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**EAST BOUND**

No. 2 Chicago Special..... 2:30 P M  
No. 4 Spokane Flyer..... 11:15 P M  
No. 6 Mail & Express..... 1:20 A M

**WEST BOUND**

No. 1 Portland Special..... 12:12 P M  
No. 3 Portland Flyer..... 3:13 A M  
No. 5 Mail & Express..... 2:08 A M

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**OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**SCHOOL LAND FRAUD.**

**State Will Hold Back Titles to Large Tracts in Oregon.**

Salem—John De Laittre, a Minneapolis banker, appeared before the state land board last week to show himself and members of his family to be the innocent purchasers of 20,000 acres of state land sold to various persons in 1900 through the mediation of H. H. Turner and A. T. Kelliber. The board was not entirely satisfied with the showing made and gave him until July 25 to submit further evidence. At that time the board will probably make known its policy regarding the issuance of deeds to holders of state land certificates which have been fraudulently obtained.

At the meeting of the board an order was also made which will result in a test mandamus suit being brought to determine whether an innocent purchaser of a land sale certificate is entitled to a deed, even though the certificate was fraudulently obtained. This order was made at the request of W. H. Holmes, who came before the board as the attorney for the unnamed client. He presented two certificates of sale, issued upon applications bearing the names of H. A. Wild and I. U. Girard, and sworn to before H. H. Turner, the notary public, who is supposed to be under indictment for his connection with state land transactions. The two certificates are from a large number which Mr. Holmes said are hypothecated in a Chicago bank.

**KREBS MEETS WITH SUCCESS.**

**Hop Raisers are Signing Up for Big Pool for 1905.**

Salem—President Krebs, of the Oregon Hopholders' association, has returned from St. Paul, in the north end of this county, where a meeting of growers was held. Mr. Krebs says that about 45 growers were present and that all signed agreements to transfer their 1905 crop of hops to a corporation of growers to be formed at Salem at some future date. Committees were appointed to secure similar agreements from those growers in the St. Paul district who were not present.

Mr. Krebs says that the movement for the organization of a growers' corporation is meeting with much greater success than he anticipated. In the Independence district, all but three growers have signed agreements to transfer their hops to the corporation. The enthusiasm with which the growers are taking up the project convinces Mr. Krebs that 95 per cent of the 1905 crop will be in the hands of the corporation.

The plan is to have the affairs of the corporation managed by a board of directors composed of growers elected from the various districts by the growers themselves.

**Year of Growth at 'Varsity.**

University of Oregon, Eugene—The class that was graduated this year is not the largest class ever graduated by the University of Oregon, there being 31 members only; but the increase in attendance and the general character of work done is such as caused every alumni to approve of the regime of President P. L. Campbell. One of the greatest changes made in the university during the past year was the adoption of the partially free elective system. That change was made as a result of the firm growth of state high schools, thus making it possible for the university not only to abolish the preparatory department, but also to place the student upon his own responsibility in choosing a course of study.

**One Bar Made Easier.**

Independence — The government dredger in the river below here has completed its work on the bar and will go on down the river to smaller obstructions. The work is expected to be completed by July 1. No work will be done above this point this year. A channel 35 feet wide at the bottom and 45 at the top is being cut. This will give four feet of water during low water and will enable the boats to make the run between Salem and this place throughout the summer, which has not been possible heretofore.

**PORTLAND MARKETS.**

Wheat—Club, 83@85c per bushel; bluestem, 90@91c; valley, 85c.  
Oats—No. 1 white, feed, 30c per ton; gray, 30.  
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.  
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 20c doz.  
Butter—Fancy creamery, 17½@21½c per pound.  
Strawberries, \$1.50@2.00 per crate.  
Apples—Table, \$1.50@2.50 per box.  
Potatoes—Oregon, fancy, old, \$1.00@1.20; Oregon, new, \$1.50.

Hops — Choice, 1904, 19@21c per pound.  
Wool—Eastern Oregon, best, 19@23c per pound; valley, 26@27c; mohair, choice, 81@82½c.

**TITLE CLAIMED BY STATE.**

**Klamath County Land Good Now Only for Hay.**

Salem—The state of Oregon has asserted title to 4,500 acres of land in the vicinity of Swan lake, Klamath county, and questions the right of about a dozen settlers to acquire the land from the government under the homestead laws. In order to determine the rights of the state and the settlers, the government has assigned a special agent at Klamath Falls to go with State Land Agent Oswald West and ascertain the character of the land.

Though the state's claim is adverse to the settlers, there is no intention on the part of the state land board to oust the settlers from their homes. On the contrary, the assertion of the state's claim will be a protection to the settlers, for it will remove all doubt as to the validity of their title. If the investigation should result in a decision that the state's claim is good, all bona fide homestead entrymen will be given an opportunity to buy from the state at the minimum price of \$1 per acre.

There is room for dispute as to the character of the land. It is low and for a considerable part of the year is covered with water. Late in the summer the water recedes sufficiently to permit hay harvesting, and the settlers save a crop for winter feed. In many, and perhaps all instances, the settlers cannot live on the land all the year, for the reason that it overflows. If it is in fact swamp land, the settlers could never acquire valid title through their homestead entries, the experience of the Warner valley settlers being an illustration of the outcome of an effort of that kind. Some of the settlers realize the condition of their title and are desirous that the state press its claim in order that they may know whether they can secure the land from the government or not. If they cannot, the sooner they find it out the less will be their loss. If they can, the determination of that fact will leave them with indisputable titles.

In the case of the Warner valley lands the state sold the swamp lands to men other than the settlers, and litigation has thus far resulted adversely to the settlers. In this instance the state will settle the question of title before selling the land, and then, if it be decided that the state owns the land under the swamp land grant, will give bona fide homesteaders a chance to purchase.

**HAY HARVEST IN LANE COUNTY.**

**Vetch Has Come Into Popular Favor and is Raised Generally.**

Eugene —Farmers in this county are nearly all in the midst of hay harvest, and for two weeks all energy will be directed towards putting in the hay for market or for winter use. The crop is the best that has been seen here for years. All kinds of grass has grown better than usual and on account of a shortage a year ago there is an increased acreage.

There is an immense amount of vetch, which has proven to be one of the best fodder crops ever introduced here, for the triple reason that it is very nourishing, yields a heavy crop and enriches rather than impoverishes the land. Its use has become general and nearly every farmer raises more or less of it.

Less grain will be cut for hay than usual, on account of the abundance of the purely hay crops.

**Hop Men Demand Thirty Cents.**

Hillsboro—A meeting of Washington county hop growers has held here last week to consider an offer for the 1904 crop. It was voted to not accept the quotation, and the prospective buyers were notified that no offer of less than 30 cents would be given any consideration. Practically all of the hops unsold are in the hands of growers who can afford to hold, and there is no inclination to part with holdings unless at the price named above, and it is improbable that they would even sell at 30 cents.

**First Crop of Alfalfa Cut.**

Pendleton—F. B. Holbrook, manager of the Oregon Land & Water company, of Irrigon, was in the city last week attending the good roads convention. Mr. Holbrook says that the first crop of alfalfa in his vicinity has been cut and stacked, and that the second crop is already a foot high. Strawberries in that section are nearly gone, and black cap raspberries are on the wane, having been ripe for several weeks.

**Grain Ready for Threshers.**

Milton—A number of farmers north and east of this place have binders at work binding their grain, which is almost ripe enough to thresh. While it may be bound before it is entirely ripe, the berries are perfectly formed, and while yet in the dough it ripens in the stack. The yield of grain being bound will be far above the average, as crop conditions have so far this year been ideal in this vicinity.

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