

## TO RUSH THE HILL ROAD

### Work Will Begin on Boise & Western Soon as Engineers Report

## COMPLETE LINE IN THREE YEARS

### Purchasers of Road Land Grant Closely Identified With Empire Builder and Railroad Will Closely Follow Military Road Large Portion of Distance Across State--Col. Wood Talks.

James J. Hill will begin the construction work on the Boise & Western Railroad across Oregon from Eastern border to Pacific Ocean, just as soon as his engineers have made their reports as to the straightest line, easiest grade and best route, says the Telegram. "Best route" means the route which will present the minimum of engineering difficulties with the maximum opportunities for traffic development. The engineers are now working out one of the most important of the physical features of the road, namely, the most logical point for hooking up with trans-continental connections and also the most feasible point for spanning or leaving the Snake River canyon.

Another of the strategic engineering problems, that of crossing the Cascades, as well as where the Boise & Western will intersect the Oregon Trunk line, is said on high authority, has been settled, but no announcement is made on these points.

According to the surveys as they are now being run by several forces of engineers, it is estimated that the length of the east and west line across Oregon will be in the neighborhood of 400 miles, possibly a trifle longer.

Add this to the length of the Oregon Trunk, the north and south line already authorized, it means that the Hill programme presents calls for the early construction of close to 700 miles or greater length than that of either the entire Southern Pacific main line and branches, or the O. & N. main line and branches, side the state.

Three years is estimated as the length of time it will take to have both the Boise & Western and the Oregon Trunk completed, at present projected.

The prospective purchasers to-day wired their acceptance of the 800,000 acres in the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Military road grant to the New York office of Lazard Freres, at the terms offered under the agreement whereby \$100,000 was deposited to bind the bargain in case the investigation of the huge domain was satisfactory. This deal which is now practically closed up, will serve to remove many of the difficulties that might otherwise have stood in the way of the early invasion of Oregon, east and west by the great Empire Builder. Hill will be able to follow the military road for a large proportion of the distance across the state and as much as the interests which have purchased the big grant are closely identified with Hill, they will work in co-operation with the railroad in the stupendous plan of colonization which the great Northern is working out. The purchase of the grant is looked so far as the Minnesota capitalists who have been looking over are concerned," said Col. E. S. Wood, who has been acting as agent for Lazard Freres, the owners. "We expect to receive an acceptance of the offer by wire within the next two days, and just as soon as we can get down to it, the vast tract will be placed on the market in numerous cities at one time. It will be the first move toward the great scheme of rebuilding Oregon, which Mr. Hill has had in mind for some time, and it is only natural that his close intimates should be the first to know that his definite plans are such, and no more, are the connections between the buyers of the big tract and the Hill forces. "As representing the Boise & Western, I can say frankly that construction will begin just as soon as the engineers find out

frequently that break the price and afford the packers an opportunity to buy their stuff at prices very much below what the general supply in sight justifies. It is human nature for the packer to take advantage of these frequent gluts and it is a sure thing that he does. This sort of thing which he knows is going to happen right along week after week is one of the things that makes him so strongly favor a central market.

If every buyer in the Northwest would come to the Portland yards to do his buying. If they would honestly compete and not put their heads together and set prices among themselves as in the past. If shippers would not get panicky and rush their stuff in on overcrowded markets. If the packers were prepared to consume the stuff as it comes in in any reasonable quantities and if feeders would learn to plan to extend the supply more and not all feed to sell at about the same time the one central market idea would be all right, but that horrible little "if" will persist in thrusting itself into the premises and, like the burnt child, the shipper who has gotten the worst of it a few times--has shipped his cattle in on what promised to be a \$6 market only to find that a few extra carloads arriving at that time had furnished the pretext for dropping the price a half dollar, which meant all his profits gone, naturally feels that he can best protect himself in his own pasture or feed lot.

