

# WEEKLY COAST MAIL

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## THE TIMBER LAND QUESTION

From an article published in another column, it appears that the Land Department is going to hold up the survey of new townships in Oregon, and otherwise make strenuous efforts to prevent timber lands from falling into the hands of what are termed speculators.

For many years the air has been full of the cry of fraud in connection with the public lands, and in one sense there has been good cause for the cry.

At the same time, it is well enough sometimes to discard technicalities and bring the light of common sense to bear on questions of this kind. The theory on which the land system has been founded has been that of affording every citizen who wished it a chance to obtain a piece of land for his own use and benefit. On this theory, it is a little hard to see how the purpose of the law is defeated if a man can get more benefit from his land by selling it than by holding it. Take the timber lands in Coos county, for instance. How many people could afford to take a quarter section of timber at an expense approaching \$500, and hold it for five, ten, fifteen or twenty years, getting no returns whatever from it? Is it the intention to confine the benefit of the law to those persons who are financially able to go into that sort of a speculation? Is it Uncle Sam's intention to simply make a gracious gift to those only who are already well fixed financially, shutting out the poor man?

It is true that the effect is to throw the timber lands into the hands of syndicates, but how can these syndicates be prevented from buying up these lands from the individual owners, no matter in what way the latter come by their title, so long as the buyer is willing to pay what the owner asks.

If the present system of allowing each individual to buy a quarter section of timber land is going to be adhered to, the best way to remove the taint of fraud would be to sweep away all the impossible provisions that are certain to be violated, recognize the fact that a poor man can only buy to sell again, and let him go ahead and do it without violating the law or his own conscience.

As a matter of fact there is only one sure way in which Uncle Sam can prevent the lands from going into the hands of people who are avaricious and anxious to buy and hold them; and that is to hold them himself. If he doesn't want to do that, and can't bear to see the individual do what he likes with the land after buying it, then he would better change the system altogether and sell each quarter section to the highest bidder, and thus get somewhere near what it is worth.

## 'MYRTLE POINT NOT IN IT.'

From the utterance of the Myrtle

Point Enterprise, under the above heading, that town "feels sore" at being left out of the base ball league. The Enterprise takes a gentle whack at Coquille City, a good deal harsher one at Marshfield, and comes at Bandon with a stem-winder.

The Enterprise says Marshfield "stood in and helped cut Myrtle Point out." Now, so far as the Main is informed it was not a "stand-in" to cut any particular town out. The schedule could not be satisfactorily arranged for the five towns, according to agreement a vote was taken, not to cut any town out, but to cut four in. Only four could be elected, and Myrtle Point was not one of the four. That was all there was to it. Had the railroad been in operation to Myrtle Point, or had there been any certainty that it would be in operation in time, the result would very likely have been different.

It is to be regretted that all five towns could not be represented in the league; but if there was room for only four, it is not necessarily a reflection on Myrtle Point that the other four were chosen.

Following is the plaint of the Enterprise.

"A county base ball league has been formed—four towns, Marshfield, North Bend, Coquille and Bandon being in the league, Myrtle Point having been voted out. The action of some of the managers of other towns show them to be anything but true sport, and Myrtle Point has a right to 'feel sore' at the action taken, though blame cannot be attached to any one town in particular. When the matter of organizing a league first came up a four town league was the talk, Marshfield not being represented at the meeting and apparently having no desire to enter the league. Later when a meeting was held at that place for the purpose of perfecting arrangements and Marshfield showed a desire to come in, it was agreed that five towns should be included in the circuit, providing the schedule could be arranged satisfactorily, and three days time was given in which to prepare a schedule. However a schedule was arranged the day after the meeting and was thought to be satisfactory. Notwithstanding this a vote was taken and Myrtle Point was left out, the manager at this place not being notified that the vote was to be taken and has not to this day been informed as to the result of the vote. At the meeting when the proposition of a five town league came up the Marshfield manager stated that as his town came in last, if anyone was to be left out, he would drop out, but the Myrtle Point representative told him he wanted no town left out. Later Marshfield stood in and helped to cut Myrtle Point off. It is really too bad to create bad feelings between the towns on the account of one or two men. The Myrtle Point manager conceded everything asked for and there is no reason why he should have been turned down in such a manner. The Coquille manager took no part in voting Myrtle Point out, but was very evident that they were not to be voted out themselves. Myrtle Point has reason to complain at Bandon, or rather the manager. He has made a bitter fight against this town all along and has done all in his power against us in the matter. In view of the fact that Myrtle Point heartily supported Bandon last year and contributed about one-third to the attendance of their ball games, this is a poor way of reciprocating.

