

GOVERNMENT WILL FIGHT RETENTION OF 2,500,000 ACRES BY O. & C. ROAD

O. & C. Land Grant.

- Contains total of 2,500,000 acres.
- Of this, 750,000 are sold, 2,000,000 still unsold.
- Unsold portion worth average of \$25 per acre.
- Total value is \$62,500,000.
- If government wins, will be sold at \$2.50 an acre, or at total of \$6,250,000.
- Grants contain greater area than Rhode Island and Delaware combined.
- Government will begin suit to recover these lands within 60 days in the federal court in Portland.
- Passage of Fulton resolution will mean a great rush of settlers to Oregon.
- Grant contains between 15,000 and 18,000 homesteads.

Within the next 60 days, probably much sooner, the government and the Oregon & California railroad company will be locking horns over the possession of the unsold portion (2,000,000 acres) in the lands granted to the company in the acts of congress in 1866 and 1869. The battle will be waged in the federal courts in the Oregon district, in other words the issue will be joined in Portland.

E. D. Townsend, the special agent of the interior department, who made an exhaustive investigation of the grants and who drew up the Fulton resolution, will come to Portland within the next 30 days and prepare to institute proceedings against the corporation on behalf of the government. The Fulton resolution was passed by the house Saturday by an overwhelming majority, and will be signed by the president within the next few days. As soon as that has been done, the government will proceed immediately with legal action.

Private advices received in Portland this morning are to the effect that Mr. Townsend has practically drafted the petition which will be filed here shortly after his arrival. The petition will be a bill in equity, asking the federal court to declare the unsold portion of the O. & C. grant forfeited to the government because of the violations of the act of congress perpetrated by the railroad company in selling the other part of the grant, approximately 800,000 acres in extent.

It is anticipated that the O. & C. company will appeal the matter to the supreme court of the United States, and in case the government wins in that tribunal; it is more than likely that the secretary of the interior will restore the 1,500,000 tract to entry, giving the public a chance to file on it under the homestead or timber and stone act.

As the matter now stands, following the adoption of the Fulton resolution, there is likely to be the greatest rush of actual settlers to all sections of the grant throughout the state within the next few months. Much of the land is very desirable, and while a good deal of it is covered with timber, it cannot be excelled for agricultural purposes when cleared.

Up to the present time only about 25 actual settlers have had the hardihood to settle on quarter-section tracts of the grant, about 20 of them in Columbia county and about five in Lane county. They have taken this step on the theory that the O. & C. company had no right to these lands, and under the law must sell them to bona fide settlers and in not more than 160-acre tracts and at a price not over \$2.50 per acre. These actual settlers have all pooled their interest, have placed their claims in the hands of A. W. Lafferty, a local lawyer, who declared this morning that the passage of the Fulton act is the greatest victory for the government imaginable, and will mean a tremendous rush of settlers onto these lands within the next few months.

"I believe there will be an unprecedented rush of actual settlers onto these lands from now on," said Mr. Lafferty, this morning. "Hundreds of people have been waiting to see what the outcome would be when Mr. Townsend took his fight into congress in the form of the Fulton resolution. Now that home-seekers, actual bona fide settlers see that the government is taking the matter seriously, they will flock to these lands at a faster rate than the state has ever known. I am confident of that. I look to see a good share of the most available parts of the unsold portions of the grant gobbled up within the next six months, not only by people in this state, but from all over the country."

Value of the Land.

"The railroad company, I understand, holds these lands worth about \$25 an acre, and the settlers under the law are entitled to buy them at \$2.50 an acre. The 21 suits which I have filed in the courts here are the only cases so far where people have undertaken to compel the Oregon & California company to live up to the law as set down in the acts of congress of 1866 and 1869."

Lafferty prepared a resume of the legislation and historical facts relative to the land grants to the O. & C. company for Attorney-General Bonaparte, and this resume was used effectively in the hearings before the public land committee of the senate and the house in the fight for the passage of the Fulton resolution.

"The contention of the railroad company has been all along," continued Mr. Lafferty, "that it had a clear title to these lands, and that it could not be compelled to sell for \$2.50 an acre or in tracts of only 160 acres each, and then only to actual settlers. They have sold a great deal of tim-

ber lands to the big timber syndicates in tracts of from 50,000 to 75,000 acres, and nobody knows how much they got for it.

