

State Capitol News Letter

Rental revenues accruing to the irreducible school fund under the substantially reduced grazing fees adopted by the State Land Board in 1936 have averaged more than \$9,500 a year as compared to an average of only \$3,250 a year from this same source for the previous 12 years during which the Land Board was asking from 9 1/4 cents to 12 1/2 cents an acre for the use of these same lands.

According to Louis Griffith, clerk of the Land Board, eastern Oregon stockmen regarded the higher rental charges as exorbitant and refuses to lease other than a limited area of the best grass lands, grazing their herds over the state lands without cost since the state had no adequate means of policing its holdings.

With the asking price of these lands now down to an average of less than two cents an acre, Griffith points out that there has been a big demand for their use with more than 649,000 of the state's 785,000 acres of school lands under lease in 1938 and 502,000 acres leased in 1939. Griffith explains the slump in leasing during 1939 as due to the refusal of the Land Board to enter into long time leases. In order to protect their leased lands, Griffith explained, stockmen must be in position to fence them and they cannot afford to go to the expense of this improvement unless they can be assured of uninterrupted use of the land over a long term of years.

Under the recent adopted policy of leasing these lands for ten-year periods, Griffith predicts that not only will all of the school lands be in demand but also that stockmen will be willing to pay a larger rental for the use of these lands. He expects revenues from the leasing of state school lands to reach \$20,000 a year in the near future.

Electric service was extended to 4661 rural customers on 510 new rural lines throughout Oregon during the past 12 months, according to Ormond R. Bean, public utilities commissioner.

Secretary of State Snell has just completed apportionment of the county fair tax among the several counties of the state. The tax, raised by a levy of one-twentieth of a mill, ranged from a minimum of \$162.90 in Wheeler county to \$15,473.71 in Multnomah county. A total of \$44,954.80 was apportioned among the 36 counties, based upon the assessed valuations in each county.

With Governor Charles A. Sprague absent from the state on a visit to the middle west, Speaker of the House Ernest Fatland, of Condon, is pinch hitting for the chief executive for the second time within a year. Tuesday the governor participated in ceremonies inaugurating Dr. Roben J. Maaske as president of the eastern Oregon normal school at LaGrande. Since the resignation of Robert M. Duncan as president of the state senate, Speaker Fatland is next in line of succession to the governorship.

During 1939 there were 159 grade crossing accidents in Oregon resulting in ten deaths and 38 injuries, according to reports compiled by the public utilities commission. With one accident less than in 1938 there were two more deaths and six fewer injuries, these reports show.

Dr. Irvin B. Hill, a graduate of the University of Oregon medical school, has been employed as full-time assistant physician at the Fairview Home—state institution for feeble minded. Dr. Hill, who is the son of State Representative Earl Hill of Cushman, Lane county, takes over his new duties July 1.

Even before the official canvass of the recent primary vote has been completed, successful nominees in the race for legislative seats are scurrying around in an attempt to line up support for the House speaker-ship.

The past week has developed two new candidates for mid-Willamette Valley counties. Lyle Thomas, west Salem school principal and Polk county's representative, has let it be known that he is ambitious to wield the house gavel and claims a substantial block of votes lined up back of this ambition. At the same time it became known that John Steelhammer, Salem attorney and a member of Marion county's house quartet, also has ambitions in this same direction.

Friends of both Thomas and Steelhammer point out that it has been a long time since the Willamette valley section has been honored by election of any of its favorite sons as presiding officer of either legislative branch. As against this claim, however, there looms the prospect that the senate is about to recognize

the Willamette valley at the next session with Dean Walker of Polk county and Douglas McKay of Marion being prominently mentioned for the senate presidency. While some contend that election of either Walker or McKay to head the senate would detract from the chances of Thomas and Steelhammer, on the theory that one honor should be enough for the Willamette valley, friends of these candidates point out that eastern Oregon hogged both of these honors last year with Robert M. Duncan of Burns presiding over the senate and Ernest R. Fatland of Condon wielding the gavel in the house.