This is the second time the Government has accused Mr. Hanley of violation of the Federal laws. A year ago he was found guilty of fencing about 3,000 acres of Government land unlawfully and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and meet the costs of the case, which in all amounted to \$3230.96. The case was appealed and will be argued before the United States Appellate Court in San Francisco May 4.

### Drewsey Would be New County Seat

Drewsey is ambitious and would become the county seat of a new county. Such is the state of affairs in that city now. The citizens have raised \$1000 and have a man going over the state to secure 10,000 names that their petition, asking for a new county, may be placed on the next state ticket. That person has already secured 2,000 names. A report from Drewsey states that the new county would take in Riverside, Juntura, Agency and Barren Valley and as far as Fophano's towards Westfall in this county while in Harney it would reach as far as the summit of Stinkenwater mountain. The new county would take in the largest taxpayers of Malheur county. The division is not logical and the people should not favor such a dream. There are few enough people in Malheur now.--Vale Enterprise.

Of all persons we meet, we like the rustler the best, and we can readily forgive the few errors in his make up for his rustles. He encourages and entices and hurries along the slow-going. Industrial prosperity follows in his trail and mental development is his. He goes from strength to strength. He is the salt of the earth. Development comes only by overcoming difficulties, hence the slow-going, non-progressive, never develop, ever remaining in the same rut get a move on, progress and realize how it feels to be alive.--Exchange.

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## AFTER HANLEY AGAIN

### Arrested for Cutting Wood on Government Land for Dredger

## GIVES INTERESTING STATEMENT

### Indictment Returned Some Time Ago But Arrest Was Not Made Until He Visited Portland Last Week--Prefers to Stand Trial and Have Facts of Case Come Before Public.

William Hanley, of Burns, considered the wealthiest stock-raiser of Eastern Oregon, will be arrested this morning to answer a secret indictment found against him March 22 by the Federal grand jury, charging him with cutting timber on Government land.

Mr. Hanley is visiting in Portland. Yesterday when United States Marshal Reed called him by telephone at the Portland Hotel and informed him of the charge against him, Mr. Hanley asked that he be given until this morning before the papers are served, to allow him time to get bondsmen. The request was granted.

This is the second time the Government has accused Mr. Hanley of violation of the Federal laws. A year ago he was found guilty of fencing about 3,000 acres of Government land unlawfully and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and meet the costs of the case, which in all amounted to \$3230.96. The case was appealed and will be argued before the United States Appellate Court in San Francisco May 4.

There are two charges against Mr. Hanley in the indictment of March 22, one alleging the cutting of 1000 cords of wood on public land in November, 1907, and the other accusing him of removing timber from public land in December 1909.

Mr. Hanley made the following statement to the Oregonian concerning the charges:

Among other business I have in Harney County, I manage the properties of the Harney Valley Development Company.

On this property is over 80,000 acres of worthless tule swamp, which I thought it would be good to drain for future farms when the railroads came and the cattle ranches could be broken up into farms and homes. To drain this great swamp I persuaded the owners to let me dig up an old dredge and go to work. To run the dredge I had to have fuel. I contracted with my neighbors for juniper fuel from the hills, but had nothing to do with the cutting. I want to be perfectly frank and say if I had known they were cutting juniper on Government sections, I would have thought nothing of it, for juniper has never been classed as timber and has always been considered free to the settler. Not until this indictment against me has any one in the West ever considered that juniper scrub was timber. It has been the custom for settlers to help themselves to it for fuel and fencing so if I had known that the men I contracted from were going to cut on Government lands, I would have thought nothing of it.

After the wood was corded up, delivered and paid for, it was seized by a special agent and the men who cut it were browbeaten and intimidated to supply evidence for the Government. They were told by special Agent Mead that he had a complete case against them. I was the fellow they were after. Apparently I am a bad citizen.

