

The Observer.

Moro City Official Paper. OFFICIAL PAPER OF SHERMAN CO. MORO, OREGON.

D. C. IRELAND & SON, EDITORS. C. L. IRELAND, MANAGER.

Send for advertising rates.

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To insure publication, articles for the Observer must reach the office before noon Wednesday. The mail comes daily.

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There was a balance in the Oregon state treasury December 31, amounting to \$488,697.

The snow storm of the past week and the blizzard zero weather has been very unfortunate for every kind of business. Railroads are out of fuel for their engines, and freight traffic has been stopped in many places, and passenger traffic is almost at a stand still, because of the deep snow drifts.

President Roosevelt's order to Hitchcock to hold up every applicant for government land until actual compliance with the law is found to exist after special examination, is the right thing for thieves but it is mighty rough on the poor settler who is having a struggle for life in his effort to honestly acquire title to a little homestead.

The Observer is informed that it is the intention of Stockman county advocates to steal a march on the Wasco and Crook county folks and try their luck again this winter in Salem. We hear no objections to the formation of Stockman county, but the attempt repeated to slice off any part of the 21 1/2 townships of good old Sherman county will cause their ignominious defeat now, as it did two years ago.

The coming conflict in the assembly between the Normals, University and Agricultural folks, will be sensational enough to make up for the usual excitement attending election of U.S. Senators under the old system. The Observer has an opinion to offer, that Oregon tax payers are supporting too many schools of a certain class for value returned. If we must have an Agricultural college, as well as State University and numerous Normals, let it teach the noble art of agriculture, leaving literature to the other institutions.

During the past 20 years insurance companies doing business in California alone, took in \$100,474,759, against \$42,455,652 paid out on fire policies—a stupendous graft. Fire insurance premiums, covering the same period amount to \$130,983,775; losses \$57,818,833. Concerning the fire companies, Commissioner Wolf says: "It is regrettable that such an excellent record should have been marred by the inequities incident to the earthquake and fire of April last, and the dishonesty of others that could well have afforded to pay their losses in full, but instead resorted to methods thoroughly reprehensible.

Secretary Hitchcock condescends to admit that U.S. Senator Fulton has been shamefully lied about, in "high toned" Washington circles, as well as by Colliers, Cosmopolitan, and kindred blackmailers, concerning his complicity in the Weyerhaeuser timber land deals. Com. Leupp, of Indian affairs, has transmitted to Hitchcock reports of the legislation in the exchange of lands of the Klamath Indian reservation which clearly exonerates M. Fulton from any personal interest in the matter. We believe, however, that as a matter of personal interest of Mr. Fulton and his friends, "one of whom we are which" the mills for slanders, libel and black mail should be vigorously prosecuted.

DENATURED ALCOHOL WANTED.

Should congress pass the bill introduced by Senator Hansbrough, to amend the law relieving denatured alcohol from taxation as to permit any farmer in the nation to become a manufacturer, as he should be, it will enact one of the most popular measures in the legislative history of this nation. No other measure that we have any recollection of has struck a more widely popular interest than this.

The present law codifies manufacturing to big distilleries, very foolishly, which the Hansbrough bill wisely proposes to change in the interest of the public generally, and permit any farmer in the nation to manufacture out of the waste products of the farm, affording cheap fuel so greatly needed everywhere, but which, as experience has taught everybody during the past 90 days, is almost out of reach through the combination of trusts, mergers and monopolists. When produced on the farm, from waste, denatured alcohol may be used at home for lighting, steam, heat, and other purposes too numerous to mention, and in many ways cut into the miserly habits of the octopus, and the transportation giants. Congress must not hesitate to put this immense saving in the hands of the people. It is needed.

Millions of dollars annually may be saved, to the farming interests alone, could the country have the benefit of this one act of legislation. No measure would add more strength to the party in power than the one proposed by Mr. Hansbrough. From whatever standpoint considered it is a bill that congress ought to pass.

The block system of signals to prevent railway collisions has been declared a delusion and a snare, in advance of the Interstate Commerce commission.

The first ballot for U.S. Senator will be taken January 22d, Tuesday next. Jonathan Bourne, Jr., will undoubtedly be chosen on the first ballot for the regular term, and Mr. Mulkey for the short term, of a few days, until March 4th, the legal balance of Mr. Gearins' term, giving our native sons an honor with mileage and per diem attachments—an incident unexpected by the constitution builders of 1859.

The basis for the tax levy of 1907 in Oregon amounts to \$427,000,000, of which the best county in the state, according to area, 21 1/2 townships, and 3,860 population, good old Sherman county, puts up \$3,251,785. Handicapped as it is with immense holdings, one corporation having 80,000 acres to lease, Sherman county is the most independent of the wheat producers in the Inland Empire.

