

West Side Enterprise

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The land fraud cases now on in the federal court at Portland give rise to much speculation throughout the state as to how far reaching the investigations now in progress will be. There is no question, that if the homestead law is to be literally construed, many a man and woman in Oregon will be deprived of the privilege of proving up on a piece of government land which would otherwise contribute toward the development of the state.

In yesterday's Statesman is published an interview with a man who has been dealing in government lands and much that he says is to the point. He says:

"I do not believe that all the men who are in possession of public lands which they have secured under the homestead act, are guilty of fraud. But, however it may be, I am sorry to say that a number of young men who have had claims on homesteads have been afraid to continue with their proofs and they are liable to have to let them lapse, because they are afraid they cannot satisfy 'Mr. Heney' that they have an intention of making the land their immediate home. The practice in this country has been to permit the entry and to grant the patent where the entryman has complied with the letter of the law.

"It may be that a number of people have taken advantage of this custom, and perhaps have been able to mix up some officials in the deals, and thus to defraud the government, but I do not believe there are many of our homesteaders who have not taken the lands for their own use, and according to the spirit of the law.

"Much of Oregon has been developed just through the land laws having been construed so as to permit the taking of lands by clerks and others who are making their living when they make the declaration, by town work, and perhaps never see the land except for a few days and nights each year, until they have the patent. Then they hold the land for a brief time and let it go to the one who will pay the nearest its value. In these cases there is no fraud. The land is for the use of the homesteader even if he only sells it after proving up on it."

This man shows in his interview, some fear of Mr. Heney, the government prosecutor, and he brings out what effects a great many people in Marion and Polk counties as well as every other county in the state, namely: that a great many young men and women and older ones too have taken up claims and endeavored in most cases at least to live up to the letter of the law by putting up some kind of improvement and seeing the land twice a year. This paper has heard of no cases in this county or in Marion, where forgeries were committed, fictitious signatures secured or affidavits made as rank as those in the 11-7 cases. Where even in the eagerness to

Increase in the subscription list of this paper has been greater within the past ten days, than during the same time of any other period of its existence. Especially since the Christmas issue of a week ago have subscriptions been coming in. Some have subscribed for two papers, some for three and one man did not stop at two or three but subscribed for seven, making a Christmas present of the Twice-A-Week West Side Enterprise to as many different friends. There is no truer index to the progressive spirit abroad in a community, than the support accorded the local newspaper. This paper has no complaint to make of the support it is receiving and makes this opportunity to thank those who have so generously assisted in extending the circulation. During the past year the paper has been allowed to speak for itself. For the coming year, it assures its patrons that the standard of the paper will be maintained, that the interests of this community and the Blue Ribbon county will be zealously guarded and that without this paper, no one can claim to get all the news of Polk county. In its last issue for 1904, the West Side Enterprise wishes all a happy and prosperous New Year.

secure a piece of land one has knowingly and willfully crossed the borderland of crime, he is entitled to the penalty the law prescribes. But to hold the private citizen to a rigid adherence to the letter and spirit of the law while great railroad corporations are gobbling up the lands with scrip, is unjust. It is in the authorization of this scrip whereby Oregon's fine timber lands are exchanged for barren wastes on Mt. St. Helens and Dakota Bad Lands, that congressional delegations should be held responsible. The "scrip" law was a bad one. If Mr. Heney is endeavoring to discover the motive of members of congress for supporting it, he should not stop until every member of congress from every state in the Union is investigated.

Senator Scott Loughary came up from Portland yesterday having attended a senatorial convocation, called together with the hope of effecting a line up on the organization of the state senate. Leslie Scott, in his round up of the situation for the Oregonian, places Polk county's senator with the Kuykendall bunch. This is not exactly correct for Senator Loughary has not allied himself with either crowd. He is in that position that leaves him free to assist any candidate that offers most in the way of chairmanship of committees. According to the Oregonian's size-up, Kuykendall will have 12, and Carter 10 in caucus, leaving three doubtfuls. The doubtful ones are Croison and Hobson of Marion and Nottingham of Multnomah. But Croison and Hobson are not for the Booth-Kelly candidate unless the offer in committee chairmanships far exceeds what may be had by supporting another candidate. Neither do Nottingham and Loughary owe support to the big timber syndicate's candidate and Dr. Kuykendall's election to the senate is by no means assured.

