

Daily Democrat

F. P. NUTTING Lessee. Entered at the postoffice at Albany, Oregon, as second-class matter. Published every evening except Sunday. Semi-weekly published Tuesdays and Fridays. BUSINESS MATTER SUBSCRIPTION RATES Daily Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year in advance, otherwise 40c per month. By mail, at end of year, 3.50. By mail in advance, per year, 3.00. Semi-Weekly At end of year, \$1.50. When paid in advance, one yr., 1.25. CLASSIFIED RATES 1c per word for first publication; 1/2c per word thereafter, payable in advance. Minimum charge of 25c. In ordering changes of address, subscribers should always give old as well as new address. Established in 1865. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1916

LAND ITSELF LIABLE. Medford Mail: In a decision rendered recently, Circuit Judge J. W. Hamilton, in the case of Douglas County vs. The Southern Oregon company, involving taxes due the county from that company, held that the tax is "a lien against the land—a definite charge—not against the individual owner, but against the land itself."

The Southern Oregon company owns the Coos Bay wagon road grant made by the United States in 1869. Practically the same conditions govern as in the Oregon and California land grant, owned by the Southern Pacific. When the litigation was begun to cancel the land grants for the failure to comply with the original conditions, the Southern Oregon company stopped paying taxes upon the grant, as the Southern Pacific did later. The suit was brought to determine the validity of the tax lien issued against the property.

The company maintained that the federal court decision entitled it to an interest of \$2.50 an acre in the land, and that as much of the land was assessed at a greater sum, the assessment was void. The court held that the assessor was bound to assess the property at its real value against the holders of the legal title, and that if the land had been assessed at too high a valuation, the remedy lay in an appeal to the board of equalization. Over-valuation is a mere irregularity which does not render the assessment void.

The decision will undoubtedly be carried to higher courts, but there is little doubt, in view of previous decisions, but that it will be confirmed, and that both the Southern Oregon company and the Southern Pacific company will have to pay the delinquent taxes—or lose all equity in the land. Some \$170,000 is due Jackson county from the 440,000 acres in the Oregon & California land grant, and this and subsequent title to the land, for the subsequent delinquencies will eventually have to be paid to secure title to the land, for the land itself is liable, not the person happening to own it.

RICHES AT ANY COST. In view of the fact that there is a grave question as to whether a university education advances one religiously and morally the following from the Register will be found to be rather a remarkable consideration of a great question: Because he fears a university education will give him a good conscience, one student in the correspondence study department has quit. What he wants, he writes, "is a callous conscience and a slumbering pity."

Correspondence study letters are confidential, and so the name and home town of this student are withheld, but here are his sentiments: "I realize that with a college education my conscience might interfere with my life's ambitions. These ambitions are to get rich, no matter by what method; to secure fame, even at the cost of a million souls; to trample upon the faces of the poor and make the rich bow before me. In the realization of these ambitions, I need a callous conscience and a slumbering pity."

The student then remarks that he understands the main purpose of higher education to be the instilling of culture, the development of character, and cultivation of social usefulness in young men and women. "By so doing it is claimed the university benefits society as a whole, which claim seems founded upon a

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substantial fact," he writes. "College men and women have a broader and deeper view of life, so that social service appeals to them. "But it appals me," he protests. "A higher education might cause some virtue to be inculcated in me that might perhaps cause a guilty conscience to prick me. Therefore, I say, I must avoid such a deterrent." He thereupon withdraws from further study.

MISFITS Again, what's in a name. Babounsk is what they call one of the most daring men engaged in the Balkan campaign. The juggernaut has begun rolling for the boys of the country back in Washington, D. C. Linklater is the name of a new noble grand down at Portland. Three links now, not later. The Dallas men who killed only a lone rabbit in a hunt, should go to Lone, where 4300 were recently killed in one campaign. England's provision that in case of peace with Germany that country shall stop exports for a certain time reads like a joke. A funny column man makes fun of a "been soup" sign. What's the odds how a thing's spelled just so its tastes good. It used to be la grippe; but the la has been dropped. Now it is ! ! ! ! ! gripe. In Seattle, the value of wood alcohol as a suicide dope is just being learned. Germany continues to float \$2,500,000,000 war loans with the ease and nonchalance of a girl chewing gum. An eastern man gave a pair of pants to a ladies' aid society for the benefit of the poor, and received the following letter which is making the rounds, and hence no credit is due any one: "Dear Sir: I write to you because I find your name in the tobacco pocket of my pants which you give to the baptist wimin. If you have enny more pants to give way send it strate to me to logansville, they is a lot of dam shiffless timber cussess here till you dont no where your pants go if you dont send it strate to me, len stockman, logansville, Tennessee."

