

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

WANT FIRST TIP.

Landgrabbers Heretofore Have Had Advantage of Leak.

Salem—"Give the state the first tip" was one request the state land board made of the department of the interior through Gifford Pinchot and F. H. Newell, when they consulted at Portland a few days ago.

As representatives of the president Messrs. Pinchot and Newell asked the members of the state land board to meet them and express their opinion regarding local land matters in Oregon. Among other things the members of the board explained the manner in which speculators have gobbled up state lands in Oregon in advance of the creation of reserves. The state wants a chance to keep these lands.

In almost every instance in which the department of the interior has withdrawn land from entry for the purpose of making a forest reserve, it has been found that some private capitalists had in some way secured information as to what would be done, and then bought up the state land at \$1.25 per acre. As soon as a reserve had been created the land became worth \$4 to \$5 an acre as base for the selection of lieu land.

The members of the board explained to the representatives of the Federal government that if a forest reserve is to be created, the state would like to be informed as soon as any one else, so that the state land could also be withdrawn, and the state profit by whatever rise there might be in the value of the land. The state does not ask to be informed in advance of every one else as to what the department intends to do, but the board wants to receive the first information that is given out, at the same time that others receive it.

The conference between the state land board and Messrs. Pinchot and Newell was a very pleasant one and resulted in a better understanding between the representatives of the state land and federal land departments. The men from Washington learned more regarding the needs and wishes of the state, and the Oregon authorities gained information concerning the plans and purposes of the government.

There were mutual assurances of co-operation in land matters with a view to the accomplishment of the best results.

Beet Lands Near Echo.

Echo—Three representatives of the Amalgamated sugar company were here last week and inspected the land adjacent to this place to see if it was suitable for the culture of sugar beets. They were more than satisfied with the prospects, and before leaving town arranged for a mass meeting of farmers to be held here at 2 P. M., Saturday January 23. They will endeavor to get the farmers each to put in a small crop, and where satisfactory terms can be arranged the company will lease land to plant to beets.

Gives Names of State Officers.

Salem—Secretary of State Dunbar has recently compiled and had published a small pamphlet entitled: "Official Directory, State of Oregon." It contains the names of all state officers, members of state boards, commissioners, officers of state institutions, and schools, and also a list of all county officers. Many requests are received for information such as is given in this pamphlet and by means of it the secretary of state can promptly answer all such requests.

Cougars Killing Cattle.

Eugene—Farmers in the vicinity of Lorane are annoyed more than usual this winter by cougars, and a number of instances have been reported where stock has been killed by them. The animals are very sly and can rarely be seen, but frequently they are heard in the evening very near the settlements. Last week Dr. Petrie went out from Cottage Grove with his hounds and succeeded in killing one very fine specimen. There have been several chases without results.

Noticeable Increase in Fees.

Corvallis—A considerable increase in revenue will result from the new law affecting the fees in the county recorder's office. The office in Benton carries a salary of \$1,000, and last year the fees aggregated \$1,014. A mortgage filed the other day cost \$3.50 that under the old law would have cost but \$1.70. For another the fee was \$3.25, instead of \$1.60. It is estimated that the increase of fees will make the office pay a net profit of \$500 to \$1,000 per year.

Work in State Printer's Office.

Salem—State Printer Whitney has just completed the task of setting up and running off 1,500 copies of the general laws, as enacted by the special session of the legislature. The book is composed of only 50 pages. He is now ready to go to work on the special laws, which will make about 200 pages. The journals of the two branches of the session will not be ready for the printer for about two months.

OWNERSHIP IN DOUBT.

John Day Property Claimed Both as Mineral and Timber Land.

John Day—F. C. Knapp, a wealthy lumberman of the firm of Knapp & Brewer, is in town making an attempt to settle the question of ownership of several claims in the Black Butte group of mines. He has held a conference with the manager of the mine, Ed C. Allen, of Portland, but no settlement has so far been reached.

The land in question is just outside of the forest reserve lines, 15 miles north of John Day, and has been held partly as quartz and partly as placer mining ground, for a number of years. The upper workings of the main lead were worked out a few years ago, but the ground was patented. The outside claims were represented in yearly assessment work by the group system of development, and as some of them were heavily timbered, they were scripped by the Knapp & Brewer company under the direction of Cruiser Johnson.

Notwithstanding the fact that many thousands of quartz and placer gold have been taken from these claims, Mr. Allen says that an affidavit of their nonmineral character was made when scrip was placed on the land.

A number of wealthy Pendleton capitalists are stockholders in the mining company, and it is understood that United States District Attorney Hall is investigating the matter. Work on the property will be actively resumed should the company's title be confirmed.

Want a Parcels Post Law.

Oregon City—The quarterly meeting of the Clackamas county Pomona grange was held at Oswego last week. There was an attendance of 150 members, and there were 20 initiations. Officers elected for the ensuing year were installed, the ceremony being conducted by Mrs. Niblin, of Evening Star grange, of Multnomah county. Resolutions addressed to the state's representatives in congress were adopted asking for the passage of the parcels post law and also for the creation of postal notes.

Big Flour Order.

La Grande—A shipment of 10 cars of flour has just been made from the flour mills of La Grande and Island City to Tacoma, from whence they will be sent to Japan. This is only a small portion of the order received and before the order is completed fully 100 cars will be shipped.

Penitentiary Fills Up Fast.