Next Wednesday, Pomona Grange, which includes all the granges of Polk county will meet in Independence. Mrs. Waldo, state lecturer, and Frank Butler, organizer for this district, will be among those present. After Pomona Grange meeting is over, it is the purpose to organize a local grange at Independence. It is the further purpose to establish headquarters here for the county grange in conjunction with the local order. This effort on the part of the grangers deserves most hearty encouragement. The county and local grange together could maintain a hall of their own and, most likely, the co-operation would result in the establishment of a market day for stock and farm products that would be very beneficial to farmers as well as the town. The grange is a benefit to the country. In its ranks is found the

best citizenship of the country. The grange of Polk county needs and deserves strengthening. Give Pomona Grange a warm welcome next week.

The Multnomah delegation has brought out banker A. L. Mills as a candidate for speaker of the lower house. Banker Mills for speaker of the house and Banker Carter of Ashland, president of the senate would make creditable presiding officers. If elected, they will conduct the two branches of the legislature along business rather than political lines.

If there is anything the Oregonian should know to an absolute certainty it is that no man can rely upon the support of Geo. C. Brownell. And that paper lines him up for Kuykendall instead of placing him in the doubtful column.

The college football teams of Oregon have a tryout each season and the winning team carries the pennant to Portland and presents it to a team of professionals who should not be pitted against college teams.

Again John Doe and Richard Roe have been indicted by the federal grand jury in Portland. John and Dick are surely bad ones. They have figured in American courts ever since the adoption of the constitution.

Independence is one of the few Oregon towns that can at this time of the year lay claim to clean streets.

The West Side Enterprise will present an estimate on the expenditures of Polk county for the New Year next issue.

WINTER EXCURSION RATES TO YAQUINA BAY.

A New Departure on the Southern Pacific and Corvallis & Eastern Railroads.

Recognizing a long felt want, and desiring to give the public cheap rates to the coast in the winter as well as the summer, for persons who desire to see the bounding billows in their wildest moods and imbibe the pure ozone of the winter air at the coast, the Southern Pacific Company in connection with the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad have placed on sale, taking effect Nov. 2, 1904, and continuing until March 31, 1905, from all points on their lines, round trip tickets to Yaquina at the same rate as during the summer. These tickets will be sold on Wednesdays and Saturdays only, and will be good for return sixty days from date of sale.

Dr. Minthorn's sanitary baths will be in operation and anyone who desires a genuine health resort during the winter cannot do better than spend a month or so at Yaquina.

Similar tickets will be sold from Albany Corvallis, Philomath and all points west on the Corvallis & Eastern R. R. Full information as to rates, baggage etc., can be obtained by applying to the nearest S. P. agent or direct from W. E. Coman, G. P. A., S. P. Co. Portland, or Edwin Stone manager C. & E. R. R. Co., Albany.

P. S.—Through tickets to Portland are sold by the C. & E. at Corvallis, and by the S. P., Portland to Corvallis via Albany and the C. & E. at the same rate as via the west side, viz: \$2.00 C. & E. trains connect at Albany with the Albany-Portland local both ways.

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FIRE PROOF AND FOOL PROOF.

A Gasoline Light being introduced by

ELI STREHLOW

the Tinner and Plumber. Strong but easy on the eyes. Cost of running 1/4 cent per hour. Five hundred candle power. See Sample just installed at J. L. Smiths. Next door to Bice & Calbreath's Furniture store.



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THE I. L. SMITH SALOON,
C. STREET,
Independence, - Oregon
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A Happy and Prosperous New Year To All



O. A. Kramer & Co.

DR. NEHRBAS

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Salem - Oregon

W. G. SHARMAN,
Merchant Tailor
Bank Building, INDEPENDENCE, OREGON.

MOTOR LINE TIME TABLE. INDEPENDENCE & MONMOUTH RAILWAY CO.

Leaves Independence for Monmouth and Airlie 7:30 a. m. 8:30 p. m.	Leaves Airlie for Independence 9:00 a. m. 8:00 p. m.
Leaves Independence for Monmouth and Dallas 11:00 a. m. 8:15 p. m.	Leaves Dallas for Monmouth and Independence 1:00 p. m. 7:30 "
Leaves Monmouth for Airlie 7:30 a. m. 8:30 p. m.	Leaves Airlie for Independence 9:00 a. m. 8:00 p. m.
Leaves Monmouth for Dallas 11:20 a. m. 8:30 p. m.	Leaves Dallas for Independence 1:00 p. m. 7:30 "