FACTS ABOUT THE JUTE MILL.

Pendleton Tribune. The biggest question that will come before the Oregon legislature this winter will be the proposal to substitute in the place of the stove foundry a jute mill, for the manufacture of grain sacks, wool sacks, burlap, etc. The opposition to this movement is not preventing all the facts in the case. They make the statement that it will increase the cost of operating the penitentiary, but they do not show, by facts and figures, that it does. The farmers, and the legislators too, must remember that there is a powerful trust that is assisting the opposition and that it will kick up as big a cloud of dust as possible to blind the issue before the people. As nearly as we remember, but 100 men are employed at the stove foundry, and for these the state gets 40 cents a day each, or \$120,000 a year, which is said to be the cost of keeping the prisoners so employed. The price is ridiculously low. If the stove foundry is to be kept up at this price ought to be doubled. At \$40 a day, and counting 300 working days in a year, this would bring the state an income of only \$12,000.

The Walla Walla jute mill, costing \$175,000, employs 200 men and these are able to make 7,000 wheat sacks a day, or 2,100,000 sacks in a year. The Washington authorities sell the sacks at a profit of one cent each, or a profit of \$21,000. This would be \$9,000 gain in favor of the jute mill. But there are in the neighborhood of 400 men in the penitentiary, and of this number 350 would be able to labor. A plant therefore, could be operated that would turn out 3,675,000 sacks, or about 37 per cent of the number of sacks used in the state, as we figure that 10,000,000 sacks are used for all purposes. This number of sacks would return a profit of \$36,750, or a gain of \$24,750 over the stove plant. But inasmuch as only 100 of the

400 prisoners are employed in the stove foundry, we cannot see why 200 of the remaining 300 might not be employed in operating a jute mill, and thereby make an additional saving to the state of \$21,000 besides making a saving of \$63,000 to the farmers, who have always paid more than their proportionate share of taxes to assist in keeping up the institution.

The Oregonian of November 5 editorially says: "Idleness is one of the worst of prison tortures, and the most fertile cause of insubordination." With this statement we agree, but we cannot see the pertinency of its argument in the present discussion, as only about one fourth of the prisoners are employed in the stove foundry, so this does not by any means solve the question of prison employment. The jute mill would furnish more employment.

The Oregonian says that the jute mill would supplant the stove foundry. If the stove foundry employs but about 25 per cent of the prisoners, would the jute mill necessarily supplant it? Might it not, on the other hand, furnish employment for those now suffering the torture of enforced idleness? Would there be anything impractical in having both—stove foundry and jute mill?

Farmers near the prison only would benefit, says the Oregonian. This objection could be met by statute. The legislators in framing the statute, could establish a depository in each county, for example, make the sheriff of each county the agent of the state for the jute products. Let this statute also provide for the distribution of the products in proportion to the value of industries using such products in each county according to the best statistical information. The statute should also provide that not over a certain number of sacks, say 1,000, should be sold to one person or corporation, so that the sacks would not fall into the hands of a few of the largest growers; for the only real argument against the proposition is that, figure as we may, a jute mill will not produce over 37 per cent of the sacks and burlap used in Oregon, and it would be necessary that its products be distributed as fairly as possible. The "risky" and precariously speculative nature of the business has apparently never seriously troubled the state of Washington, and probably assumes larger proportions to the mind than it is in actual practice. This objection is relatively a small matter. The price this year for a 400 pound bale of jute was \$18.34, to which must be added \$7.55 tariff, a total of \$15.89 per bale. The jute has advanced the price per bale for 1907 to \$27 per bale, which, with the tariff added, makes \$34.55, or nearly \$9 more for next year than for the present year. Since several millions of acres more of wheat have been added to the world's acreage and the trust has control of the world's supply of jute, the price of sacks next season will be about the same as this season's price, which averaged about 10 1/2 cents per sack. At the price the trust has set on jute, Washington expects to be able to sell sacks at 7 1/2 cents, a saving of 3 cents a sack. If a jute mill at Salem should produce 2,100,000 sacks it would be a saving to the farmers of \$63,000. At this rate of saving the jute mill would pay for itself in three years, or a little more, besides furnishing \$21,000 a year toward the expenses of the prison. It is agreed that the labor is a beneficial one, and one of the needs of the penitentiary is plenty of healthful work for the prisoners.

The manufacture of sacks at the state prison would tend to call the attention of valley people to the growing of fiber producing plants, and might result in the establishing of another industry in the state. Many sections of Eastern Oregon, especially irrigable lands, are adapted to the culture of fiber plants, and we should encourage their planting.

