

## PROPOSES A NEW LAW

**Suggestions of the Burns Commercial Club Embodied in Bill**

### CROPS RATHER THAN RESIDENCE

**Senator Bourne Will Introduce Bill Changing Homestead Law And Asks for Views of People--Substitutes Crop Production for Actual Residence as the Consideration for Title.**

Senator Bourne has taken up the suggestion made by the Burns Commercial Club in respect to a change in the homestead law. The following has been received from the senator under recent date:

I am sending this general form of letter to many newspapers, granges and commercial organizations of Oregon for the purpose of getting before the people the idea I have embodied in a bill I shall introduce in the Senate that Production of crops rather than residence upon a homestead is the essential of successful and most efficient development of our resources. I have done this in the hope that the people of Oregon will favor their delegation here in Congress with their views as to the wisdom of the proposed legislation.

I am informed by Mr. William Hanley, an extensive stock raiser in Harney County, that there are 22,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon incapable of irrigation, but nearly all of it susceptible of cultivation under the scientific methods now in vogue in "dry farming". Mr. Hanley's suggestion of substitution of Crop-Production for actual residence as the consideration for obtaining title increasingly impressed my mind.

If the bill which I have prepared should become a law, the homesteader on non-irrigable land in what is known as the arid region need not live upon his land at all, but must live within the state. He must cultivate it either personally or by representative and he must show by annual proofs that within a period of five years the land has produced crops of a total value of \$1500.

Assuming that Mr. Hanley's estimate of 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon is correct and that same can be brought under cultivation by adoption of what is known as "dry farming", this area of land would furnish opportunities for 60,000 homestead entrymen who, before they could acquire title, would be obliged to produce crops of a total value of \$90,000,000. Thus it will be seen that the nation, state and community would be benefited in the development of our natural resources, wealth increased, and, what is more important, a class of citizens gained who would be obliged to produce rather than merely live on the land—a population of workers. In its present condition and in the present state of settlement and of transportation facilities most of this land is not suitable for home-making, though it could be cultivated by men who would make their homes elsewhere or upon the land only a part of the year.

My bill is based upon the theory that if a tract of land is made productive it will provide some family with a home even though that family lives in a town near the land rather than upon the land itself, and that, therefore, all of the essential objects of the homestead law will be accomplished. The great difficulty under the present homestead law is that a great many men who settle upon land under the homestead act do as little cultivating as the law will permit and avoid as many as possible of the government's requirements, and their land is not made productive. Believing that production is the real essential, I made that the most important feature of my bill. Land suitable for "dry farming" is frequently such as a man would not wish to make his home upon for twelve months in the year, but the present law permitting an entry on 320 acres requires actual residence, and, I

believe, without accomplishing any desired end by such requirement.

Under the plan proposed by my bill an entryman under the 320-acre homestead act could keep his family in any town of Oregon, where his children could go to school and all members of his family have the advantages of attendance at church and social functions, and, at the same time, by complying with the law regarding cultivation and production, he could secure title to the land. There would be no opportunity for fraud because the bill requires that annual proofs must be submitted showing the amount of land cultivated and the character, quantity and value of crops produced.

I believe that the average farmer on 320 acres of land subject to entry under the enlarged homestead act would be able to produce crops of much more than \$1500 in value in a period of five years; but the \$1500 minimum limit is fixed as a standard to which the entryman must work, and I believe that even under adverse circumstances any man who is enterprising and diligent will be able to produce crops of this value.

The theory of the homestead law is that the Government should provide cheap homes for the people. This theory is in no way violated by my bill. Land taken under this measure would maintain homes for the entrymen even though these homes were a few miles distant rather than upon the land itself.

The residence requirement of the homestead law is in the nature of a penalty, the punishment being inflicted not only upon the entryman but upon his wife and children. At present the entryman takes his family into isolated regions in which vacant lands can be found and keeps them there to live a period of five years of banishment from association with fellow beings.

In a great many cases the homesteader performs just as little work upon his land as possible, and as soon as he gets title removes his family to town where they can have the advantages of school and social intercourse. The real object of providing homes is not accomplished by the requirement of actual residence upon the land. This object would be accomplished, however, by the requirement that a man shall bring his land into productiveness to produce, some one must cultivate the land. To cultivate economically, vicinity, labor and intelligent attention are required of the entryman or his representative. The entryman's desire is the acquisition and ownership of the land; title can only be obtained through production; production necessitates increased population, either of entrymen or their representatives. The value of the land acquired by the entryman upon continuing production. Thus, it is certain that the land once acquired will, under normal conditions, continue productive, as otherwise there is no incentive for entry nor to purchase after title is acquired. Necessitated production eliminates the evil of idle land due to non-resident ownership.

My bill requires that the entryman shall cultivate at least one-eighth of his land the second year, one-fourth the third year, one-half the fourth and fifth years and that he must file in the local land office by the first of December each year a sworn statement verified by the affidavits of two persons having knowledge of the facts, showing the character, quantity and value of the crops produced by him.