## HERMANN AND THE PRESIDENT

The News suggests that President Roosevelt and secretary Hitchcock come out over their own signatures and defend Mr. Hermann from the charges publicly made. We would suggest that President Roosevelt and Secretary Hitchcock are not in that line of business, and if they did as the News suggests the Democratic press would howl worse than ever.

As a matter of fact there never has been but one "charge" worthy attention. That was that Mr. Hermann was at outs with the administration, including the President, if that had been true it might have placed him at some disadvantage in congress. But it

has been shown by the utterance of the President himself that there was nothing in it; that the relations between himself and Mr. Hermann are cordial, and he wants to see the latter elected. If there were any doubts as to the authenticity of this utterance, President Roosevelt's action in inviting Mr. Hermann to join his train at Salem and accompany him to Portland ought to set the matter forever at rest. It was a graceful way for the President to indicate unmistakably to the voters of Oregon his friendliness toward Mr. Hermann, and will be highly gratifying to the friends of the latter.

It will be amusing to read what the Democratic press has to say about it.

## Then and Now

In days long ago (in the 'sixties you know) when grand ma went walking she held her skirts so.

What would she say if she saw girls to-day with skirts a clutched so tight they all look this way.

—Inland Printer.

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary have been duly issued out of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Coos, to Otto Schetter, as executor of the last will and testament of Frederick Schetter, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate of Frederick Schetter, deceased, are hereby notified that they are required to present them, with the proper vouchers therefor, within six months from the date of this notice, to the said executor at the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company, at Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon. Dated this 23d day of May, 1905.

OTTO SCHETTER, Executor of the last will and testament of Frederick Schetter, deceased.

## TIMBER LAND, ACT JUNE 3, 1878.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. United States Land Office, Roseburg, Oregon, May 8, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1894.

WILLIAM STINER, of Roseburg, county of Douglas, State of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 527, for the purchase of the Northeast quarter of Section No. 30, Township 25 South, Range No. 10 West, and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver of this office at Roseburg, Oregon, on Saturday, the 12th day of September, 1904.

He names as witnesses: Charles Thom and John Thom, of Roseburg, Oregon; William Long and Frank Long, of Cleveland, Oregon. Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 12th day of September, 1904.

J. T. BRIDGES, Register.

## THINGS THEATRICAL.

George Ade is writing a comedy called "The Circuit Judge." Clyde Fitch has sailed for Europe and will be abroad until October. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal have brought out a new play in Liverpool entitled "One People." Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drouet sail for Europe in May to spend the summer in Switzerland. One of the big farce comedy successes of the present season has been "Looping the Loop." The Australian tour of "Way Down East" has been postponed. The play will be given in London first. George H. Broadhurst has been commissioned to dramatize Winston Churchill's book, "The Celebrity," for J. K. Hackett. Next season Paul Gilmore will appear in John Drew's great success of this season, "The Mummy and the Humming Bird." David Warfield's season in "The Auctioneer" has been one of such extraordinary success that his tour has been extended to June 1.

Won the First Rhodes Prize. Eugene Hottler Lehman, the first American to be announced a holder of one of the Cecil Rhodes scholarships in Oxford university, is a native of Colorado. Young Lehman is a graduate of



Yale. He was prominent in his class in the neoclassic department, taking the De Forest prize for oratory last June. He was also a prize winner in his junior year. Since graduating from Yale Mr. Lehman has been at Columbia university, New York, pursuing graduate studies in philosophy, which he expects to continue at Oxford.

How to Guard Against Colds. Sunshine and air do more to frighten away the demon of colds, in whatever form, than do any number of doctors or medicines. People who sleep with their windows open are far wiser than those who hermetically seal themselves against any fresh air until they arise. And don't accustom yourself to never be in a draft for a minute, for it is sure to be unavoidable at times, and then if you are not used to it you will catch cold.

How to Brighten Diamond Rings. To clean and brighten diamond rings and like jewels pour a little cologne or perfume into the palm of your hand, dip the stones therein, wetting them thoroughly, and dry upon a silk or linen handkerchief. It will make them surprisingly bright.