In addition to the two new Willamette valley candidates Wm. McAllister of Medford and Robert Farrell, Jr., of Portland, are known to have been doing a lot of preliminary ground work already in preparation for the big push in their campaign for the house speakership as soon as the house personnel is definitely settled by the voters next fall.

The war in Europe is affecting Oregon in more ways than one. The state board of control was reminded this week that because of the German invasion of the low countries, no more flax pulling machines will be available from Belgium. Two machines ordered by the board some time ago were shipped just before the invasion and are safely on their way to this country. Oregon will have to manufacture its own flax pullers from now on until the restoration of peace again opens up the Belgian plants, board members said.

The status of the Nehalem valley PUD is still in doubt. Returns filled with the Hydro-electric commission in Salem show that while the Columbia county area included in the proposed district approved the project by an overwhelming majority, the Washington county area divided evenly on the proposition. Attorney General Van Winkle has been asked to interpret this vote. If he should hold that a tie vote fails to approve the project then it will be up to the commission as to whether the Columbia county area shall be organized into a PUD without the Washington county area.

Rate reductions adopted by electric utilities during the past 12 months will result in annual savings to users of electricity in Oregon of approximately \$1,400,000 it is reported by O. R. Bean, public utilities commissioner.

Chas. Schiffeler, Soloist At Portland Philharmonic Orchestra Tuesday, June 11

A rare treat is in store for Oregon concert devotees when Charles Schiffeler, eminent American baritone of opera fame, will be soloist with the Portland Philharmonic orchestra, under the baton of Leslie Hodge, Tuesday evening, June 11, at the Portland Public Auditorium, S. W. 3rd Avenue at Clay Street. An all-Tschaikowsky-Wagner program will bring this first Philharmonic season to an impressive close. Tschaikowsky's famous Symphony Pathetique will comprise the first half of the concert.

Critics throughout the United States and Europe have hailed Schiffeler a dramatic baritone, "possessing a voice of unusual beauty, range and power, which he uses with rare intelligence and artistry." He has sung lead roles with Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, San Francisco, and Los Angeles opera companies. In 1934 he sang at the Lewisohn Stadium concerts, New York, under the baton of Alexander Smallens. Last Fall when Schiffeler sang the role of the Count in "Rigoletto" with Lily Pons and Lawrence Tibbett at Los Angeles, The Examiner called his performance "one of the big hits of the evening" and claimed him "an actor of power and impressive voice . . . the audience thundering its appreciation of his work."

Send reservations to the Portland Philharmonic orchestra, 614 S. W. 11th Ave., Portland. The program starts at 8:30 p. m.

Circuit Court Cases

May 29—May Jarvis vs. Harry W. Jarvis. Suit for divorce.

May 31—Deloris Arnold vs. Harold Arnold. Suit for divorce.

May 31—C. E. Dick vs. Ted and Myrtle Schwarz et al.

May 31—Wm. F. Darr vs. Eugene Blazier, Jos. Hockfield, L. A. Wells and Theodore Hehn.

June 1—State Industrial Accident Commission vs. Harold Max Stem and John Lorusung.

June 1—State Industrial Accident Commission vs. Grade Summerlin.

June 1—State Industrial Accident Commission vs. John Lorusung.

June 3—Fannie M. Watzling vs. Harold Watzling. Suit for divorce.

June 4—Everett Higgins vs. State Industrial Accident Commission.

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Ninetieth Birthday Anniversary

A beautiful birthday dinner was enjoyed at the home of Mrs. Melessa Brownson on June 2 in honor of Mrs. Brownson's 90th birthday June 1. The table was spread in the yard under the gorgeous weeping willow tree that spreads its branches over most of the yard.

The dinner consisted of meat and sandwiches and salads, both fruit and vegetable. For dessert there was apple pie made by the hostess from apples grown on her place in the season of 1939; also blackberry pie made from berries picked on Saturday, June 1. There was also strawberries and ice cream and cake.