"Whenever any people have settled on quarter sections and have gone to the land agents of the O. & C. company and tendered them \$2.50 an acre for this land, and demanded a deed, the railroad officials have laughed at them, but with the Fulton resolution now effective there is no reason why the entire tract from East Portland to the southern boundary of Oregon should not now be settled with amazing rapidity, for it gives bona fide settlers much greater guarantee that they will eventually win out than they have had up to this time."

The essential feature of the situation and the one that will mean great things for Oregon in the event of the government's final victory in the courts is the fact that no time is to be lost in bringing the matter before the federal court in this district.

On the other hand, the O. & C. company may be depended upon to put up a powerful fight, for the reason that the possession of 2,000,000 acres of land is involved; a tract bigger than two entire states of the union, and increasing in value very rapidly.

THE MISSOURI DISABLED.

Big Battleship Loses Cylinder Head Off Santa Barbara.

The battleship Missouri, while coming into port today, blew out a cylinder head. While this is usually a very serious accident, nobody was injured by the escaping steam and the battleship took her place in line after a few minutes of maneuvering without any trouble, says an item from Santa Barbara.

The repair shop cannot take care of this difficulty as all the drawings for the machinery of the ship are in the control of the construction department at Washington. It will take three weeks to repair the break, the delay being occasioned by waiting for the drawings.

The Missouri can keep up speed with the other ships without the use of this cylinder and will therefore probably stay in the line.

It is the only accident of any serious nature that has occurred to the ships since they started on their cruise. One of the fleet had to slow up on the fast run from Magdalena because of her port engine having a slight break, but she repaired it in 10 minutes.

The splendid watchfulness shown by the engineering corps on the Missouri was exemplified in the fact that the instant the head blew out, the steam was turned off, thereby saving many lives in the engine room.

RECORD CLEAN UP AT NOME.

Camps of the Placer Region Will Yield \$3,000,000 This Spring.

The spring clean-up in the gold camps in Nome and vicinity may run more than \$3,000,000, according to cable advices received in Seattle by prominent mining men who are interested in the northern gold fields, says an exchange.

The news of the rich strikes in Alaska brings joy to the hearts of the merchants of the northwest, and also to laborers who have been out of work nearly all winter. The enormous shipment of the precious yellow metal to Seattle on the first boats will be supplemented by the shipment into Alaska from Seattle of thousands of workmen who will find profitable employment in the mines and other development projects.

There will be a steady migration to the north this spring and there is every expectation that the season now approaching will be a record breaker in every way in that country.

After Indian Lands.

The local United States land office is in receipt daily of inquiries from all parts of the country, but particularly from Seattle and other Sound cities regarding the opening of the Yakima reservation, says the Yakima Republic. Some of these inquiries are of a most elaborate description. One correspondent, supposedly a clerk in a well known wholesale business house of Seattle, sent along a string of questions, many of which could not be answered definitely even by the secretary of the interior himself, at this time.

It is satisfactory to note that so much interest is taken in the opening of the reservation for it insures quite an inrush of settlers when the opening takes place. According to the official reports of the department, the reservation is to be opened this year, but there is reason to doubt whether all of the preliminary work will be completed in time.

Shoe Thief Gets Four Years.

M. Smith, who was arrested a few nights ago while in the act of attempting to sell shoes on the streets, was Saturday afternoon sentenced by Judge Crawford to four years in the penitentiary, says the La Grande Star. Smith was kept in jail a few days after his arrest pending further investigation of the circumstances by the local police and the railroad company's detective. The prisoner agreed to divulge the place where the goods, stolen from a freight car, had been secreted and this was about all the information that could be gained. Four suspects of the business of box car rustling were arrested at Pendleton last week and four others are in custody at Walla Walla. It is the belief on the part of the officials that they are all of the same gang, that they are well organized and that in addition to robbing the railroad company of goods in transit, the gang also carries what would be known as "side lines," such as burglary and in fact anything that promises the opportunity of speedy money.

LAND FUND DISTRIBUTED.

Umatilla County Receives \$2282.19 From Land Sales.

