

# INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

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## SENATOR BOURNE PREPARES BILL

WOULD GIVE LANDS TO OREGON SPECULATORS

PROPOSES TO ABOLISH RESIDENCE CLAUSE IN HOMESTEAD ACT AND PATENTS TO ISSUE ON CULTIVATION SHOWING.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 25.—To the Editor of the Enterprise—I am sending this general form of letter to the newspapers of your state as well as to granges and commercial organizations of Oregon for the purpose of getting before the people the idea I have embodied in a bill I shall introduce in the senate that production of crops rather than residence upon a homestead is the essential of successful and most efficient development of our resources. I have done this in the hope that the people of Oregon will favor their delegation here in Congress with their views as to the wisdom of the proposed legislation.

I am informed by Mr. William Hanley, an extensive stock raiser in Harney county, that there are 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon incapable of irrigation, but nearly all of it susceptible of cultivation under the scientific methods now in vogue in "dry farming." Mr. Hanley's suggestion of substitution of crop-production for actual residence as the consideration for obtaining title increasingly impresses my mind.

If the bill which I have prepared should become a law, the homesteader on non-irrigable land in what is known as the arid region need not live upon his land at all, but must live within the state. He must cultivate it either personally or by representative and he must show by annual proofs that within a period of five years the land has produced crops of a total value of \$1500.

Assuming that Mr. Hanley's estimate of 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon is correct and that same can be brought under cultivation by adoption of what is known as "dry farming," this area of land would furnish opportunities for 60,000 homestead entrymen who, before they could acquire title, would be obliged to produce crops of a total value of \$90,000,000. Thus it will be seen that the nation, state and community would be benefitted in the development of our natural resources, wealth increased, and, what is more important, a class of citizens gained who would be obliged to produce rather than merely live on the land—a population of workers.

In its present condition and in the present state of settlement and of transportation facilities most of this land is not suitable for homemaking, though it could be cultivated by men who would make their homes elsewhere, or upon the land through on-

ly a part of the year.

My bill is based upon the theory that if a tract of land is made productive it will provide some family with a home even though that family lives in a town near the land rather than upon the land itself, and that, therefore, all of the essential objects of the homestead law will be accomplished. The great difficulty under the present homestead law is that a great many men who settle upon land under the homestead act do as little cultivating as the law will permit and avoid as many as possible of the government's requirements, and their land is not made productive.

Believing that production is the real essential, I made that the most important feature of my bill. Land suitable for "dry farming" is frequently such as a man would not wish to make his home upon for twelve months in the year, but the present law permitting an entry on 320 acres requires actual residence, and, I believe, without accomplishing any desirable end by such requirement.

Under the plan proposed by my bill an entryman under the 320-acre homestead act could keep his family in any town of Oregon, where his children could go to school and all members of his family have the advantages of attendance at church and social functions, and, at the same time, by complying with the law regarding cultivation and production, he could secure title to the land. There would be no opportunity for fraud because the bill requires that annual proofs must be submitted showing the amount of land cultivated and the character, quantity and value of crops produced.

I believe that the average farmer on 320 acres of land subject to entry under the enlarged homestead act would be able to produce crops of much more than \$1500 in value in a period of five years; but the \$1500 minimum limit is fixed as a standard to which the entryman must work, and I believe that even under adverse circumstances any man who is enterprising and diligent will be able to produce crops of this value.

The theory of the homestead law is that the government should provide cheap homes for the people. This theory is in no way violated by my bill. Land taken under this measure would maintain homes for the entrymen even though these homes were a few miles distant rather than upon the land itself.

The residence requirement of the homestead law is in the nature of a penalty, the punishment being inflicted not only upon the entryman but upon his wife and children. At present the entryman takes his family into isolated regions in which vacant lands can be found and keeps them there to live a period of five years of banishment from association with fellow-beings.

In a great many cases the homesteader performs just as little work upon the land as possible, and as soon as he gets title removes his family to town where they can have the advantages of school and social intercourse. The real object of providing homes is not accomplished by the requirement of actual residence upon the land. This object would be accomplished, however, by the requirement that a man shall bring his land into productiveness. To produce, some one must cultivate the land. To cultivate economically, vicinity, labor and intelligent attention are required of the entryman or his representative. The entryman's desire is the acquisition and ownership of the land; title can only be obtained through production; production necessitates increased population, either of entrymen or their representatives. The value of land acquired by the entryman depends upon continuing production. Thus, it is certain that the land once acquired will, under normal conditions, continue productive, as otherwise there is no incentive for entry nor to purchase after title is acquired. Necessitated production eliminates the evil of idle land due to non-resident ownership.

My bill requires that the entryman

(Continued on page eight.)

## REVIVALS ARE POWER FOR GOD

THREE HUNDRED TWO STAND FOR CHRIST

MOST POWERFUL MEETINGS IN HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE END WITH GREAT REJOICING IN ALL CHURCHES OF CITY.

Revivals, the most powerful ever experienced in Polk county and continuing over a period of twelve weeks without intermission, came to a close in this city last Sunday night when Rev. Geo. W. Taylor delivered his farewell sermon, "Too Late." While the union revival had only been in progress four weeks the revivals proper may be said to have begun in early November in the Christian church where a number of people were converted. On November 28 meetings were begun in the Methodist church, which were greatly augmented by the reinforcements given by Evangelist Frank McCarty and wife who remained until January 2, when the union meetings began.