I would be pleased if the people of Oregon would advise their delegation in Congress of their views in this measure.

FARMERS WEEK AT O. A. C.

Information worth hundreds of dollars to the farmers of the state will be offered at the Oregon Agriculture College during Farmer's Week which opens February 14. Lectures and exercises, covering the most vital and important information which science and experience have gathered, will be given by experts. Work will commence at 8 o'clock in the morning and continue until 10 o'clock at night. Ample opportunity will be offered for questions and discussions. The first College Poultry Show will be held on Friday when prize winning birds from some of the best flocks in the state will be exhibited. A summary of the work follows:

Five lectures on Diseases of Farm Animals by Dr. Withycombe; five lectures on Stock Feeding by Dr. Withycombe; ten hours practice in Apple Packing under expert instruction. Enough to learn the principles of good packing. In the Willamette Valley each year thousands of boxes of good fruit is not marketed because farmers do not know how to pack for market; five exercises in Pruning, Budding, Grafting, etc. by Prof. Kent; five lectures on Forage Crops by Prof. Scudder; five lectures on Farm Bacteria by Prof. Pernot; five lectures on Farm Soils by Prof. Scudder; ten lectures on Orchard Diseases by Prof. Jackson; five lectures on Vegetable Gardening by Prof. Boquet; five lectures on Farm Drainage by Prof. Powers; five lectures on Hot Beds and Cold Frames by Prof. Boquet; ten lectures on Orchard Insects by Prof. Bridwell; five lectures on Landscape Gardening by Prof. Peck; five lectures on Chemistry of the Farm by Prof. Bradley; ten or more lectures by prominent men who have been signally successful in some special branch of Agriculture.

#### NOTES FROM SUNSET.

Chas. Reed went to Portland last week to see his brother who is very ill.

Miss Lois Smallwood was given a pleasant surprise on Tuesday evening when her friends gathered at her home to celebrate her birthday.

Jim Reed is up from Mud Lake for a few days.

Since the Secretary of Business is away a vast change has taken place in the once sunny countenances of Sunset.

Mr. Sawyer and Walter Hodder spent Saturday night and Sunday at the latter's homestead.

Otis Thorp spent Sunday in Sunset.

Nat Henney and Henry Black are hauling wood to Narrows.

#### WOOD BUYING UP PROPERTY.

That the activity of Colonel C. E. S. Wood seems to increase rather than diminish in the matter of buying up lands in the Malheur valley is made evident by the number of purchases made by him and recorded last week. The total amount which the records say passed from his hands to the previous owners of the properties involved, is \$19,700, and the amount of land runs well into the hundreds of acres. The properties are all rather close to the canyon, which the wise ones expect to be the principal bone of contention in the fight between the two railroad systems. The number of purchases made by him and recorded last week is five.—Malheur Enterprise.

Threatening feverishness with children is quickly and safely calmed by preventives. These little Candy Cold Cure Tablets should always be at hand—for promptness is all-important. Preventives contain no quinine, nothing harsh or sickening. They are indeed, "the stitch in time." Carried in pocket, or purse. Preventives are a genuine safeguard against Colds. 25c. Sold by Reed Bros.

## OREGON LEADS IN LAND

**According to Report This State Has 18,225,694 Acres Vacant**

### TIMBER LAND ACT NOT SUCCESS

**Commissioner of Land Office Makes Interesting Report of Our State's Wealth--Suggests New Timber and Stone Law--Scrip Interferes With Funds That Should go to Reclamation.**

Much interesting information concerning public lands of this state is embraced in the annual report of the commissioner of the general land office just issued. According to the tabulation of the department, there are 18,225,694 acres of government land yet unappropriated in Oregon, out of a total area of 61,887,360 acres, of which latter quantity there is a water surface of 698,880 acres. Of the unappropriated lands in this state, 13,620,130 acres have been surveyed, while 4,605,564 acres are still unsurveyed.

Oregon leads all the public land states of the Union in the number of timber and stone entries from the passage of the act of June 3, 1878, to June 30, 1909, 24,830 such claims having been filed during that period, embracing an area of 3,566,905.45 acres, for which the government received a total of \$8,909,220.79. California is second with 19,204 entries, and Washington third with 15,473.

