

# HOMESTEADING ACT EXPLAINED

## SECRETARY LANE ISSUES STATEMENT

Method of Procedure For Entrymen Set Forth—Formal Legal Statements and Service of Attorneys Declared to Be Unnecessary.

The 320-acre homestead law, or as it is often called, the enlarged homestead law, has made possible the entry of many million acres of dry land in the Western states in tracts double the size allowed under the original homestead law. Only land which has been "designated" by the Secretary of the Interior as "non-irrigable" can be entered under this act. More than 200,000,000 acres have been thus designated, but petitions and sworn statements requesting further designations are constantly being received.

In an interview just given out, Secretary Lane calls attention to the fact that there appears to be considerable misunderstanding among Western homesteaders as to the procedure necessary in order that enlarged homestead designations may be made. The secretary states that only the simplest and most direct action by the settler is required, and that it is wholly unnecessary for him to incur the charges now made by attorneys who draw up formal petitions that are in fact no more effective than the homesteader's own letter would be. On this account a brief statement of the essential facts relative to the enlarged homestead law is timely.

The first enlarged homestead act was approved February 19, 1909, and as later amended provides that in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming any person who is qualified to make entry under the homestead laws may enter as much as 320 acres of public land which is in a reasonably compact body and is non-mineral, non-irrigable, unreserved and unappropriated and does not contain merchantable timber. Before such entry can be made, however, the land must be designated by the Secretary of the Interior as not being, in his opinion, susceptible of successful irrigation at a reasonable cost from any known source of water supply.

**Land Must Be Non-Irrigable.**  
The work of classifying the lands and determining what areas may be considered non-irrigable has been assigned by Secretary Lane to the United States Geological Survey. Although, under the present ruling of the secretary, large areas may be designated as non-irrigable without raising the question whether the land is in other respects subject to homestead entry, the work of examining and classifying these large areas necessarily proceeds rather slowly. In addition to these so-called "blanket" designations, therefore, designations of smaller areas are made as rapidly as their non-irrigable character is determined, including areas whose designation has been requested by individual settlers for enlarged homestead entry or for additional entry on tracts adjacent to their present unperfected homestead entries.

**Formal Legal Statement Unnecessary.**  
No definite form of petition is required, but each application should be limited as far as possible to the specific tract desired for entry and should contain a description, by section, township and range, of the applicant's original homestead entry and the date of this entry, as well as a description, also by legal subdivisions, of the land desired for additional entry. Information as to the possibility of irrigating the land should also be furnished and should include the distance and direction of the nearest stream or existing or proposed irrigation canal, the elevation of the lowest point of the land above such source of water supply, the depth at which water can be reached by wells sunk on the land, and all available information concerning attempts to obtain water by this method. The general character of the land, both of the homesteader's original entry (if he has made one) and of the land desired for additional entry, should also be described, to aid the Survey in reaching a decision as to its non-irrigability.

This information should be embodied in a letter sent direct to the director of the United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. A formal petition drawn up by a notary or an attorney is not at all necessary and will not result in any earlier consideration of the matter than will be given if the applicant writes personally. Action will be taken on every request as promptly as is consistent with a proper regard to other requests that are pending, and the applicant will be promptly notified when a final decision has been reached. (From the Press Bulletin of the U. S. Geological Survey)

### HELD

(Continued from Page Two)

homestead this week for the winter. Don't say this country will not grow potatoes. Mr. Birchhoff, who lives near Held, raised nearly 200 bushels and also some pumpkins.

Eric Danielson and wife started to Bend Sunday morning for a load of goods.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Genung will have a nobby little house when Robt. Cunningham gets it finished.

Ernest Nelson has gone to Bend to meet his wife and bring his father-

in-law and family to their claim, adjoining Mr. Newson's.

F. T. Carpenter is busy with his house these days.

Mr. and Mrs. Marris visited Mr. and Mrs. Genung Sunday.

George Beebe will go to Bend soon. He has been on his claim all summer. Frank L. Ramsay, who drove from Moscow, Idaho, and has located here, says it is the best piece of country he has seen.

Mr. Hope, the cobbler, is doing a nice piece of plowing.

Mr. Jensen has built a dandy little house on his claim about a mile from the warm spring.

The Halloween social given at the Highland school house by the Ladies' Country Club was well attended and everybody seemed to have a good time. Almost everyone had his or her fortune told by Madame Maraposa, the gypsy from across the waters. There was a splendid display of home made cakes which was arranged by the club ladies.

### SISTERS

(Special to The Bulletin)

SISTERS, Nov. 9.—J. A. Chitt has gone to the Metolius to build a house for Mr. Dayton.

Attendance at school for the last report month was 97 per cent. Those whose names are on the roll of honor are: Irel Harrington, Cora Jeffries, Eda Towne, Georgia Woods, Viola Allen, Mabel Smith, Elizabeth Frye, Gwendolyn Eoff, Lois Towne, Ethel Vincent, Harvey Smith, Charley Avery, Boyd Johnson, Vern Keif, Harley Jeffries, Lee Allen, Hugh Smith, Harold Allen, Clyde Duckett, Claude Woods, Van Wilson, Elba Taylor, Allen Harrington, Mattie Allen.

Harry, Shelby, Viola and Agnes Allen will leave immediately for their place in Sherman county where they will remain for some time.

The Sisters saloon building has been moved back off the front street so that Mr. Leithausser could use the lot for his chickens.

There was an enjoyable evening spent at the Cloverdale school house last Friday. It was a bachelors' social.