Strength of Eggshells. Most people are aware of the power of eggshells to resist external pressure on the ends, but not many would credit the results of tests recently made, which appear to be genuine. Eight ordinary hen's eggs that were submitted to pressure varied between 400 pounds and 675 pounds per square inch. With the stresses applied internally to twelve eggs these gave way at pressures varying between thirty-two pounds and sixty-five pounds per square inch. The pressure required to crush the eggs varied between forty pounds and seventy-five pounds. The average thickness of the shells was thirteen one-thousandths inch.

An Odd Inscription. At Wymondham, Norfolk, England, is this inscription at an old country house engraved on an oak board and all in one line: "Nee nisi glis servus, nec hospes hirudo." Translated from the Latin, in which it appears in antique Roman capital letters, it may be rendered, "No dormouse as a servant for me, neither a horse leech for a guest."

Not a Case of Superstition. Mrs. B.—Oh, Charles, we can never sit down with thirteen at table. Mr. B.—Pshaw! I hope you're not so superstitious as that. Mrs. B.—No, of course not, but we have only twelve dinner plates.

Widespread Interest. "Do you think that people appreciate art in this country?" "Certainly," answered Mrs. Conroy. "Everybody gets interested as soon as you tell 'em how much a masterpiece cost."—Washington Star.

What He Didn't Mean. Ambiguous—How are you, old fellow? Are you keeping strong? "No; only just managing to keep out of my grave." "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that."

## SIRES AND SONS.

James H. Gregory, a Marblehead (Mass.) man, holds the rank of brigadier general in the Colombian army. General George F. Alford of Dallas, Tex., a Confederate veteran, still sticks to his gray. He has worn it ever since the early sixties. Webster Davis, at one time assistant secretary of the Interior, now owns a fine farm not far from Kansas City and is leading the independent life of a country gentleman. George Washington Tuttle, one of the founders of the Psi Upsilon fraternity, died the other day at Bath, N. Y. General Edward Martindale of San Diego, Cal., is the only survivor of the original seven. Edwin S. Robbins, a manufacturer and business man of GreyStone, Conn., spends every Sunday evening in addressing religious gatherings in the particular city where his business pursuits take him.

Lawrence McAlpin of Philadelphia has just celebrated his one hundredth birthday. He was born in Ireland and laid the first rail on the Madison and Annapolis railroad. He has had seven, fifteen children.

William W. Kimball, recently installed as commander of Sheridan post, G. A. R., at Oshkosh, Wis., is the youngest post commander in the state. He is fifty-two years old. He entered the army when but thirteen years old and saw long and active service.

Willis Van Venanter of Wyoming, who has been appointed by the president as judge of the Fifth judicial circuit, had been for several years assistant attorney general for the interior department. He is a native of Marion, Ind., and a resident of Cheyenne. He is forty-three years old.

Through the retirement of Colonel Andre N. Durrell, which took place recently, the records of the regular army engineer corps will lose the most remarkable signature known in the service. His name as appended to official papers was simply a series of absolutely undecipherable marks, though his handwriting otherwise is remarkably plain.

## SHAMROCK III.

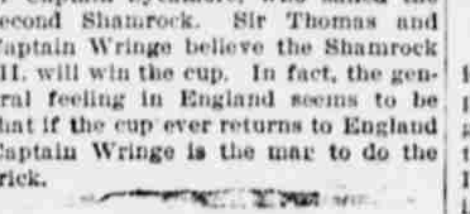
Our yachtsmen will certainly meet a challenger of mettle in this year's cup races.—Philadelphia Record.

Sir Thomas Lipton has found a company willing to insure the new Shamrock for \$100,000, but he will probably have difficulty in finding anybody who will insure his winning of the cup.—Boston Globe.

Shamrock III's sails weigh three and a half tons. A somewhat heavy burden. Should the three leaved Irish clover fail to lift the cup, will Sir Thomas persist and go on a search for a fourth leaf?—New York Tribune.

## Skipper of Shamrock III.

Captain Robert Wringe, who will command Shamrock III, Sir Thomas Lipton's latest candidate for America's cup honors, has had a lot of experience in American waters, having sailed the Belmont yacht for some time. He was also with Captain Hogarth on the Shamrock I. He was chosen instead



of Captain Sycamore, who sailed the second Shamrock. Sir Thomas and Captain Wringe believe the Shamrock III will win the cup. In fact, the general feeling in England seems to be that if the cup ever returns to England Captain Wringe is the man to do the trick.

