

NEWS ITEMS

Of General Interest

About Oregon

Oregon and California Land Grant Title Is Not Clear

Washington, D. C.—As the Oregon & California land grant bill stands on the house calendar, it will not enable the government of the United States to pass a clear title to any settler or purchaser, in the opinion of Representative Hawley, and he has the supporting opinion of several of the good lawyers of the public lands committee in this opinion.

"The bill," said Mr. Hawley, "makes provision for the payment of back taxes—that is, for taxes that have accrued for the past three years, but I believe it does not provide for the payment of taxes which are now becoming collectable. Moreover, the bill fails to make provision for the payment of interest on back taxes and fails also to provide for the payment of penalties on those accrued taxes. These omissions, in my opinion, render it impossible for the United States to give an absolutely clear title and I will call attention to this shortcoming when the bill is before the house."

"The prime reason for providing in the bill for the payment of back taxes was to enable the government to give a clear title. Unless that section is enlarged and made complete it will fail of its purpose and those who acquire these lands from the government will be liable for interest and for the unpaid penalties and for the taxes that are not paid by the government under the Ferris bill."

Smudging Need Shown in Southern Oregon Fruit District

Medford—In the opinion of local fruit men the year 1916 will mark the final demonstration of the necessity of crude oil smudging in the growing of fine fruit and apples in Southern Oregon.

At the beginning of the season there was a distinct movement against smudging, chiefly because of the annoyance involved and damage to trees from overflowing pots. In fact an injunction against smudging was obtained by one group of orchards shortly before the May freeze.

All this anti-smudge agitation is ended now in the opinion of local growers, for from May 8 to May 14 smudging in Rogue River valley orchards was worth at least \$500,000.

Those orchardists who smudged, and fortunate a large proportion of them did, lost practically nothing from the low temperature, while except on the high hillsides those who did not smudge were wiped out. While the loss has been serious, it is certain according to experts who examined the orchards that the first reports were greatly exaggerated.

100,000 Acres in Willamette Valley Can Be Watered

Salem—Approximately 100,000 acres of land can be feasibly irrigated in the Willamette valley at the present time, results of an investigation just completed by the United States Reclamation Service in co-operation with the state engineer's office show. A joint report of the inquiry into irrigation and power development possibilities of the Willamette valley was issued this week.

The survey extended from Canby at the mouth of the Molalla river to the head of the Willamette river above Cottage Grove and included the area in the immediate vicinity of Portland.

It is pointed out that the water supply for the proposed irrigation of the valley lands in many cases may be obtained from wells by pumping. The report declares that the average economic duty of water which seems to be indicated for the valley as a whole is eight inches delivered to the land, varying with local conditions of soil and crops.

Those employed in the survey investigated the water power development possibilities on the north fork of the Santiam river with storage at Marion lake; the upper reaches of the McKinzie river and the middle fork of the Willamette river.

On the McKinzie river there are two existing plants and at least two new developments proposed, one at Vida and the other between the outlet of Clear lake and the mouth of Smith river, involving the use of Clear lake for regulation of flow.

Mill Will Reopen.

Hood River—The Stanley-Smith Lumber company, which has been delayed in the commencement of operations at its plant at Green Point, in the southwestern part of this county, because of weather conditions, will start work in its lumber camp and open the mill next Monday. During the past week, according to Manager J. E. Robertson, who visited the plant, a snow of eight inches prevailed in the Green Point hills. The Green Point mill will employ about 175 men. It cuts between 80,000 and 90,000 feet.

Oregon Grange Elects.

Grants Pass—The Oregon State Grange elected officers at its annual convention in progress here, as follows: Master, C. E. Spencer, Oregon City; overseer, C. D. Huffman, La Grande; lecturer, Mrs. H. E. Bond, Eugene; treasurer, H. H. Hirschberg, Independence; secretary, Mary S. Howard; legislative committee, M. M. Burner, Dufur; James Stewart, Fossil; executive committeeman, B. G. Leedy, Corvallis.