I was tried and convicted of fencing Government land on this same ranch--when I never fenced a foot of Government land in my life. The fences referred to had been built for from 15 to 20 years. I had just taken charge of the ranch and had never seen the fences and had told Special Agent Stoner that I would ride the fence line with him any day and do whatever the Government said to do. But without further notice I was indicted, tried and convicted. So now I have been

indicted and will, I suppose, be tried and convicted.

But my ideas of Government of law and justice are so different from this conviction of innocent men that I prefer to go to trial and let all the facts come out. If the United States Government can afford to spend the taxpayers' money in such cases I can afford to stand trial. In neither case have I been guilty of any unlawful act. In neither case has anyone been injured. Meanwhile the dredging has stopped for lack of fuel. The work is going backward and what I regard as a public service has come to an end.

### HALLEY'S COMET.

Halley's comet is still an obscure object and has confounded some of the rasher prophets who predicted that by this time it would be conspicuous. On April 18 it will reach its perihelion, or nearest point to the sun. It will reach its nearest point to the earth on May 20; but as it and the sun will be in the same part of the sky the comet will be in-

visible to us just when it should be particularly bright. The day before its nearest approach to the earth it will pass across the sun, and astronomers are looking forward with intense interest to the transit. There is no recorded case of a comet having been seen during transit, and it may be that the composition of comets is so nebulous that even the nucleus is not substantial enough to be projected on the sun. The tail, at all events will be invisible; the sun's rays will shine through it as though the lightest of vapors. After the transit the comet will be an evening star again and will become more and more visible for a time, although it will be actually losing in brilliance.

When Halley first suggested that the comet now known by his name would return in 1758 he had compared only three sets of observations, in which he discovered such a striking similarity that he concluded that they must all refer to the same comet. These were the observations of 1531, 1607 and 1682, in which year he observed the comet for himself. He was then 25 years of age. He must have been predestined for the study of the stars. While he was still a schoolboy he had provided himself with an astronomical apparatus, and when he was an undergraduate at Oxford he erected a telescope and various instruments on the roof of his father's factory in Winchester street, London. He left Oxford without taking a degree in order to study astronomy abroad, and when after further calculations he predicted the return of the 1682 comet in 1758, he called upon "candid posterity to acknowledge that this was first discovered by an Englishman."

We have read somewhere that Peter the Great, when he was staying in England, had a particular liking for the companionship of Halley, and that after carousing with him at Deptford one evening he wheeled him in a barrow through a yew hedge and did such damage that he had to pay handsome compensation to John Evelyn, the owner, which incident shows that Shakespeare was right in thinking that not every astronomer plucks his judgements from the stars. But it would be wrong to think of Halley's investigations as having a merely astronomical value; it should never be forgotten that his prediction on the return of the comet known by his name depended upon the confirmed Newton's discovery of the law of gravitation. Newton was his close friend, and Halley paid for the publication of the "Principia" out of his own pocket. All Halley's calculations assumed the varying retardations by attraction, which comets suffer during their journeys through space. When his prediction was fulfilled, Newton's law could never again be disputed.

In 1850, J. R. Hind read a paper before the Royal Astronomical Society in which he traced the appearances of Halley's comet through the ages with the help of the Chinese annals. These had only recently become known in Europe. He believed that in them he had found credible references to Halley's comet back to the year B. C. 11. He took it as certain that Halley's comet reached its perihelion in 1378, and therefore, allowing the normal periodicity, he looked for some mention of it about the year 1301. The Chinese annals definitely described a great comet in that year. But there was one European account of it, by Friar Giles, which was not reconcilable with the Chinese record. If the Chinese were describing Halley's comet it seemed that Friar Giles certainly was not. Mr. Hind was led on to an examination of Friar Giles' credibility. He discovered that his account of another comet in 1264 was so contradictory that he had no hesitation whatever in preferring the Chinese statements in 1301. He concluded that the comet of 1301 was Halley's comet. He believed that the preceding return of the comet was in 1223, when in July, shortly before the death of Philip Augustus, a comet was seen for eight days in the evening twilight. The Chi-

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(Continued on page four.)