Salem, Ore., April 24.—The distribution of the United States 5 per cent land sales fund has been determined as follows:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Baker | \$ 2,324.92 |
| Benton | 504.69 |
| Clackamas | 1,344.30 |
| Clatsop | 435.83 |
| Columbia | 533.34 |
| Coos | 1,219.53 |
| Curry | 6,219.50 |
| Crook | 1,152.36 |
| Douglas | 3,982.17 |
| Gilliam | 800.36 |
| Grant | 5,490.12 |
| Harney | 5,252.05 |
| Jackson | 2,169.52 |
| Josephine | 1,334.97 |
| Klamath | 4,752.43 |
| Lake | 6,222.82 |
| Lane | 3,181.81 |
| Lincoln | 773.34 |
| Linn | 1,762.35 |
| Malheur | 7,621.68 |
| Marion | 854.37 |
| Morrow | 1,576.24 |
| Multnomah | 342.29 |
| Polk | 515.57 |
| Sherman | 622.19 |
| Tillamook | 913.03 |
| Umatilla | 2,282.19 |
| Union | 1,313.21 |
| Wallowa | 2,601.56 |
| Wasco | 2,367.67 |
| Washington | 543.16 |
| Wheeler | 1,317.10 |
| Yamhill | 847.04 |

Total\$74,011.17

The apportionment per acre is 0.0012141388108. This decimal is derived by dividing the total amount to be apportioned, \$74,012.17, by the total number of acres in the state, 60,957,760.

THE MODEL AUTOMOBILE.

Ideal Car Is Soon to Be Within the Reach of All.

The soundless, smooth-running, perfectly flexible car—what I like to call the Gentleman's car, because a gentleman can drive it without violence to good-breeding or to his finer aesthetic appreciation—is not far distant today, says Herbert L. Towles in the May Scribner.

Most of its elements are already present, some on this car, some on that; and in time they or their equivalents will be united in all the best machines. Because of its almost perfect smoothness and flexibility—its appeal to the aesthetic sense in short—I look to see the "six" accepted as highwater mark of excellence for cars of over, say, 24 horse power, until the time, now indefinitely remote, when the gas or steam turbine is made a success for vehicle propulsion.

In lower powers the vibration of "four" is not so marked as to thrust itself on the passengers' notice, and the flexibility, while not perfect, is sufficient for the moderate speeds intended.

Another point worth naming, in connection with flexibility, is weight. A heavy car with a given engine accelerates correspondingly slower than a light car, and the effect on the driver is nearly as demoralizing as that of an engine which will not run slow. The present tendency is for luxurious body equipment to run away with ease and delicacy of control; and this has a further ill effect in multiplying tire troubles, which are a notable destroyer of the motorist's peace of mind.

Light weight means higher cost for materials and workmanship, but it is worth all it costs. I do not believe a "cheap" machine will ever be quite satisfactory as a Gentleman's car, though when it is now it may run as smoothly as the best; but on the other hand, with due progress in manufacturing skill, it will not be necessary to pay a fancy figure to secure perfect running qualities. We shall not need to revise our definition of the word gentleman to fit the owner of the Gentleman's car of tomorrow.

LA FOLLETTE LEADS IN IDAHO.

Wisconsin Senator Is Favorite for the Presidency.

Owyhee and Twin Falls are in line for La Follette, according to reports which have been received in Boise the past few days from both these sections of the state by S. E. Annas, assistant secretary of the La Follette club, says the Boise Capital News. The missionary work which has been done by the boosters of the Wisconsin senator during the past three months is having its effect and many converts have been made for the "favorite son."

S. E. Blaine returned recently from a business trip to Silver City, where he had occasion to do a little sounding along political lines. He was more than satisfied with what he learned and succeeded in adding a few stays to the political fence of La Follette.

He states that with but a few exceptions all the people that he saw in Silver City believe that La Follette is the leading presidential candidate today and would be solidly supported by all republicans for the nomination to succeed Roosevelt. Mr. Blaine also learned that this sentiment is general all over Owyhee county.

Old Coins Walking Up.