ENGLAND TRIES KNIGHTED IRISHMAN ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON

London—The writing of a new chapter of the history of the Sinn Fein rebellion was begun Tuesday when Sir Roger Casement, knighted in 1911 for services to the British government, and Daniel Julian Bailey, an Irish soldier, one of his companions on the ill-fated submarine trip from Germany to Ireland were placed in the dock of the Bow-street police court for preliminary examination on the charge of high treason.

While considerable testimony introduced by the crown tended to incriminate Bailey, the main attack of the prosecution was directed against Casement in an endeavor to enmesh him in a net of evidence which would establish without question the leading part it is claimed he played in the conspiracy, whose ramifications extended even to America.

U. S. to Send Insistent Note to England on Interference With Mails

Washington, D. C.—Negotiations with Great Britain regarding interference with mails to and from the United States and interruption of neutral commerce by the British fleet are to be resumed in the near future. A note insisting sharply on modification in the treatment of mails already is being prepared at the State department, and as soon as possible work will be begun on a reply to the last British note defending the operation of the blockade orders in the council.

Secretary Lansing let it be known last week that the implied condition in the German note on submarine warfare, expressing confidence that the United States would hold Great Britain to compliance with international law, had made it difficult to proceed with the British negotiations. He said, however, that these negotiations would be continued promptly in spite of the embarrassing situation.

Fourteen Killed and Thirty Injured in Great Powder Plant Explosion

Gibbstown, N. J.—At least 14 men were killed and about 30 injured Tuesday in a terrific explosion at the Repauno plant or the Du Pont Powder company, near here. The blast occurred in the building in which trinitrotoluol is manufactured, and wrecked that structure and three others.

The cause of the explosion is not known, and, according to officials of the company, may never be ascertained, as all those believed to have been in the building where the first explosion occurred are dead.

Trinitrotoluol is not considered an explosive risk, and company officials believe it caught fire before exploding. This blast caused a nearby building, in which nitro-benzolis was manufactured, to blow up. So great was the force that two buildings some distance away, in which buxite was manufactured, were wrecked, but the explosive did not go off.

Near-by Blast Causes Restaurant Building to Collapse; Ten Killed

Akron, O.—At least 10 persons were killed, two are missing and a score were injured early Tuesday night, when the old Beacon Journal building, occupied by the Crystal restaurant, collapsed as a result of a blast of dynamite in an adjoining excavation.

Seven identified and three unidentified bodies have been recovered and two persons now missing are thought to be in the ruins.

A tremendous roar, echoing the screams of dying people, brought thousands to the scene of the disaster, in the heart of Akron's business district.

A great pile of ruins, broken timbers, twisted steel and tons of brick and mortar buried the victims, who a moment before were dining in the restaurant.

Eight bodies were taken out of the wreckage after firemen, police and volunteer rescuers had worked frantically, digging and chopping through the debris.

Twenty more, some slightly injured, were extricated and sent to hospitals. Only two or three of those known to have been in the restaurant succeeded in escaping before the crash.

Bomb Droppers Sent to Border.

Columbus, N. M.—Aeroplane machine guns and bomb dropping devices arrived here Tuesday for the use of the first aero squadron. Army aviators here deny knowledge as to whether the planes to be sent into service in Mexico are to be equipped with the devices.

A "dead line" was drawn about the base arsenal here. It is said that a suspicion that incendiaries may have been responsible for the recent fires at Fort Bliss, Tex., caused the added precautions here.

Dakota Snow Two Feet Deep.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—Snow to a depth of two feet fell Tuesday in parts of the Black Hills in South Dakota, and to a depth of 10 inches on the Cheyenne Indian reservation, in the central part of the state. Heavy rain and snow fell in the entire eastern half of the state, but in Sioux Falls, Watertown and Aberdeen and snowflakes melted immediately. High winds and falling temperature, recorded at 30 promise further wintry weather.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORTS; GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.03 per bushel; fortyfold, 92c; club, 91c; red Fife, 92c; red Russian, 92c.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$23 @23.50 per ton; alfalfa, old crop, \$19 @20.

Milfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$23.50 per ton; shorts, \$26.50; rolled barley, \$31.50@32.50.