Salem—The report of Superintendent C. W. James, of the Oregon penitentiary, for the quarter ending December 31, shows an increase in the number of prisoners from 289 to 311. There were received during the quarter, 63; discharged, 39; transferred to the asylum, 2.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 73@74c; blue-stem, 79@80c; valley, 78@80c.
Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$20@20.50; rolled, \$21.
Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straights, \$3.90@4.10; clears, \$3.55@3.75; hard wheat patents, \$4.20@4.50; graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$4; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.07½@1.10; gray, \$1.05@1.07½ per cental.
Middlings—Bran, \$17.50@18 per ton; middlings, \$26; shorts, \$19@19.50; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$17 per ton; clover, \$13; grain, \$13; cheat, \$13.
Vegetables—Turnips, 65c per sack; carrots, 75c; beets, 90c; parsnips, 85c @ \$1; cabbage, 1@1½c; red cabbage, 1½c; parsley, per dozen, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@2 per crate; cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen; beans, 12c; celery, 75c per dozen; pumpkins, 1c per pound.

Potatoes—Fancy, 75@80c per sack; common, 50@60c; sweets, 2½c in sacks; 2½c in crates.

Onions—Yellow Danvers, \$1@1.10 per sack; Fannox, \$1.10@1.15.
Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.

Fruits—Apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50 per box; cooking, 75c@1; pears, \$1@1.50 per box; grapes, \$1.50.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½@30c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 12½@14c per pound.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14@15c; Young America, 15@16c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11@11½c per pound; springs, small, 13@14c; hens, 11@12; turkeys, live, 17@18c; dressed, 20c; ducks, \$7@7.50 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 26½@27c per dozen; Eastern, 22@23c.

Hops—Choice, 26@27c per pound; prime, 25; medium, 22c.

Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; mohair, 32@35c.

Beef—Dressed, 6@7½c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6@7c; lambs, 7½c.

Veal—Dressed, 7@9c.
Pork—Dressed, 6@6½c.

REFORM FOR RUSSIAN PEASANTS.

Czar Takes a Step That is Bound About With Restrictions.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—Minister of the Interior Plehve has completed the draft of the peasant code, or scheme, for the peasant reforms ordered in the czar's recent manifesto, and it will probably be sent to the local committees throughout the empire within a few days.

Members of the nobility in each province and district will be allowed to elect representatives on these committees, but the Zemstvos (elective provincial assemblies, composed of landed proprietors and representatives of the artisan and peasants) will be appointed by the governors.

The committees will be allowed freedom to discuss the project and propose any changes therein, except on three points, which the emperor has reserved from discussion. Namely: That the peasant class must remain entirely separate, legally, from the other classes; that the commune is to remain untouched by legislation, and that the peasant lands are to remain inalienable.

These points stamp the forthcoming legislation as conservative in the main, but the present chaos is so great and so much room is left for the arbitrary conduct of the police and the local representatives of the ministry of the interior, as well as of the peasant courts and administrative machinery and their commune town meetings that the liberals declare any codification would be in the line of progress.

The ministerial project proposes to retain the system of corporal punishment, but the emperor did not include this among the matters not subject to change. The emperor regards the preservation of the peasant class, the retention of the economic commune and the inalienability of peasant lands as necessary for the protection of the peasants from exploitation.

MANCHURIA THE ISSUE.

Japanese Demands Cannot Be Granted by Russia.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—The Associated Press correspondent on high authority, is able to give the following as the present status of negotiations between Russia and Japan:

Russia recognizes Japan's predominance in Corea and Japan recognizes Russia's special position in Manchuria. There are two main questions still at issue, the Russian demand for a neutral zone upon the Korean side of the Yalu river, which Japan met with a proposal for a similar neutral strip on the Manchurian side. Japan also asks for certain guarantees covering Manchuria, which Russia has thus far declined to grant. It is pointed out, however, that the assurance given a few days ago by Russia regarding open ports in Manchuria and respect for treaty rights is a concession on this point.

That the two countries are not so far apart may be fairly inferred from the following statement made by Mr. Kurino, the Japanese minister to the Associated Press correspondent:

"War now would only be disastrous to both countries. Owing to the geographical situation, an armed conflict would result in a great drain on the men and treasury of both Japan and Russia, without being decisive. Besides, I believe it would not be worth while to go to war on the questions still in dispute."

NOT A JUNKETING TRIP.

Senatorial Subcommittee Had Light Expenses in Honolulu Inspection.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Accounts rendered to the senate by Senator Mitchell show that the subcommittee which visited Hawaii in the summer of 1902 expended only \$3,039 in gathering and formulating data and information for the benefit of the senate.

This would scarcely justify the assertion that the trip of the subcommittee on territories was a "junket," for, considering the distance traveled and the amount of information collected, it is, without a doubt, one of the cheapest investigations ever conducted by a subcommittee from congress.

But of the total amount \$540 was paid out as steamship fare for the members of the party from San Francisco to Honolulu and return, and \$1,026 was disposed of in settling the hotel account at Honolulu.

Mother of Captain Hobson.

Boulder, Colo., Jan. 20.—The mother of Captain Richmond P. Hobson died at the home of Shirley Davis today after a long illness. Her son was with her when she died and will leave with the remains tomorrow for Greensboro, Ala., where they will be interred. Sarah Croon Pearson was born at Richmond Hill, N. C., February 24, 1843, and for the past 20 years she had been a sufferer from dyspepsia. She came to Boulder last summer and has since remained here on account of the benefit to her health.

Turks Massing Troops.

Salonica, European Turkey, Jan. 20.—An important concentration of Turkish troops has begun at Kumanova, on the road leading to the Bulgarian frontier.

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