane, it being set forth conclusively that the permanent improvement of this highway would work to the mutual advantage and development of both communities. It was stated that many desirable investors were visiting the Lorane valley from time to time and while they were pleased with the great advantages and resources presented, they invariably expressed themselves as disgusted with the country roads and would not invest for this reason.

With concerted action on the part of the two localities a good permanent roadway connecting the Lorane valley with Cottage Grove can be made at no great cost, owing

(Continued on Page Five)

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(Continued on Last Page.)

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