Corn—Whole, \$36 per ton; cracked, \$37.

Vegetables—Artichokes, \$1 per dozen; tomatoes, \$4.25 per crate; cabbage, \$2.50@3 per hundred; garlic, 10c per pound; peppers, 17c@20c; eggplant, 20c@25c; horseradish, 8c; cauliflower, 75c@1.10; lettuce, \$1.85 @2.25 per crate; cucumbers, \$1@1.25 per box; spinach, 4c@6c per pound; asparagus, 75c@90c per dozen, \$1 per box; rhubarb, 1c@2c per pound; peas, 6c@6c; beans, 8c@11c; celery, \$3.50 per crate.

Potatoes—Jobbing prices: Oregon, \$1.40@1.65 per sack; Yakimas, \$1; new California, 4c@5c per pound. Buying prices: Oregon, \$1@1.15.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.35 @ 1.50 per sack; Texas Bermudas, \$1.50@2.

Green Fruit—Strawberries, Oregon, \$2@2.50 per crate; California, 75c@1.65; apples, \$1 @ 1.75 per box; gooseberries, 8c per pound; cherries, \$1.50@1.75 per box.

Eggs—Jobbing prices: Oregon ranch, candled, 23c per dozen; uncandled, 21c@22c.

Poultry—Hens, 17c@17c per pound; stags, 18c; broilers, 28c@30c; turkeys, live, 18c@20c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 23c@25c; ducks, 16c@18c; geese, 10c.

Butter—Extras, prints, 28c@29c per pound; prime firsts, 27c; firsts, 26c; cubes, 24c@25c; butterfat, No. 1, 27c, delivered Portland; No. 2, 25c; store butter, 18c@20c.

Veal—Fancy, 11c@12c per pound. Pork—Fancy, 10c@11c per pound.

Hops—1915 crop, 10c@12c; 1916 contracts, 11c@12c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 21c@29c per pound; valley, 33c@36c; mohair, new clip, 48c@51c.

Cascara bark—Old and new, 4c per pound.

Cattle—Steers, choice grain and pulp, \$8.75@9.15; choice hay, \$8.50@8.75; good, \$8.15@8.50; medium, \$7.75 @8.15; cows, choice, \$7.50@8; good, \$6.75 @ 7.25; medium, \$6.25 @ 7.25; heifers, \$5 @ 8.25; bulls, \$2.75@6; stags, \$3@5.25.

Hogs—Prime light, \$9@9.25; good to prime, \$8.50@8.75; rough heavy, \$7.90@8; pigs and skips, \$7.90@8.

Sheep—Yearlings, \$8.25@10; wethers, \$8@9.05; ewes, \$7@9; lambs, \$8.25@10.50.

English Beer Output Cut; Oregon Hop Market Affected

Portland—The export demand for hops is not going to be as much of a factor in the coming season as in past years, unless the war is brought to a close, as production of beer in England is to be limited.

Word has been received from London that arrangements have been made between the British government and the Brewers' society to reduce the beer output from April 1, 1916, by 28 per cent of the output of the year ended September 30, 1914. The aim of this restriction is to reduce the importation of brewing materials by 33 1-3 per cent, though no direct steps will be taken to restrict the importation of materials.

At the moment there is a very good market at all points on the Coast, and prices are, if anything, steadier than last week.

The furnish crop of 195 bales at Reedville was bought by Ralph E. Williams at 10c. Offers as high as 11c were made for good Oregon hops in other sections.

The Chamberlain lot of 126 bales at Chehalis was purchased by Harry L. Hart at 10c. Another important Western Washington deal was the sale of 350 bales of the Klaber crop at Chehalis at 11 cents. In Yakima orders at 11 cents are going unfilled. Only five crops remain unsold in the Yakima section.

In Sonoma, where unsold stocks are reduced to 3000 bales, bids are out at 11 and 12 cents. The sale by Mrs. Duncan of 115 bales of Sonomas at 11 cents is reported. Hofer & Johnson sold 99 bales of Mendocinos, but the price was not wired. Marks bought the Gerber crop of 263 bales of Sacramentos at 9c.

