

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Harris Ellsworth, M. C.
4th District, Oregon

Around the first of this year there came to light some facts regarding queer and doubtless outright fraudulent transactions in the sale of Indian-owned timber lands in Curry County.

As soon as I could get some facts and some affidavits together on this subject, which clearly proved that there had been several "irregularities," I called the matter to the attention of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. At about the same time I introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to direct the committee to make a full investigation of the matter and report to the House. Due to some complications developing from the fact that another Member had introduced a resolution calling for the investigation of the Indian Bureau for other reasons, House action was delayed. Last week, however, my resolution was passed. The committee will proceed with the investigation.

In a speech I made on the Floor of the House early in March I told the story, as far as we knew it then, of some of the Indian land deals. There were several "queer" deals. For example, in one case the Indian owners received \$135,000 for some land. The purchaser then sold the land for \$165,000 to a "buyer" who immediately gave an option to third parties for \$300,000. The option holder then sought to sell the land, which is a valuable timber property, for a reported \$800,000. Records I have in my possession indicate that bona fide offers from possible purchasers had been made to the Indian Bureau in amounts of two or three times the price paid for the land to the Indians in the sale mentioned above.

It is a pleasure to note that even

under the stress and strain of the closing days of a Congressional session, Members do not lose their sense of humor, as may be seen from the following quotes:

Congressman Scrivener of Kansas—"Now and then we see a quotation accredited 'anonymous.' Many of these are excellent. One recent 'anonymous' statement was to the effect that: 'The only concern that makes money without advertising is the United States Mint. The Mint makes the money first, and it's up to each of us to make it last.'"

Congressman Curtis of Nebraska—"Government regulations in some of the Washington bureaus require that employees keep detailed records of how they spend their time. Sometimes these reports take several hours to be filled out by the employee, especially if he or she wants to impress the boss. An elevator operator, however, set a record for brevity. His report read this way: Up—50% Down—50%."

This is the last "Letter from Washington" for this session of Congress—and perhaps for this year, unless a Special Session is called. I expect to be more or less regularly in my office in Roseburg (1313 Riverside Drive) after the middle of August. My office here in Washington, D.C. will, however, be kept open all the time. While I am in Oregon I shall be visiting all of the seven counties of our Fourth Congressional District. Such travel will mean that replies to letters addressed to me at Roseburg may be delayed. Many things might be handled more quickly if letters are sent to the office here in Washington, D.C.

A family picnic was held at the J. S. Richardson home Sunday. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Milas Richardson of North Bend, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Nealon and the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson.

Prospects Bright For Improvement Of Oregon Ranges

Glimpses of possible future developments on the ranges of eastern Oregon were shown at the annual field day of the Squaw Butte-Harney range and livestock experiment station recently.

Success with sagebrush spraying and seeding of crested wheatgrass for range improvement was reported. Preliminary results of fertilizer experiments on native meadows caught the eye of many field day visitors.

Donald Hyder, range conservationist, indicated that chemical spraying of big sagebrush to reduce competition and improve forage production may be the key to tremendous future development of the vast eastern Oregon ranges. Hyder announced successful attempts to kill sagebrush with 2, 4-D sprays. An 86 percent kill was reported using an oil emulsion of butyl ester of 2, 4-D in May. Water emulsion of the same chemical gave 84 percent kill.

Another avenue for range improvement was pointed up by demonstrations of successful seedings of crested wheatgrass on land cleared of sagebrush. Experiments have shown that heavy rollers can be used effectively to get higher germination and survival in dry land seedings. Both drilled and broadcast seedings were improved by rolling. Best results came with rolling before drilling and after broadcasting.

Early results of fertilizer tests on native meadows have inspired hope for much greater hay production. Cleo S. Cooper, agronomist for the station, reported that yield of dry forage was increased from 1 1/4 tons an acre to more than 3 tons an acre by applying ammo-phos fertilizer at various rates up to 500 pounds an acre. Quality of hay also was improved by fertilization, he declared.

Beef cattle research, including comparison tests of Brahman-Herford crossbred cattle and Hereford cattle, also was reported at the field day.

The Squaw Butte-Harney station is jointly operated by the U.S. bureau of land management and Oregon State college.

Mrs. C. A. Meyer and daughter, Charla Jo spent last week in Salem, returning home Thursday. Mr. Meyer, who is attending school in Eugene, was home for the week-end. The Meyers plan to move in their new home the last of the month.

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OSC Studies Plan To Assist South Asia University

Oregon State College—The scope of Oregon State college's influence in shaping agricultural, forestry and technical programs in foreign nations may be extended through a cooperative arrangement with Kaesetsart university in Bangkok, Thailand, President A. L. Strand has announced.

More than two dozen OSC staff members are now or have been assisting with technical programs in various countries on every continent of the globe.

President Strand said E. L. Potter, professor emeritus of agricultural economics, will leave for Bangkok about the middle of July to spend a month exploring the possibilities of Oregon State college entering into a cooperative relationship with the south Asia university. The program, including all preliminary phases, is sponsored and financed by the Mutual Security agency.

Potter will prepare a report covering the present situation at Kaesetsart, make preliminary recommendations on current needs, assist in formulating a program that will enable the university to serve more adequately the people of Thailand, and suggest how OSC may cooperate.

If his recommendations are favorable and are approved by OSC and the Mutual Security agency, the college would enter into a 30-month contract with the MSA to give technical assistance to Kaesetsart's rehabilitation and expansion, including advice and general assistance in teaching, research and other general functions.

Oregon State college would be expected, under the agreement, to furnish through the MSA a chief adviser and a number of specialists.



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who may or may not be present members of the staff.

Kaesetsart university is interested in most of the same fields as OSC, President Strand pointed out, with major schools in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and cooperative sciences, and supporting work in engineering and home economics.

Thailand, a country nearly as large as Texas with three times the Lone Star state's population, is about 90 percent dependent on agriculture.

Professor Potter, a member of the college staff since 1908, retired in 1950 after being head of agricultural economics since 1932. He previously had been head of the animal husbandry department since 1927.

Pvt. and Mrs. Joe Estremado, Jr. and small son arrived here the 4th to spend a month's leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Estremado of Gold Hill and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Phelps of Blackwell Hill. In August he will leave for Japan to serve with the Air Force, but Mrs. Estremado and son will remain here.

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