

The Bend Bulletin

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FRIDAY - OCT. 30, 1903

A NEW LAND POLICY.

The statement of the attitude of the Interior Department toward recent withdrawals of public lands in Oregon, which appeared in the Oregonian of October 23, is the sanest that has been given out. It shows a reasonable motive for the withdrawals. This puts the whole matter in a different light and fortifies the people with confidence, while before they were indignant and suspicious.

Secretary Hitchcock has become convinced that our land laws need revision in the interest of the public. He thinks the way is now too easy to get valuable land for some species of speculation. It does not benefit the state or the nation to have land titles pass from the general government to private persons or corporations, there to be held indefinitely until they can be disposed of at a satisfactory profit. It is the use, not merely the possession, of land or its native products, that counts. Use of our timber and stone and soil will make this a great country. If these are not to be used they might as well remain in the hands of the government, so far as the industrial development of the country is concerned.

The position of Secretary Hitchcock tends toward making use of the land a condition of its ownership. This doctrine in short is: If you make no use of the land you have no right to it. Of course, there is no contention that present laws will bear that construction, for they plainly will not. But Secretary Hitchcock evidently thinks we are approaching a time and a condition that call for putting this spirit into the laws.

With the object of keeping the land for those who will make productive use of it, the recent numerous withdrawals were made. And they will stand until congress shall have a chance to revise the land laws. It seems that the secretary is as much in favor of repealing the lieu land laws as the timber and stone act. This would do away with the shameless abuse of scripping. There is justice and good sense in that position and the secretary will find many friends in it. The scripper is the chief offender of them all, though he does operate within the letter of the law.

The new land policy thus indicated is a marked departure from present practice and it opens a wide field for discussion. There is comfort, however, in the knowledge that it will be inspired by an honest purpose and that the reform will be in the interest of the humble citizen who will make good use of the land rather than in the interest of the capitalist speculators.

The United States land office at La Grande is in trouble again. Asa R. Thompson, receiver, has been indicted by the federal grand jury at Portland for soliciting bribes to pass proofs desired by three sheepmen, and the department at Washington has suspended him and thus practically closed the office for all business but filings, for the concurrent action of both officers is necessary to the discharge of land office business. Thompson was appointed only seven months ago at the special request of Senator Mitchell as a reward for his service in the

legislature. He was elected to that body as a pronounced Corbett man but at the critical moment he switched over and led the stampede to Mitchell.

A lawyer of Yreka, in Northern California, recently wrote the general land office at Washington to learn its construction of the term "speculation" as it appears in the timber and stone act of June 3, 1878, wishing to know whether it restricts claimants to actual personal use of the timber or not. The reply received a few days ago indicates that the general land office has not changed its ruling on that point. Acting Commissioner Fimple's letter said—

You are advised that if you made a satisfactory showing that your entry was made for your own use and benefit and there is nothing more to impend your good faith than the mere fact that you made the entry for investment with intent to sell the land at some future indefinite time and in this manner realize a profit on the money invested, this office holds that such an entry is not made in violation of law and should be passed to patent.

This route the impression that has gained currency lately to the effect that the department would insist upon actual personal use of the timber as the only escape from the prohibited "speculation" of the statute. A claim shown to be taken for speculation, would, of course, fall down. The question has been as to whether intent to sell the land at some future indefinite time would be construed as speculation under new rulings. It appears from the letter above quoted that it would not. Of course, if there were other weak points in the proof the whole might justify rejection, but the mere recommendation of a special agent is by no means conclusive, and honest intentions and lawful conduct will not be defeated in that manner.

A specimen of old style surveying in Oregon is township 22 south, range 9 east. The land office has the duly approved plat, showing the township to have been surveyed into sections, and the full field notes are doubtless in the surveyor-general's office. But the only line actually surveyed within the boundaries of the township is on the north side of the south tier of sections. That line was run and the section and fractional-section points marked upon it. No other east and west and no north and south lines were run in the township. Consequently it is a difficult matter to locate claims properly and it will be absolutely necessary to have a survey before cutting timber. A survey may bring surprises to a number of claim holders. That surveying contract was passed 30 or more years ago and it is a monument to the ingenuity and economy of the contractor.