The Sisters school has a Red Ink spelling contest every Monday morning.

The pupils of the Sisters school are making a great effort to have a reading room. They are writing items for newspapers, thereby making a small amount of money which will be used to purchase papers and magazines.

The school children of this place are rendering a program every two weeks, of which they are taking a great interest.

Misses H. K. Allen, J. M. Allen, Duckett, Towne, Edmunson, Smith, Zumwalt, Misses Stewart, Zumwalt, Smith and Mr. Edmunson were visitors at school Friday.

### LOST CREEK

(Special to The Bulletin)

LOST CREEK, Nov. 7.—Mr. Hubbard made a business trip to Lakeview last week.

Mrs. C. O. Ashby is having a new house built on her claim.

Mr. and Mrs. Hasler have moved onto their claim north of Mr. Curran's.

Mrs. C. J. Stauffer and daughters Beth and Ida have been the guests of friends at Robat during the past week.

Ben De Witt is erecting a log barn.

Charlie Davis and Archie and Clarence Smith spent a few days hunting in the vicinity of Benjamin lake. They were fairly successful.

### LA PINE

(Special to The Bulletin)

LA PINE, Nov. 10.—Floyd Lippincott has been hauling lumber from the Masten sawmill for the new bank building since last Friday. He is to haul 15,000 feet in all.

J. J. Stevenson is working for the Prigale Falls Power & Electric Co. He will erect the buildings for the company when the lumber is ready for them.

All the persons that are interested in the road that crosses the river at Rosland are going to build road on Thursday and Friday of this week. It is the aim of all those interested to put the road in good shape for the winter and also to cut down the hill to a much better grade.

Mr. Brady was in town today from the stage station.

S. Berry returned from a business trip to Bend, last Friday.

The La Pine Supply Company's store is again doing business. Chester Hollinshead is acting as receiver.

H. S. Beesley is rebuilding the fence on the southeast corner of the Lawrence place. Harry Childers and Mr. Larson are helping him.

Waldemar Christensen is again working for Floyd Lippincott at the livery barn.

Will and Cecil Hollinshead are baling hay on the Burt place.

Fay Howard was in town today.

### MILLICAN

(Special to The Bend Bulletin.)

MILLICAN, Nov. 10.—John W. Schreder left for his home in Portland last Friday. He will return in the spring with a team and outfit and reside here permanently.

Abraham Evans has completed his home near Horse Ridge and is expected to arrive in a few days with his family to take up residence.

Jacob Scherer is a recent arrival

and will reside on his claim here in the future.

Frank Hatch has returned to the valley to spend the winter.

S. Robacher expects to commence work on a large cistern this week. It will be 10 by 10 feet square and 10 feet deep, built of concrete. A surface adjacent thereto of 150 square feet to catch the rain will also be provided.

A. A. Gilmore is in receipt from his former commanding officer at the Presidio, San Francisco, of a beautiful silver expert rifleman's badge won by him at the Presidio before leaving the service last spring. Mr. Gilmore served five years in the regular army.

A. D. McNeal left Sunday for Bend where he expects to be employed.

Mrs. Loretta Reams visited with Mrs. Ada B. Millican Sunday.

The Ski-ke-leek Club held its semi-monthly meeting Saturday at the H. E. Davis home. The meeting was to have been with Mrs. Augusta Evans and owing to her absence it was decided to meet at the most conveniently located place. The next meeting will be with Mrs. A. A. Gilmore.

### POWELL BUTTE

(Special to The Bulletin)

POWELL BUTTE, Nov. 10.—Voters in precinct No. 25, better known as the Powell Butte precinct, were either too busy or indifferent to go to the polls last Tuesday. Only 20 votes were cast and of that number only two were women's. The same precinct polled a heavy vote last general election.

George Hobbs made a trip to Bend the fore part of the week. Mr. Beckman was also a visitor at the river city Monday.

Several owners of large bands of sheep have been in this section the past week buying up hay for winter feeding. Several of the farmers have bought up stock for feeding and will use their entire crops instead of selling as has been the custom heretofore. So we are safe in predicting that there will not be a single stack of hay in the valley carried over the winter.

Mrs. Mary V. Charlton and son Chas. Jr. returned to Prineville on Thursday after several days visiting with Mr. Charlton.

John Tengman returned last week from a trip to the John Day country where he went for a load of apples.

Lafollette Bros. of Prineville were in this section Friday buying up a large quantity of oats.

The board of County Commissioners was in town last week on their way to Bend.

C. M. Charlton went to the county seat last Thursday morning to assist in making the official count of ballots, he having assisted with that work for a number of years.

Geo. Eller came home Sunday for a supply of grain and hay. He is working for the Central Oregon Irrigation Company east of Bend.

Henry Tweet made a brief visit to relatives in Bend Friday, returning home Saturday.

John Rhode went over to Redmond Friday for a few days' visit. He will doubtless be going to the Willamette valley soon where he expects to be for the winter.

Jesse Tuck is building a nice big farm house on his Powell Butte farm. His father is assisting with the carpenter work.

Misses A. W. Hayn and G. C. Truesdale were visitors at Prineville.

(Continued on last page)

## Stop the Loss—Fires are Unnecessary

Brick is absolutely fire proof in any ordinary conflagration. Brick Buildings never burn, although they are sometimes injured by falling timbers or combustible interior woodwork.

A brick building is absolutely fire proof if wire glass is used in the windows and if burned clay floors are used.

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- Bend Park
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