## CHURCH AND CLERGY.

It is announced that the translation of the Bible into Chinese, on which Bishop Schereschewsky has been engaged for ten years, has been completed.

A noon prayer meeting established by the late D. L. Moody when president of the Y. M. C. A. of Chicago has not omitted its daily services for over forty years.

Rev. Dr. William Burt, head of the American mission among Italians, has been knighted by King Victor Emmanuel in recognition of his successful effort for the education of Italian children.

Dr. Ellicott, bishop of Gloucester, seems to prove that railway accidents are healthful. Many years ago he was injured in one. The company gave him a life pass, and he still uses it at eighty-four.

## TRAIN AND TRACK.

Every tram car in Belfast has printed in large letters just over the step at each end of the car, "The women and children first."

There is now complete from Boston to Omaha a double track line of railways, of which every mile is guarded from wreck by the block signals.

Already branch lines costing \$12,000,000 are being planned for the Siberian railway. The larger part of the sum is to lay tracks around Lake Baikal, now crossed by steamers.

Of the \$6,000,000,000 annually earned in transportation by the railroads of the world those in this country earn 34 per cent, or nearly double those of Great Britain, which ranks next.

for the Cleveland 80,000 cup. C. Ledyard Blair of the New York Yacht club has chartered the steam yacht May from Commodore Alexander Van Rensselaer.

Members of the Automobile Club of America want a state law passed that will compel vehicles of all kinds to show a red light in the rear at night.

Barney Dreyfus last summer contemplated a trip to Australia for the Pirates, but when some of them did business with the American league the project was dropped.

Captain Adlan Anson, once the idol of baseball fans, is getting to be as great a bowler as he was a first base man. He had an average of over 230 in six games recently.

Albert Champion, the crack French pace follower, is deeply stirred over the new pacing rules adopted by the National Athletic association and is trying to break up the circuit.

The new golf links at Nice occupy one of the most picturesque positions on the entire Riviera. James Gordon Bennett is one of the quarter members of the club, which was formed last season.

Strength of Animal Scent. The bird dog man is likely to think his favorite has a better nose than any animal on earth. He can tell you any amount of stories about birds being scented at very long distances. Now it is a covey of chickens wined at 300 yards, or, again, a bevy of quail drawn straight to at seventy-five. There are other animals, however, which have wonderfully keen noses. For instance, the sea otter hunters do not dare build a fire for days at a time on the little islands of the Pacific ocean frequented by those animals because the otter can smell the fumes from the smallest blaze a distance of five miles out at sea. It is said of this animal that he can trail a fish under the sea. Moose have been known to wind a man at two miles and make up their minds so positively about him as to never quit running under twenty-five.

## A White Ant Diet.

A book on the Congo Free State gives this picture of the fondness of the natives for white ants: "In the white ant month the natives have a very busy time. The river is deserted, and men and women, boys and girls, go out to gather the white ant for food. I cannot say I admire their taste, but the white ant is not bad as food, merely very rich. In this month he is about an inch long. The natives gather him in hundreds, pull off the wings and roast him. The native boys have a shorter way with him. Sometimes of mess white ants dropped on to the table, attracted by the light. The boys who were waiting pounced on them and without further ceremony popped them into their mouths."

Codfish. The very best codfish is cured whole; consequently those who purchase the fish instead of the desiccated article get better quality. The choice cut of a codfish is a piece cut from the center.

## Where Camels Are Clothed.

In Semipalatinsk, where the camel is found, the annual variation of temperature sometimes reaches 87.3 degrees. In eastern Asia winter is the time the animals are made to work. In very intense cold they are sewed up in felt covers.

## Digging an Acre.

In digging an acre of ground a man turns 112,000 spadefuls of earth, and the soil moved during the work weighs 850 tons.

## The Gulf Stream.

The gulf stream is 200 fathoms deep off Cape Florida. Near Cape Hatteras the depth is only half as great, the stream appearing to have run up hill, with an ascent of ten inches to the mile.

## Wife of the Spanish Minister.

Owing to her desire to remain in Madrid until her young daughter can be presented at the Spanish court Mme.



Ojeda, wife of the new Spanish minister, has not yet been seen in Washington. Senor Ojeda will visit Madrid this spring, however, and return with his family.

## SPORTING NOTES.

John A. McKerron and Lord Derby will likely come together in the race