

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

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Entered at Independence, Ore., post office as second-class matter.
Subscription, \$1.50 Per Year

SCUTTILING PUBLIC DOMAIN

In another column of the Enterprise is published a letter from Jonathan Bourne, Jr., Oregon's representative in the United States Senate. Senator Bourne proposes to introduce a bill which will open to settlement the vast arid, non-irrigation lands of central Oregon to homesteaders, or rather to theft of that public domain by non-resident settlers. In the eastern part of Oregon are 20,000,000 acres of vacant land which is not susceptible to irrigation and under scientific methods now in vogue in "dry farming." It is proposed through Senator Bourne's bill to open this area to settlement. It is estimated that this area of land will furnish entries for 60,000 homesteaders. The bill will provide for acquisition of homesteads embracing 320 acres and on which it will not be required to reside to procure title. The bill will make it possible to secure title to these lands through cultivation only and to come into possession of one of these farms all that will be necessary is the filing fee. He would allow the homesteader to reside in luxury in the city, rent his land out to actual farmers for a period of five years, when patent will be issued by the government on the showing of crop values to the amount of \$1500. It would appear from this that it is another plan of stealing land from Uncle Sam, but on broader lines. Senator Bourne states in his letter that these lands are not such that a man would wish to make his home upon for twelve months of the year but under the new law he would be given an opportunity to acquire a tract of 320 acres without actual residence thereon and without actually cultivating it in the true sense of the word, but it would be merely a gift from the government. He says that under the 320-acre homestead act, the bill for which he now has under preparation, a family can reside in any town in Oregon where their children can have the benefit of good schools and all members of the family church privileges and social advantages and at the same time comply with the law regarding cultivation and thus secure title to the land. Now he says there would be no opportunity for fraud because the bill will require that annual proof must be submitted showing amount of land cultivated, its character and quality, and value of crops produced.

Senator Bourne is evidently laboring under the impression that this

THE WIFE BEHIND THE URN.



There's a man behind the capital,
The man behind the gun,
The man behind the enterprise,
The man behind the son.
Though all-important they may be,
I quit them and return
To her who cheers my home for me—
The wife behind the urn.

What though the frenzied financiers
Do tear each other down;
I leave my struggles, cares and fears
Behind me in the town.
For splendors and the gauds of pride
I'll never, never yearn,
No other gift can rank beside
The wife behind the urn.

The wind may shake the window-pane
And boogie in the flue;
Our roof can shed the driving rain,
Our love sheds trouble, too.
With CHASE & SANBORN'S coffee, dear,
True comfort do we learn;
I pledge you in its fragrant cheer—
The wife behind the urn.

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Independence

large area of non-irrigable land should be confiscated, that people who are not willing to brave hardships of pioneering, such as has been the experience of the homesteaders of the past, should be allowed to take up these lands without any inconvenience to themselves. He is laboring on the theory that the homestead laws of the government should provide cheap homes for the people. This new bill which Mr. Bourne is preparing will certainly accomplish the result.

What guarantee will the government have that these lands will not be confiscated by farmers who will have the land settled on the same plan by which stockmen of the west procured titles to great tracts of Oregon lands? In those cases men were paid filing fees and a few hundred dollars for their rights to the lands and when, on acquisition of titles, the lands were deeded over to the principals of the agents. The purpose of the government in offering homes to actual residents is defeated when titles are allowed to be scuttling public domain ed con XX sue to homesteaders who are not required to comply with the homestead residence clause. In the provision for the cultivation of the land is the delusion. There will be no actual cultivation. The entryman will simply rent his farm for the five-year period when title, in all probability, will pass from speculator to grafter. In the provision of this bill which Mr. Bourne has in course of preparation will be seen one of the most portentous grafts ever attempted on the homestead law and that it will fall of passage is to be hoped. Such are the views of the Independence Enterprise regarding his proposed legislation.

HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDS

Few cities of any country are visited with a baptism of the Holy Spirit in a more earnest and inspired manner than that which Independence has undergone during the twelve weeks past. The results of the revivals, summed up in one word, can be nothing short of a benediction, not only to Independence but to all Polk county, conversions having reached far out into other counties. Many touching scenes were enacted during the revivals. Strong men wept and embraced one another on coming into possession of the Spirit, while on others the dignified peace of salvation shone in their countenance. The uplift of the moral fabric of Independence is inconceivable and not fully realized even by the calmest heads of the churches. Waves of sentiment still continue to beat upon the more hardened hearts of the community, and while they may never melt into submission, there will abide a melting influence which will guide and direct them. In the face of the multitude recruited to the ranks of righteousness in this city during the revivals, who will venture to claim an understanding superior to the revelation of the truths manifested?

One result of more importance to the city than any other, perhaps, aside from their personal salvation, is the uniting of the people of Independence for a common cause and the enjoyment of a fraternity united in Spirit. The analysis: Morality, in all walks of life; brotherhood, to the extent of life. In theory the picture is one beautiful to contemplate and in the fulfillment of its promise it is to be hoped there will be little discount.

Fortunate, indeed, are the churches of this town in procuring evangelists of such works as were wrought by these great men. Rev. Mr. Taylor is a tower of spiritual strength and he, with his corps of workers, is fully deserving of the credit for the success of the splendid meetings. To his power of organization is due the results of the meetings. Looking first to the attractions necessary to secure the attendance of the classes desired, and then to the organization of personal workers, he showed his mastery of the situation. The power of the sermons, the eloquence of the invitations and the appeal of the songs often went unheeded, but the force of the beseechings of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors bowled them like tenpins. His sermons convicted and the

friends converted by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through contact, perhaps more than any other way, the heart of the Enterprise has been probed, in all matters where issues arise and into which the Enterprise can wield directing power for the moral welfare of the community its influence will be invested. Here's our heart and hand for everything that is elevating and uplifting to Independence.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Observer, made a good stab the other day when he kicked against the town newspapers always boosting in every way for everything, and then being asked to always head the lists for the cash subscriptions. It does seem queer that the citizens of a town will never put a cash valuation on the work a newspaper is continually doing for them and their town, but expect it as their right and all the cash they can get besides. Maybe it is because the work a newspaper does cannot be measured in dollars and cents—it is far too valuable for that. A town without good newspapers would be like a ship without a rudder.—Itemizer.

"Sparking" in the Monmouth post-office, says the Sheridan Sun, is prohibited by the council of that city. Less visiting in the Sheridan post-office would be a convenience to the patrons. Confining "sparking" in its accepted sense, to the homes in any community would tend to enhance the social standing as well.

Mr. Miller of Lebanon has come out with the announcement that there is nothing to the report that he is to be a candidate on the democratic ticket for governor at the next state election.

Reason Enthroned.

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and constipation. Revise your diet let reason and not a pampered appetite control, then take a few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and you will soon be well again. Try it. For sale at P. M. Kirkland's drug store. Samples free.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS NOTES.

For Sale—Fresh milk cow. Enquire of C. B. Byrbee. Phone 504, Independence, Oregon. 38-7

Horace R. Landfare of Portland, a student of Oregon Agricultural College, spent Sunday in Independence, the guest of his cousin, Chas. E. Hicks.

Dallas will have all streets, residences and business institutions numbered. The contract has been let and will be delivered and installed in March. The lettering is to be of white enamel on blue background.

The marriage of Jesse Ellis and Miss Annie Borgen of McClaryville, Washington, was solemnized on January 9 at the Methodist church of that city in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Ellis of Dallas. They will reside at McClaryville.

W. A. Whiteaker, who is identified with the oil proposition in Polk county, was a Sheridan visitor last week. Mr. Whiteaker is confident that the result of his operations in Polk county will prove successful and that oil will be found in great quantities. The object of his visit here was to investigate the property now being worked by Mr. Elliott north of town.—Sheridan Sun.

The McKenzie Merry Makers, who played in this city at the opera house Monday and Tuesday nights, were a decided success. Their play, "In Wyoming," given Monday night was a four-act comedy-drama, a story of western cowboy life and was extremely interesting from beginning to finish. Catchy songs were sung between acts.

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