A feature of Commissioner Dennett's report is the fact that he practically admits that the regulation of the department promulgated in November, 1908, providing for the sale of timber lands by process of appraisal, has not been an entire success. Upon this subject he says: "The efficiency of the instructions of November 30, 1908, being regulations in regard to the sale of timber lands under the act of June 3, 1878, has not as yet been thoroughly proven. From present indications it would seem that they would not be an entire success. "There is outstanding a considerable amount of scrip, all of which is valuable for location of lands of this character. If the appraisal under these regulations be, therefore, above the market price of this scrip, the applicant instead of paying the government, purchases the scrip and locates it upon the land. In this way the government loses the land and the reclamation service loses the money for its work, and the only beneficiary is the owner of the scrip, which in this way secures a cash market. There are of course very few timber lands of any value left which are not within a national forest, the exceptions being mainly unsurveyed tracts which have not as yet therefore been subject to entry. "A law should be enacted, however, under the terms of which timber on the remaining lands can be sold at an appraised value and the fee to the land be reserved in the government subject to homestead or other application, a preference right being given, however, to the homestead applicant to purchase the timber at the appraised value if he so desires. "It is now known that tracts of land in the short grass countries have been purchased under the act of June 3, 1878, and acts amendatory thereto, under the guise of stone lands, which were really desired for grazing. This of course has stopped under the rules and regulations adopted as above, which called for an investigation and appraisal of any tract prior to its acquisition under the law. The 320-acre homestead act, so called, will probably meet this situation where a homesteader in a semi-arid country made use of the act of 1878 for the purpose of adding 160 acres of grazing land to his original 160 which he intended to cultivate." Considerable local importance attaches to this phase of the situation relative to the operation

Wash.

Dates set for the various racing meets of the Northwest during the coming season are as follows: Everett-August 29-September 3; Portland, September 5-10; Salem, September 12-17; Walla Walla, September 19-24; North Yakima, September 26-October 1; Spokane, October 10-15.

The annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants' Ass'n. at Eugene during the past week was a triumph. Its membership is composed of up-to-date merchants whose aim is to serve the consumers with first class merchandise at moderate prices. During the discussion at the various sessions of the convention, they insisted on pure food products and the trend of the gathering was toward better citizenship.

Modern commercial activity is emphasized by the progressive spirit of the Medford Commercial Club. It has a membership at present of 562 and when one realizes that there is an initiation fee of \$5.00 in addition to the monthly dues, one gets a better appreciation of the reason why people hear so frequently of the Rogue River city. State-wide interest is shown in the development congress to be held at Eugene February 11 and 12. Commonwealth Day, the fifty-first anniversary of the admission of Oregon as a state, will be celebrated on February 12. Questions of general interest, such as the conservation of the state's resources, extension of irrigation, country conditions, and educational subjects will be taken up. Japan, showing its friendly feeling toward Oregon and the Pacific Coast, has sent 170 bushels of native roses to be set out in the parks and public squares of Portland on February 22, the official rose planting day, when the metropolis will make a holiday and hold special exercises. The gift is a gracious one and is much appreciated by Rose Festival officials. A number of foreign nations have been heard from, each contributing native roses to be planted here on Washington's birthday. It is expected by rosarians that the bushels will thrive in their adopted country as well as in their own clime.

An instance of the advance of realty values in Portland during the past 50 years was brought up this week when the corner at Fifth and Morrison streets sold for \$405,000 and an additional \$110,000 was paid for the transfer of the leases. Peter W. Severson, who sold the property, owned it for 51 years. It was literally forced upon him as apparently of little value. He was then owed a week's wages by the owner of the property, who also borrowed Severson's shotgun and lost it. The man who held the lot offered the property in lieu of the week's wages and the missing weapon. Severson demurred but finally was forced to accept the lot to cover the double debt.

#### EMMIGRANTS COMING

If they all come that are enroute and all their friends follow their example, Harney County will have to put on an addition to hold them all. Davey of the News and Byrd of the Times will have to join together and build a receiving station down at Harriman and Laven for the big bunch enroute. H. P. Jokish and wife from Seattle arrived in Vale this week and started at once for the interior. Before leaving they were interviewed here and stated that some seventy families were headed from Seattle for Harney county. That these families had held a big acquainted meeting in Seattle before they left, so as to become friends and as they were to be neighbors they thought it best to break the ice early. One car of emigrant movables has already arrived for O. C. Hull who will locate in Harney county, while another was due from Portland Wednesday. In the next month it is expected that fully 70 cars will arrive in Vale with immigrant movables for this big delegation headed for the heart of our big neighbor county of Harney.—Vale Oriano.

#### INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

(Portland Correspondence.) Preliminary steps were taken here this week for the formation of a Western Fair Association for the country west of the Rocky Mountains, to bear the same relation to this territory as the American Trotting Association and the National Trotting Association do to the East. The step was taken at the meeting of the North Pacific Fair Association, which appointed a committee to work on the project and report at the next meeting. New officers for the North Pacific Fair Association were elected as follows: President, F. A. Welch, Salem; vice-president, W. H. Gibbons, Boise, Idaho; secretary and treasurer, John W. Pace, North Yakima,

## Spring White Goods for 1910

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NOTICE.  
All parties owing Lewis & Garrett, or Simon Lewis are hereby notified that all these accounts are in the hands of our attorney C. H. Leonard for collection and settlement. Persons indebted to us will please settle the same with Mr. Leonard at once.  
SIMON LEWIS  
J. T. GARRETT.  
Williams Bros. saw mill at Cold Spring on the Canyon road is prepared to do custom work for those desiring to take advantage of their government permit. Also lumber for sale at \$12 per thousand. See them about custom prices.

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