Cleve Donkel now has a chance to prove the wisdom of the jury that acquitted him of the charge of murdering his father. He can redeem himself by leading a square life, and everybody with a spark of humanity would be very glad to see him do it.

Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, has announced himself as the harmony candidate for president on the democratic ticket.

Free Hall for Church Services.

The Rev. Zelotus W. Commerford, of the Presbyterian church, who recently arrived at Prineville to take charge of the church work in this field, spent Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Bend. While here he called on most of the families of the place and received a favorable impression of the community. Sunday morning and evening he conducted religious services in Grant's hall and the announcement was made that for the present the

hall would be given for such services free of charge, including heat and light. Mr. Commerford expects to arrange with the Rev. O. W. Triplett, of the Baptist church, who will alternate with him in the meetings here, for an order of service that all can understand and follow, and which will give better form and more interests to the service.

There was a large attendance at church Sunday morning and evening and Mr. Commerford got a cordial reception. His sermons were of the common sense order and he impressed his hearers with his sincerity as a man as well as his industry for the church. His next service here will be on November 22. Bend gives him as large a congregation as Prineville does.

In Mr. Commerford's calls at the homes he found a sentiment in favor of moving back to the school-house rather than pay \$10 a month hall rent. When this was made known, Manager Grant, of the Bend Mercantile Company, offered the hall, including heat and light, free of charge for the present, and on this basis the meetings are now held.

Two Poems.

When Eugene Field was doing the "Sharps and Flats" column of the Chicago Record, some one sent in a query asking whether Tennyson, Lowell or Browning wrote the poem of "Sir Galahad", and to make sure of identification the first verse was given, as follows:

My good blade carves the canopies of men,
My tough lance thrusteth sure,
My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my heart is pure.
The shattering trumpet shrilleth high,
The hard hands shiver on the steel,
The splintered spear-shafts crack and fly,
The horse and rider reel,
They reel, they roll in clanging lists,
And when the tide of combat stands,
Perfume and flowers fall in showers
That lightly rain from ladies' hands.

Field replied that he thought Tennyson wrote the poem on Sir Galahad, but Lowell had written a similar one entitled "Sir Sullivan", beginning thus:

My good fist belts the snouts of men,
My right arm puncheth sure,
My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my whiskey's pure.
I amle to find a slinger nigh,
And for the fray I quickly peel,
Then at his bread-basket let fly.
And make the duffer reel;
He reels, he gropes about the ropes,
And while his backers rub him down,
Each thirsty bum fills up with rum
That freely flows in Boston town.

Lowell was to visit Chicago the succeeding week and this was one of Field's jokes, and it made much merriment for the Boston poet.

School Bulletin is the name of a monthly journal devoted to the educational interests of Crook county which has just made its appearance in Prineville under the editorial management of County Superintendent William Boegh. It is a creditable eight-page publication and ought to do well.

Columbia Southern

RAILWAY.

PASSENGER TRAIN TIME CARD.
Effective February 15, 1903.

South-bound	STATIONS.		North-bound
NO. 2 DAILY PASS.			NO. 1. DAILY PASS.
LEAVE P.M.			ARRIVE A.M.
1.30	BIGGS		11.25
1.50	Gibbons		11.00
1.54	Sinks		10.57
2.00	Waco		10.53
2.27	Klondyke		10.30
2.35	Summit		10.25
2.45	Hay Canyon Junction		10.14
2.46	McDonalds		10.13
2.58	DeMoss		10.00
3.09	Moro		9.50
3.15	Erskenville		9.47
3.20	Grass Valley		9.43
4.00	Bourbon		8.55
4.16	Kent		8.49
4.36	Wilcox		8.30
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