After carefully considering the question from all sides we believe that Oregon needs the jute mill; that it will assist in making the state prison self-sustaining; and that, while it may not entirely cure the trust evil, its saving of upward of \$60,000 a year will go a long way in easing the burden of taxation on the farmer and be just so much wrested from the rapacious maw of the jute trust.

We appeal to the legislature to remember that the interests of the wheat grower, wool grower, potato grower and hop grower, are very extensive in Oregon, and that these industries are unanimous in their demand for the jute mill as the best means of relief from the present evils of the trust.

The assembly proceeded to business at once, and perfected organization of both houses Monday. Mr. Haines was elected president of the senate, and Mr. Davy speaker of the house.

Senator Gearin made a "United States Speech" recently, when he discussed the Japanese question for the education of congress and the "know it all" President Roosevelt. Gov. Chamberlain did himself an honor when he appointed Mr. Gearin, a man whom both great parties are now admiring.

AN INJUSTICE IS BEING DONE

By False and Padded Statements About the Prison Jute Mill.

Reports of an extraordinary expense, far in excess of the truth, are being circulated by knockers for the purpose of injuring the prospects of the proposed prison jute mill in Oregon. November 9th The Observer produced indisputable facts as to the cost of the mill completed, and the cost of operating the same, which is all the way from \$200,000 to \$500,000 less than the knockers would have members of the legislature believe. But recollect one thing: members of the incoming assembly will not be easily humbugged by designing graft. According to reports prepared by the Washington state officials last Sept. the Walla Walla plant, including structure, machinery and all appurtenances, was only \$125,000. The machinery value alone is about \$50,000. It is estimated, however, that a similar plant could be installed and fully equipped with modern machinery, for about the present appraised value of this plant. For the past three legislative periods, since April 1, 1900, the Washington legislature has appropriated \$150,000 for each succeeding two years; this allows \$75,000 a year for the operation of the various industries at the prison. Receipts from the sale of all manufactured products are turned in direct to the state treasurer, hence the necessity of a new appropriation each legislative period. Price per bale paid for jute this year \$13; 400 lbs. per bale, makes 451 sacks per bale. During the time between Jan 1, 05, and Sept. 30, '06, the mill turned out 1,339,550 grain bags, together with quite an amount of hop cloth, oat bags, wool bags, warp, twine, floor matting, and other products, made from jute, all of which is made with the same machinery with but a trifle in loss of time for the re-adjusting of the looms. Since electric power has been in successful operation the mill can easily make a daily average of 1,000 bags, with a monthly average of 172,000, with a yearly output of say 2,000,000. On this basis there would be a short time allowed for closing down the looms for a general overhauling of the plant, which is deemed advisable at least once a year. Following is a tabulated statement of expense for 9 months—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Jute at \$18.34 per bale, Salaries, Fuel, Electrical power, Repairs and improvements, Other supplies, oils, etc., Total expenses 9 months, Value of manufactures, Net profit 9 months.

During the biennial period ending Sept. 30, 1906, there were expended from the fund provided for this purpose \$153,515.87, while the gross receipts were \$204,558.84. This included the sale of any manufactured products which were carried over from the preceding biennial period. The gross profits of the jute mill for the two years were \$22,149.01.

It is estimated with a fair margin of profit, and sufficient machinery to utilize the surplus convict labor, together with a sufficient appropriation to insure continual operation the year round, that the jute mill alone will put the Washington state prison on a self-sustaining basis.

The knocker always works cheap. He will exert himself harder, for less compensation, than any other creature on earth and his unbounded energy and enthusiasm in opposition to progress would earn him a laurel wreath if it could be directed in opposite channels.

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Milch Cows for Sale. I have a very fine Jersey cow, and an excellent Durham cow, which I wish to sell, both giving milk; and also a splendid heifer, soon to be fresh. For particulars, apply to or address, Mrs. NELLY FREN, Moro, Or 2421.

Wanted. Gentleman or lady with good reference to travel by rail or with a rig, for a firm of \$250,000.00 capital. Salary \$1,072.00 per year and expenses, salary paid weekly, and expenses advanced. Address, with stamp, Jos. A. Alexander, Moro, Or 2411.

NEW TODAY.

Fresh Cow for Sale

Jersey heifer and calf, good stock broke to milk, will sell cheap. Inquire of N. W. THOMPSON, 2621 Erskineville, Or

Cow Lost.