The fact that Al Bettingen has become owner of one of those nasty new \$10 gold pieces has brought to light numerous old coins. P. S. Plummer is showing a \$20 gold piece that had been minted in 1850 and was in good condition. This coin like the new \$10 did not have the words "In God We Trust" stamped on its face. Then J. B. Golt pops up with a 50-cent silver piece that was minted in 1808. This piece is the same size as the late coins and bore only 13 stars, representing the original New England states. The edges were not milled, but have what is supposed to be small stars around it. Now is a good chance for some of the many coin collectors to show up with something in this line and share in the glory.—Dalles Optimist.

IDAHO WOOL CLIP IS EXCELLENT

GOOD RETURNS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE

While Considerable Wool Has Already Been Consigned the Prices Will Be Good—Buyers Will Have to Bid to Get the Clip.

The Boise Capital News says of the prospects of a good wool crop and excellent prices in Idaho this year:

Reports received in the city this week from the various sheep shearing camps in the southern part of the state and tributary to the Oregon Short Line indicate that the average clip is being made and that the wool is of a very much finer quality than usual. This would indicate that sheepmen will realize a good market price for their wool, regardless of the fact that there is a movement on foot by eastern buyers to offer a low price and stick to it.

The first clipping, in which thousands of head of sheep were involved, took place at Bruneau and samples of the wool which were brought to this city indicate the quality is very fine.

Local sheepmen state that they have received reports from various other sheep camps in the northwest, which are to the effect that the same good quality of wool is being realized.

While a few sheep owners have consigned their wool this year this does not indicate that they will not receive a good price. On the contrary, many who have done this expect to obtain fairly high prices on eastern markets and their wool will be shipped there and held by eastern buyers until the price that the owner wants is offered.

As a large number of the sheep owners are independently rich, they can afford to wait until their wool brings the price they are after. Others, who consigned their clip, expect to come out with a very reasonable profit.

While the sheepmen of Idaho intend to receive the best possible price that they can from eastern buyers they will endeavor to have them come into the northwest territory and bid for the clip. In Utah the sheepmen intend to hold the entire wool clip this year until the price they want is received. In other words they prefer to combine against the eastern buyers, who they have reason to believe, have formed a combination on prices and intend to attempt to buy the wool clip on these prices, which are not thought to be reasonable.

BASEBALL AT POCATELLO.

Twelve-Team League Is Being Organized in Southern Idaho.

Manager A. J. Pierce of the Pocatello baseball team, is meeting with much encouragement in his efforts to organize a ten or twelve team league in southeastern Idaho to take in Montpelier, Soda Springs, McCammon, Preston, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, Rexburg, Sugar City, St. Anthony, Marysville, American Falls and Twin Falls, says the Pocatello Tribune.

In response to numerous letters written by Manager Pierce to fans in the towns named, offers of assistance were made, and it now begins to look as if the proposed league will be formed. Manager Pierce is firmly convinced that such a league would be a success from not only a financial but sporting point of view. To the Tribune he said this morning:

"With 10 or 12 teams in the league the element of uncertainty would always be present. Playing only Sunday ball, it would require almost the entire season for any one team to get around to play another team a second time. Therefore, if it so happens that Pocatello, for instance, has the strongest team in the league, that would by no means mean she would win the pennant, for some slightly weaker team might win enough games from still weaker teams to overcome Pocatello's handicap."

PORTLAND LEADS.

More Wheat Exported from Oregon Metropolis Than From Any Other Port.

Portland exported more wheat during the month of March than any other port in the United States, says the Oregon Daily Journal. The combined Puget sound ports, Tacoma, Everett and Seattle, are second on the list and then comes New York followed by Philadelphia and Boston.

This information was received by Collector of Customs P. S. Malcolm this morning in a report from the department of commerce and labor, the wheat exports for the month were 3,840,545 bushels, of which quantity Portland shipped nearly half, or 1,422,347 bushels. The combined Puget sound ports exporting 899,936 bushels; New York, 449,118; Philadelphia, 300,567 bushels and Boston, 228,549 bushels. The balance was shipped from various less important ports.

In point of prominence as a flour exporting port Portland holds fourth position for the month of March, New York, Philadelphia and the combined Puget sound ports leading. The quantity of flour exported from the states during March was 1,117,578 barrels.

FOR HORSE STEALING.

Gang Operating Near Wallula Is Being Broken Up.

