

Current Comment---Timely Topics

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1908.

Now is the season of joy and gladness when families gather, differences are forgotten, cares laid aside, the cooking braces up and there is peace on earth for men of good will. May all these yuletide joys be thine, dear reader, Merry Christmas!

Grand Commander T. A. Wood, of the Indian War Veterans and his son who were indicted for alleged pension frauds are now free men, the United States court dismissing the indictments on the ground that no crime has been committed.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

From the gospel according to St. Luke Chapter II Verses 7-20.

And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven the shepherds said one to another.

"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger.

And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all things that they had heard and seen as it was told unto them.

RULING ON HOMESTEAD LAW

At a recent session of the United States court held in Spokane, Judge Hanford made a ruling of great importance to claimants of land under the homestead law. Charles D. Ott made a homestead entry in the Yakima land district. He commuted the entry and was afterwards ar-

rested and charged with perjury because he swore he had lived on the land fourteen months, as required by law. The defense set up the plea that Ott could not be held for perjury because the Interior Department added to the oath he was required to take the statement in regard to residence, that that addition was departmental, not congressional legislation and that a man can only be held for perjury when he had falsely made the affidavit required by the statute. Judge Hanford held that the defense was well taken; that the statute does not require an applicant for a homestead to make affidavit of residence upon the land, of constructing a house thereon, or of cultivating any part thereof. In the absence of such statute, all regulations of the Interior Department requiring such an affidavit are not sufficient to charge a man with perjury, who swears he did do these things.

The federal law relating to the oath of a homestead applicant requires him to swear he has not alienated any part of the land, and he will bear true allegiance to the United States. The law requires that proof of residence, improvement and cultivation by the homesteader shall be made by two disinterested witnesses.

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Secretary Hitchcock may be the paragon of official honesty he pretends; but his forest reserve policy is not too highly esteemed where it is known. The Blue Mountains reserve in Eastern Oregon; for instance, zig-zagged its lines to include the territory of the Oregon Lumber Co. and leave out the field of the Grande Ronde Company until the vice president of the former corporation found it policy to purchase stock in the latter. Of course the attempt to hamper the operations of the Baker City company may have been accidental or the Interior Department might have had in mind to show its disapproval of the Mormons, but a map giving the outlines of the reserve together with the holdings of these lumber rivals would indicate more than mere regard for forest preservation.

Grass seeds of all kinds at W. R. Hicks.

SHERIFF'S SALE

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an execution, decree and order of sale issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Washington, dated the 17th day of December, 1903 in favor of J. W. Shute and E. B. Tongue, Administrators of the Estate of Thos. H. Tongue, deceased, plaintiffs and against George W. Miller, defendant for the sum of \$44.50 cost and the further sum of \$800.00 with interest the sum of \$844.50 per cent per annum, to me directed and delivered, commanding me to make sale of the real property hereinafter described, I have levied upon and pursuant to said execution, decree and order of sale I will on Monday, the 25th day of January, 1904, at the South door of the Courthouse in Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. of said day, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand, all of the following described real property, lying, being and situate in Washington County, Oregon, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Block numbered thirteen (13) of and in Oak Grove Addition to the Town of Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, as the same is marked and designated upon the plot of said addition of record in the office of the Recorder of Conveyances of Washington County, Oregon, containing two acres more or less, to satisfy the hereinbefore named claims and for the costs and expenses of said sale as said writ.

Said sale will be made subject to redemption as per statute of Oregon.

Dated at Hillsboro, Oregon, this 24th day of December, 1903.

J. W. SEWELL,

Sheriff of Washington County, Oregon.

E. B. Tongue, Attorney for Plaintiff.

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