The following story, summing up the meetings, is written for the Enterprise by Rev. W. J. Weber:

Never in the history of Independence has there been such a change in the morals of the city as has taken place during these meetings. Business men, manual laborers, farmers, the well-to-do, the poor, people of all classes have been reached by a common power and leveling influence—the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the marvelous work done much credit is due Evangelist Taylor and wife and Prof. F. F. Leonard, the much-loved soloist and choir leader. Mr. Taylor's sermons, "Tomorrow," "Popular Amusements," "Too Late," and others are very forceful pleas for rejecting worldliness and accepting Christ.

The meetings proper closed on Sunday night. Over three hundred persons have come forward and contrary to the fears of many of the Christians, most every case shows indications of clear experience. The converts have testified and, in the cottage prayer meetings, they have led in prayer. The moral tone of the city has been greatly lifted.

Nearly all of the Sunday morning services were given over to raising the offering for Evangelist Taylor. In both the afternoon and evening services about fifteen minutes time was devoted to the offering. In total \$365.00 was raised for Mr. Taylor and his wife. Nearly all has been collected and paid to him.

In the afternoon Evangelist Taylor gave a most striking and convincing sermon on amusements. A number were converted. In the evening six or seven came forward. After dealing with the converts, Evangelist Taylor exhorted the churches to rightly care for the young Christians. It was a very impressive talk. Before the meeting closed the audience arose and gave Mr. and Mrs. Taylor the chautauqua salute.

On Monday night Mr. Leonard gave his life story. It did much good. But the crowning service was on Tuesday night when Mr. Leonard and the choir, aided by Chas. E. Hicks and Mrs. Weber, gave the "Pink Rose" service, a very striking production in song and story of the history of a life once in deepest sin but afterward most blessedly redeemed. It was full of pathos and power. All greatly rejoiced in having the privilege of hearing this service. After an opportunity was given for those desiring to become Christians, Mr. Leonard briefly and very lovingly and impressively addressed the audience. He had all the officers of the various churches come to the front seats, then he had the pastors line up before the congregation, when, completely surpris-

ing the pastors, he presented to each a beautiful bouquet as tokens from the respective churches of their love and esteem for their pastors. Each minister responded as best he could—for big lumps came to their throats in joy and love—and gratefully thanked their people for the kind remembrances. Dr. Dunsmore not being present received his bouquet at his home. The only regret manifested was that the members could not have aided in giving Brother Leonard, also, a bouquet as an expression of the people's appreciation of his work. At this service a special offering was taken for Brother Leonard. It totaled \$121.15.

The money received for the meetings is about \$800. About \$365 of this went to Brother Taylor and wife \$220 to Brother Leonard and the rest on expenses.

### A Common Cold.

We claim that if catching cold could be avoided some of the most dangerous and fatal diseases would never be heard of. A cold often forms a culture bed for germs of infectious diseases. Consumption, pneumonia, diphtheria and scarlet fever, four of the most dangerous and fatal diseases, are of this class. The culture bed formed by the cold favors the development of the germs of these diseases, that would not otherwise find lodgment. There is little danger, however, of any of these diseases being contracted when a good expectorant cough medicine like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is used. It cleans out these culture beds that favor the development of the germs of these diseases. That is why this remedy has proved so universally successful in preventing pneumonia. It not only cures your cold quickly, but minimizes the risk of contracting these dangerous diseases. For sale by P. M. Kirkland.

## HIGH SCHOOLS HOLD DEBATES

BALLSTON TEAMS ARE WINNERS IN DEBATES

INDEPENDENCE LOSES TO BALLSTON ON NEGATIVE AND WINS FROM PERRYDALE TEAM ON AFFIRMATIVE IN DEBATES.

Result of the first of the series of high school debates of the Polk County High School Debating League.

In the different meets held in the county last Friday night of the different high schools of the county, the results were as follows: Independence won over Perrydale at Independence by a 3 to 0 decision; Ballston won over Independence at Ballston by a 2 to 1 decision; Ballston won over Perrydale at Perrydale by a 3 to 0 decision; Falls City won over Dallas at Falls City by a 3 to 0 decision; Monmouth withdrew giving Falls City the decision at Monmouth; Monmouth withdrew giving Dallas the decision at Dallas.

The method for counting the points is allowing one point for the vote of each judge and one point for the decision, thence the teams, or rather, schools, as all that both teams make count for the school they represent, stand in the league as follows: Falls City 8, Ballston 7, Independence 5, Dallas 4, Perrydale 0, Monmouth 0.

The next debate will be held March 4 on the question, Resolved: That further restriction of emigration is undesirable.

(Continued on page eight.)

## SALEM IS RECOGNIZED

as the most economical trading point in the Willamette valley, and you'll find immense assortments to select from in all lines of merchandise. One of the principal stores is

## BARNES' CASH STORE OF SALEM

where the "spot cash" plan of business enables them to undersell "credit stores."

## The Cash Plan Keeps You Out of Debt

and you get better values for your money at a cash store. We make it a point to never buy an article until we are convinced that it will prove satisfactory to our customers. That accounts for the uniform high standard of merchandise we carry.

## Dry Goods, Clothing

SHOES, everything for the whole family at prices that "credit stores" can't match.

## Opera House

EVERY WEDNESDAY

"THE MOST ATTRACTIVE ACTRESS" IN THE MOVING PICTURE WORLD APPEARS ON THE FILMS SHOWN EVERY WEDNESDAY

AT THE

## Opera House

GREAT VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. SHOW BEGINS AT 8 O'CLOCK. LASTS 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES. ADMISSION: 15c AND 25c.