The most notable thing was a beautiful cake made and presented to Mrs. Brownson by the Myrtle Bakery of Myrtle Point. It was a beautiful cake, worthy to grace the table of a queen.

The day spent in visiting and talking. Those enjoying the occasion were the eight children of Mrs. Brownson and their families and a few friends.

Those attending were: Mrs. Carrie Benham, Mrs. Hattie Hatcher, Geo. Brownson, Sol Brownson, Amelia Hill, Henry Brownson, Elmer Brownson, Harry Brownson, all the children of Mrs. Brownson; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Holverstott and children, Kenneth and Lindsay Lou; Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Benham and daughter, Carren; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Benham and children, Joan and Dean; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Benham and son, Earl; Mrs. Elmer Brownson and sons, Clifford and Wallace; Ray Benham, Mabel Hill, George Brownson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Dale Thurman and children, Allen, Verna and David; Mrs. Brownson, hostess. Visitors were Mrs. Etta Davis and Hazel Jarvis.

Many snapshot pictures were taken, including the five generations of women, which consist of Mrs. Brownson, Carrie Benham, Myrtle Holverstott, Ruby Thurman and Verna Thurman.

Mrs. Brownson has lived on the place for over 70 years and has seen it grow from a homestead shack to a place.

Mrs. Brownson received many presents from friends and relatives.

Bear Creek News

Roy Enlund had the misfortune to get his foot caught between two logs last week. Although no bones were broken, it will be some time before he can use it again.

Charles E. Fellows accompanied his brother, Henry Fellows, of Bandon, on a combined business and pleasure trip to Salem. They returned home Wednesday evening.

The Jasper Morris family were among those from Bear Creek attending the celebration at Port Orford Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Fellows were dinner guests at the Harve Allen home Saturday evening.

Don't forget the annual school meeting. Read the notices for full particulars.

Mrs. Emma Sebree and Mr. and Mrs. Harve Allen were dinner guests at the Harry Heffley home Sunday at noon. In the afternoon the entire party attended the ball game in Bandon.

Romero Is Gay Caballero Again In "Viva Cisco Kid"

Lovable Outlaw Meets Thrilling New Adventures—At Liberty Fri. and Sat.

The Cisco Kid gallops back from the border with his guns blazing to prove once again he's still the most dashing caballero of them all!

Handsome Cesar Romero, who first played Cisco in "The Cisco Kid and the Lady" is again the colorful O. Henry outlaw—barking guns, flashing eyes, romantic heart and all—in "Viva Cisco Kid," the 20th Century-Fox production which is coming to the Liberty Theatre on Friday and Saturday.

Cisco is chased by a posse, accused

of murder, trapped in a mine cave-in and left for dead by the West's toughest hombre—but it's all in the name of Romance! This time it's lovely Jean Rogers who makes him willing to risk his neck a thousand times for her smile. Cisco's roly poly gal, Gordito is again the tireless companion of all his thrilling adventures. Again played by 235-pound Chris-Pin Martin, Gordito provides plenty of laughs with his blundering efforts to keep the dashing Cisco from the snares of the senoritas.

As a matter of fact, it is by trusting a black-eyed beauty that Cisco almost puts his neck into a noose in the first scenes of the film. As a result, he swears off the senoritas for all time. But that's before he meets the beautiful damsel in distress, played by Jean Rogers and falls for her as only Cisco can fall.

The cast also features Minor Wat-

son and Stanley Fields. Norman Foster directed "Viva Cisco Kid" from a screen play by Samuel G. Engel and Hal Long. Sol M. Wurtzel was executive producer.

Townsend Club

The Coquille Townsend club had a very interesting meeting Tuesday night followed by the usual dance. June 11, there will be clam chowder supper at 6:30 p. m. and served during the evening. Clam chowder, pie and coffee for 25 cents.

The public is invited to attend. This supper is given to help raise funds to send the delegates to the Townsend national convention at St. Louis, Mo. Everyone come and help a good cause.

—Press Cor.

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