Richard Tycke, of Wallula, who is out on \$1000 bonds awaiting trial on the charge of horsetealing, was arrested at Wallula by Deputy Sheriff John Cummins this morning on another charge of horsetealing, says the Walla Walla Bulletin. The warrant was issued out of the superior court. Tycke is accused of being an accomplice of Rolla Warner, who was

arrested at Wallula night before last and brought to jail yesterday to await trial.

Tycke will be brought to Walla Walla tomorrow morning and an effort will be made to secure his release on bonds.

This will make two cases against this man to be heard at the coming term of the superior court.

Richard Tycke, together with his father, John Tycke, and brother, John Tycke, Jr., was arrested about six weeks ago on a charge of horsetealing. The Tycke family was accused of being in league with Kruger and Anderson, who were arrested in Oregon. They secured their release on bonds and Richard Tycke is now accused of continuing the work of horsetealing.

Warner was taken while he had four horses claimed to be other than his own. Warner, himself, had just escaped prosecution in Pendleton on an old warrant, he having been arrested a couple of weeks ago by John Cummins. He was taken to Pendleton, where he got out of the trouble.

OREGON WILL EXHIBIT.

State Will Have a Fine Showing at Seattle Exposition.

Oregon will make a collective exhibit at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition which is to be held in Seattle in 1909. This will be the first time an exhibit of this kind has ever been given in this state.

All exhibits will be installed in the Oregon building, which is now being erected in Seattle, and in the opinion of the commissioners this is the best way to exhibit the resources of the state.

Every portion of the state will be represented, and it is the desire of the commission to cooperate with those who wish to assist in bringing together a representative exhibit of the state's resources.

Lose 4000 Ties.

Rumble & McCully, who had 18,000 ties manufactured along Looking Glass creek, lost about 5000 of the number last Sunday night as the result of the pressure of the high waters taking out their boom, says the Elgin Recorder. The boom had been constructed with a view of permanence and but little fear had been entertained regarding the safety of the ties, and the loss was a surprise to the owners. The extreme warm weather Sunday and the few days preceding caused a great rush of water, however, which the dam was unable to withstand. Seven thousand of the ties had been taken out prior to the rush of high water and this fact is all that saved the entire amount from being swept into Grande Ronde river. A few thousand ties still remain in the creek that will be recovered. The loss to the owners will be in the neighborhood of \$1500, as those which were swept into the river will never be recovered.

This is the second time in which a great loss has been sustained in ties getting away in the Looking Glass, as W. D. Graves of this city lost 18,900 in November, 1907, by the breaking of a dam, caused by unexpected high waters. The financial loss entailed by Mr. Graves was in the neighborhood of \$4500.

Arrested on Old Charge.

George Beard, who has managed to remain free for five years, was arrested at Lind, Adams county, last night and will be returned to Walla Walla by Deputy Sheriff Painter tomorrow to await trial on the charge of horsetealing, says the Bulletin. This makes 12 arrests on this charge that have been made by and for the Walla Walla county officers this year.

It was in 1903 that the crime for which Beard is wanted, was committed. A warrant was issued for the man at the time but he clipped the country.

Deputy Sheriff Charles Painter was sheriff then and though he did all he could, was unable to locate him. He sent accurate descriptions of the man to all officers of the northwest and urged them to watch out for Beard.

Found Long Lost Parents.

After traveling all the way from the Philippines with her two little girls, intending to reside temporarily with her parents, whom she had heard had settled here, Mrs. Charles Koenig was on the point of giving up the search this morning and was in the deepest despair at her failure to find Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barry, her aged father and mother, and was at her wits end to know just what to do, says the Yakima Republic. Then she called at the sheriff's office and within half an hour Deputies Cov and Metzger had located the old people, residing at 215 North Third avenue. And that home is today the happiest in North Yakima.

The circumstances of the case are unusual. Mrs. Koenig had not seen her father and mother for 18 years. The family formerly resided in Minnesota but some years ago Mr. and Mrs. Barry went to northwestern Canada and the children, four girls and a boy, scattered. Mrs. Koenig married a young German soldier in the United States army and he is now and has been for some time past a quartermaster sergeant stationed in the Philippines.

Dropped Dead in Field.