Road colored cow, with some red on her; has a strap with ring on her head; branded on left hip combination circle and bar; is giving milk. Anyone seeing her, or hearing of such cow, please report to G. A. SIMMONS, 2521 Rutledge, Or.

SUMMONS—In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County. M. J. Ginn, Plaintiff, vs. R. E. Hall and Margarette Hall and Sherman Trading Company a corporation, Defendants.

To R. E. Hall and Margarette Hall, the above-named defendants: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the last day of March, A. D. 1907, which time is herein fixed as the time for the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to answer, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint, to-wit: For judgment against the defendant for the further sum of \$201.25, with interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from date, and for the costs and disbursements of this suit, and for a decree of court foreclosing said mortgages, and ordering the sale of said mortgaged premises and directing that the proceeds arising from said sale be applied to the payment of the judgment and costs and expenses of making said sale, so far as the same will apply; and that plaintiff have judgment over defendant on said suit, and that the said R. E. Hall and Margarette Hall and Sherman Trading Company, and all persons claiming by, through, or under them, be forever barred and foreclosed of any right, title, equity or redemption; and that the plaintiff be allowed to be a purchaser in good faith of said premises on the day of sale and for such other and further relief as the court may seem equitable in the premises.

By order of the Hon. George B. Bourhill, County Judge of Sherman county, Oregon, dated the 10th day of January, 1907, this summons is served, by publication thereof in the Sherman County Observer, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in said county and state. Dated and published the 10th day of January, 1907. E. V. LITTLEFIELD, Attorney for Plaintiff. 8118ml-281

SUMMONS—In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County. S. S. Hayes, Plaintiff, vs. I. C. Large, Defendant.

I, I. C. Large, the above named defendant, do hereby certify that the undersigned is the complainant filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the last day of February, 1907, which time is herein fixed as the time for the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to answer, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint, to-wit: For judgment against you for the sum of \$100.00, with interest thereon from date at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, and for the further sum of \$50.00 attorneys fees and for the costs and disbursements of the suit.

By order of Hon. G. B. Bourhill, County Judge of Sherman county, Oregon, dated the 10th day of January, 1907, this summons is served, by publication thereof in the Sherman County Observer, a weekly newspaper of general circulation published in said county and state. Dated and published the 10th day of January, 1907. E. V. LITTLEFIELD, Attorney for Plaintiff. 8118ml-281

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County. The estate of Perry Watkins, Jr., deceased.

Homeestead Established. United States Land Office. The Dalles, Or., Dec. 29, 1906. Notice is hereby given that the following named settlers have filed notice of intention to make final five-year proofs in support of their claims and that the same will be made before the Register and Receiver at The Dalles, Oregon, on February 19th 1907, viz:

George Smith, of Ajax, Oregon, on Homestead Entry No. 7979, made February 24, 1902, for the W 1/2 S 1/4 of Section 42, T 22 N, R 12 E, W. M. Walter Smith, of Ajax, Oregon, on Homestead Entry No. 7978, made February 24, 1902, for the W 1/2 S 1/4 of Section 42, T 22 N, R 12 E, W. M. John Wilson, of Ajax, Oregon, on Homestead Entry No. 8949, made October 21, 1905, for the W 1/2 N 1/4 of Section 35, and E 1/2 S 1/4 of Section 36, T 1 S, R 12 E, W. M.

They claim the following witnesses to prove residence upon and cultivation of the lands, viz: Oscar Simmons, of Ajax, Oregon; George Smith, of Ajax, Oregon; L. J. Turley, of Ajax, Oregon; Ellen Cannon, of Ajax, Oregon; Walter G. Smith, of Ajax, Oregon; John Gibson, of Ajax, Oregon; Walter R. Adams, of Ajax, Oregon. 8118ml-281

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J. M. Parry. Notary Public. Attorney for the State School Fund for Sherman County. MORO, OREGON

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Estray Horse Sale. Taken up by the undersigned, at the home farm 1 1/2 miles south of Moro, Sherman county, Oregon, one estray mare, described as follows: Sorrel color, white blazed face, about 5 or 6 years old, weight about 1000 lbs, branded OR on left stifle and h on left jaw. The owner or owners of the above animal are requested to call for it, prove property, pay charges, and take it away, - otherwise it will be sold, as provided by law, at the farm named in this advertisement, to the highest bidder for cash, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, January 19th, 1907. L. V. MOORE, Moro, Or 2407.

Grain and Stock Farm. For Sale. 1040 acres, deeded. Over 700 acres plow land, 600 now in cultivation, water, windmill, wells and springs. If you want a good place come and see four miles east of Rutledge. Everything a man needs. No middle man. Address, FRANK PAYNE, Rutledge, Or. 1168

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