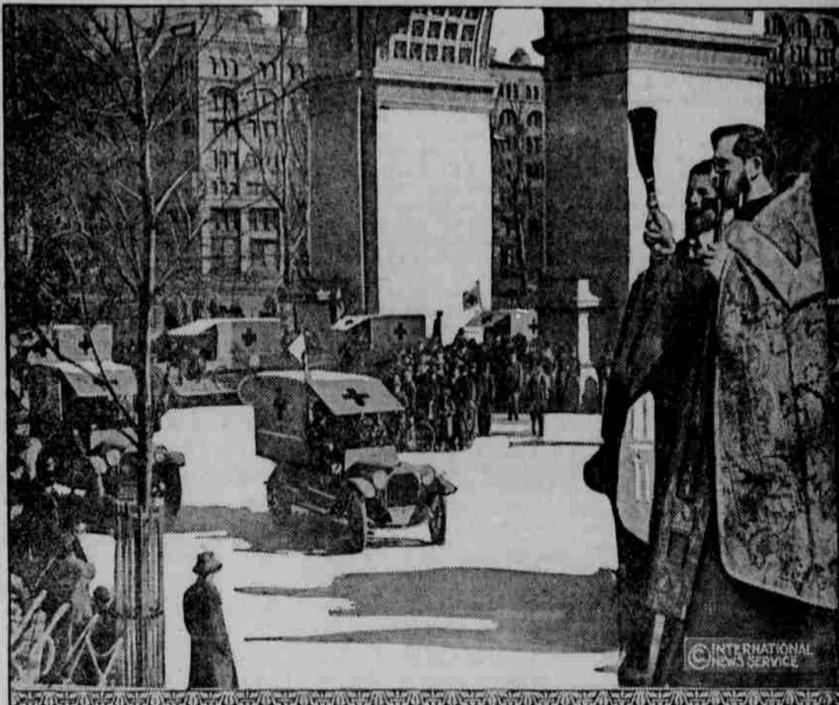
New Fruit Plan Is Adopted.

Wenatchee, Wash.—It is probable that the majority of the large tonnage expected from the up-river country this season will be packed out through community or central packing sheds. The system of co-operative packing which has proven a success in California and Oregon has received a strong impetus in Okanogan county and the large centers. Ira Cleveland, of the Growers' league, expert on central packing, has returned from a two-weeks' campaign through the up-river country. Growers like the new system.

Fruit Damage Is Now Feared.

Marshfield, Or.—Fear is felt here for the fruit crop, particularly berries, in the finish of the present storm, which commenced five days ago. The weather has been cold and much hail has fallen at intervals. Strawberries which are about coming into market will be injured unless there is a sudden ending of the storm. Nearly three and a half inches of precipitation is the record for five days.

AMERICANS GIVE AMBULANCES TO RUSSIA



Crowds gathered in Washington square, New York, the other day to witness the dedication of a string of army ambulances presented to the Russian government by Americans. At the right in the illustration is seen a priest of the Orthodox church blessing the ambulances.

APACHE SCOUTS HELPING GENERAL PERSHING



These are the Apache Indians who have been sent to the front in Mexico as scouts to aid General Pershing in tracking Villa.

POINCARÉ VISITS THE VERDUN TRENCHES



M. Poincaré, president of France, accompanied by officers, on a visit to the trenches in the Meuse district. M. Poincaré is attired in a military cloak and cap of a color not easily discernible from the enemy's trenches.

HERO OF KUT-EL-AMARA



Gen. C. V. F. Townshend, commander of the British expedition against Bagdad. He has been holding off a superior force of Turks for months on the Tigris at Kut-el-Amara.

CAMP BARBER AT WORK



The camp barber of one of the detachments of the American force pursuing Villa is here seen doing his best to make a soldier presentable.

NO ONE WILL EAT THESE BAD EGGS



It required fifty gallons of kerosene and five hours time for two deputy United States marshals to cremate 89,286 bad eggs, which were condemned by the supreme court of the District of Columbia as being unfit for use. These eggs were seized in the municipal market where they had been offered for sale, bakeries being the usual purchasers of the canned product.