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IS CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Something About Her and Two Other Women In the Case.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 11.—Mrs. Mohr, wife of the murdered physician, whose trial began here Monday, was Miss Elizabeth Tiffany Blair, formerly of Taunton, Mass. When Dr. Mohr first met her she was employed as a sales girl in a Providence department store. She was 19 and the doctor was 35 when they were introduced 11 years ago. Mrs. Mohr is tall and of medium weight with black hair and eyes. She is said to have a very emotional nature. Closely connected with the principals in the tragedy are two other women, Miss Emily G. Burger, who was seriously wounded at the time of the murder, and Miss Florence Ormsby, who succeeded Miss Burger as Dr. Mohr's secretary. Miss Burger is 28, tall and good looking. Her father was a master brewer and now conducts a saloon in Huntington avenue. She worked for Dr. Mohr at his office on Stewart street until last March when, she has stated, she was compelled to leave her position because of Dr. Mohr's attentions. Five days before the shooting she went to work for the doctor as his housekeeper at "Montpelier," his Newport villa, while his regular housekeeper was on a vacation. Miss Ormsby, who is to be one of the state's star witnesses, is 19 and was born in Danbury, Conn. She will tell of alleged threats, oral and written, made against the doctor by his wife; and also of alleged threats to kill Miss Burger or disfigure her features with vitriol. Miss Ormsby was allowed to read and write confidential letters for the murdered physician and says she is familiar with all the threatening notes Mrs. Mohr is said to have sent her husband.

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TEMPERANCE DRINKS ENTITLED TO HEARING IN PAPERS

Several institutions in Oregon will make temperance drinks in place of those prohibited by the new prohibition law. Some of the manufacturers will be former brewers. They have their plants and it is entirely proper for them to use them along the new lines demanded by the new law of the state. The Democrat formerly would not run a liquor advertisement, but will these, for the manufacturers are entitled to get their products before the people. The public is bound to have soft drinks of different kinds. These columns will be open for their advertisements, whoever the manufacturer, until they are questioned by the officers of the state.

In Favor— Miss Mary Watson, instructor in English literature at the University, will repeat her paper on "The Aesthetics of Ruskin." Miss Watson will deliver this address in Professor Straub's lecture room in Johnson hall tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. This same paper as presented before the philosophic society at the University some time ago, and met with such success that Miss Watson was asked to repeat it so that others interested might have the opportunity of hearing it.—Guard: Miss Watson is a granddaughter of Rev. T. J. Wilson, formerly of this city.

Albany Transfer Co. Both phones WOOD FOR SALE Little Fir \$3.25 Slab Wood \$2.40

Real Estate Loans & Insurance Collins & Taylor Hamme! Hotel Building Jewelry repairing of all kinds at Kreamer's new store. o25tf—adv

O. A. C. FARMERS' AND HOME-MAKERS' WEEK and RURAL LIFE CONFERENCES January 3 to 8, 1916 Live Information, Practical Help for the Home the Farm, the Community. Conventions of Oregon's Greatest Industries Exhibitions—ENTERTAINMENTS LECTURES—DEMONSTRATIONS—EXHIBITIONS—ENTERTAINMENTS Two thousand people attended last year. It is a great place to make friends—with live thinkers and live thoughts, good workers, and good work.

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B. M. PAYNE—Farm lands and city property for sale. Real estate loans Fire insurance. Surety Bonds. Rooms 19-21, Cusick Block, Albany, Oregon.

FOR SALE GASOLINE CHEAP OR TRADE—Gasoline engine and grinding mill and 2 crop raspberry. E. Reiss, Halsey, Oregon. d28tf

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FOR SALE—Cheap, good two story brick building. Owner needs some ready cash and will sacrifice this property for quick sale. Will consider some trade. See E. W. Hughes, at the Albany Opera House, 222 East First Street. J8-14

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WANTS WORK—Young man 20 wants any kind of work city or country. Call 103 Lyon St.

MISCELLANEOUS DANCING—There will be instruction in dancing every Monday evening at 7:30 in Moose Hall. Also private lessons any afternoon by appointment. Home phone: K524. F. J. Tracy. J8-14

TO LOAN, \$300—Inquire at Democrat. J8-11\*

CLOSING OUT at private sale on easy terms, 200 young cows, heifers and steers. Also 20 work horses. Will trade 70 acres on Santiam with 20 acres in cultivation, house, barn and orchard for Albany property. H. Bryant. J7-20 dly sw

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