Andrew Neglie dropped dead Tuesday afternoon at John Weisenfuh's place while chasing a hog, says the Long Creek Ranger. He had been driving a clod smasher over newly sown ground when he noticed the hog in the field. He started to drive it out. He ran about 50 yards and walked about 60 yards and fell over. Ed and Frank Weisenfuh saw him fall and hurried to his assistance. When they arrived Mr. Neglie was gasping for breath and died almost immediately.

Andrew Neglie was born in Germany in 1859. He came to Grant county eight years ago.

STATEMENT NO. 1 WILL SWEEP STATE

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WILL BE NAMED.

People Are Determined That the Last Vestige of the Machine Shall Be Swept Away—Many Anti-Statement Men Are Switching Over to the People's Side.

The Oregon Sunday Journal says of the prospect of statement No. 1 sweeping the state at the coming June election:

Eight legislative candidates pledged to statement No. 1 have been placed in the field by the voters of Washington, Yamhill, Lincoln and Tillamook counties in opposition to the anti-statement No. 1 nominees elected at the recent primaries.

Non-partisan mass meetings of the voters of these four counties were held Friday and Saturday at Hillsboro and McMinnville for the purpose of nominating candidates who would be pledged unqualifiedly to vote for the people's choice for United States senator, and there is little doubt that the men thus nominated will be elected in June.

Sentiment in favor of statement No. 1 is overwhelmingly strong in the legislative districts represented in these mass meetings. Republicans as well as democrats are determined that the will of the people as expressed in the June election shall be observed by the legislature. The movement is distinctly non-partisan, the two parties being equally represented on the new ticket.

Barrett Changes Front.

One of the most significant indications of the temper of the voters of the four counties represented in these mass meetings is the fact that W. N. Barrett, who was nominated in the primaries on a "republican voters' choice" platform, has changed front and has subscribed to statement No. 1. Mr. Barrett realized that the mass of his constituents would be opposed to the election of any candidate who had not pledged himself unequivocally to statement No. 1, and he therefore concluded to bow to the popular will.

When it was announced at the McMinnville mass meeting that Barrett had decided to adopt the pledge embodied in statement No. 1, the news was received with cheers and he was made the nominee for state senator from the 24th senatorial district.

The independent vote in Washington and Yamhill counties is very heavy and they are reckoned in the doubtful column in all close contests over state elections. In 1906 Chamberlain carried Yamhill by 115 votes and Washington county went against him by only 31. In Lincoln and Tillamook counties the vote is comparatively small, but in both, Chamberlain received a good vote in the last state campaign.

In the four counties, Lincoln, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill, Chamberlain ran behind Withycombe in 1906 by only 39 votes. In the present campaign the adherents of Chamberlain and of Calk are alike interested in seeing statement No. 1 candidates elected to the legislature, and there is little reason to doubt, therefore, that the nominees of the Hillsboro and McMinnville mass meeting will be successful at the polls in June.

PULLMANS TO BE "DRY."

Sale of Liquor Will Be Abolished by Sleeping Car People.

Pullman cars are "dry" now. Following its decision of last February to abolish the sale of all liquors on its cars in every part of the United States, Canada and Mexico as soon as the stock on hand could be disposed of without loss, the Pullman company has finally put that rule into effect, and given strict instructions to all its division superintendents to see to it that the rule is not deviated from in the least, states a San Francisco report.

The left-over stock has been sold back to the wholesale liquor dealers. The company has taken this action owing to the great increase in the number of districts of its territory where prohibition is being enforced.

Furthermore, not only have these changed conditions of the past fourteen or fifteen months cut deeply into the profits formerly derived from this source, but on long or through runs liquor can be sold only for portions of the distance, and the company's officials found they were constantly in danger of prosecution for law-breaking through the carelessness of employees.

This was particularly the case in states like Maine, Kansas, Texas and Georgia, and in many towns in other states, where under the local option law prohibition prevails.

The only trains on which liquor can be had are those with dining cars, and it must be used in the latter.

The various roads own and control these dining cars and the Pullman people have no jurisdiction over them.

Cut Pay of City Employees.

The city of Seattle has decided that hereafter all new men on city work shall receive only \$2 per day, a reduction of 50 cents over the prevailing scale. The reduction will apply to men employed hereafter only, the old men being continued on the payroll at the rate of wages that has been in force, according to advices received from that city. The new rate of wages will apply only to the men working in the city parks, and it is not expected that it will be extended to other city laborers.