

# THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

Continuing the Springfield and Lane County Star, Which Were Consolidated February 10, 1914

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SPRINGFIELD, LANE COUNTY, OREGON, MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1915.

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## S. P. Company Retains Huge Land Grant

### Federal Supreme Court Reverses Lower Tribunal--Means Lands Will Pay Taxes--Railroad Development Likely

Word reached Springfield this afternoon that the United States Supreme Court today reversed the lower court and had confirmed the title of the Oregon & California Railroad Company in the land grant which has been in litigation for the past five years. The court holds, however, that the lands must be sold to actual settlers at not to exceed \$2.50 an acre. The lands involved are worth approximately \$30,000,000.00.

The government first brought suit to have the terms of the grant enforced, and the decision of the lower court was that the grant should be forfeited to the government. At the last session of the legislature the attorney general of Oregon

was directed to appear before the United States Supreme Court, and urge that the decision of the court be such as would safeguard the interests of the people of Oregon, it being pointed out that if the grant were forfeited there was danger that the lands would be put in the forest reserve, and would thus cease to pay taxes for the upkeep of the state. . .

When the lower court had decided the lands should be forfeited to the government, the railroad ceased to pay taxes, and is now delinquent in Lane County alone \$80,000 on the 1913 tax list and \$72,000 on the 1914 tax list. Lane County has already paid \$40,000 to the state as the share of taxes the county was expected to collect from the grant lands, and this

sum, together with the rest of the delinquent tax, will be coming into the county treasury.

This decision, together with the decision the railroad attorneys are expecting within the next month or two in the Southern-Central unmerging suit, is of tremendous importance to Springfield, for it practically assures early completion of the Natron Cut off, with the consequent development of railroad shops in Springfield.

The fact that money is available for the electrification of the Whiteson-Corvallis section of the P. E. & E. is evidence that railroad funds are more plentiful, and with decision or decisions favorable to the railroad, construction work is sure to follow:

## FARMERS AND MERCHANTS GATHER AT BANQUET--HEAR FARM TALKS

### Judge Grant Dimick Discusses Proper Methods of Hog Raising--Asst. State Engineer Boosts Drainage

**SPARKLERS FROM THE TALKS AT THE BUSINESS MEN'S-FARMERS' BANQUET**

Rev. E. C. Wigmore—How far is it from my house to the country? It is just outside my wood shed door.

Judge Dimick—I can't say anything more than has been said about co-operation unless I tell you to practice what you preach.

Mayor Scott—When Nature began to distribute her bounties in the far east she took care not to be too liberal, and when she reached the Pacific slope she had a plenty and to spare, and she dumped them all out here.

Assistant State Engineer Cupper—The great problem in the Willamette Valley today is the proper regulation of soil moisture.

Judge Dimick—Anybody can raise pigs; the problem is to raise the feed that will put these pigs onto the market at a profit.

Practical talks on farm subjects by practical men who have made a success of their own lines of endeavor were made at a banquet given Saturday evening at Reapers' hall under the auspices of the Springfield Business Men's club and participated in generally by business and professional men of Springfield.

Fully 100 of the local people were in attendance, and as many farmers from the vicinity of Springfield attended as guests of the business men. Enthusiasm marked the evening, and after the formal addresses of the evening there were groups gathered to ask further questions of the speakers on points that had not been cleared.

The plea for community co-operation in advancing the interests not of the town of Springfield, but of the whole community, going back into the rich valleys back of Springfield, was the dominant note in all of the talks.

Just before Toastmaster M. M. Peery introduced the first speaker, Miss Marie DePue rendered a violin solo, and graciously responded to an encore.

Mr. Peery declared the occasion one for the fostering of the social relation of citizens generally, and particularly for bringing the town and the country into closer relation. The time is past, he said, for com-

## HAUL FIRST GRAVEL FROM PIT TUESDAY

Thirty or Forty Men to Be Employed on this End—Engines to Tie up in Springfield as They Did Last Year.

With 20 or 25 men working in the gravel pits east of here, and with three engine crews spending the nights in Spring-

## GEORGE PERKINS AND THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD WIN IN DAMAGE SUIT BROUGHT BY J. L. STARK

After being out less than two hours, including the time required for luncheon, the jury in the circuit court in the case of J. L. Stark against George Perkins and the Town of Springfield this afternoon brought a verdict in favor of the defendants. Testimony was concluded Saturday and arguments of the attorneys and the courts instructions took place this forenoon and it was 12:02 when the case went to the jury, and the verdict was returned at 2 o'clock.

Stark sued Perkins, the Town of Springfield and its officials for \$1,500 for personal injuries and damages to his auto when he ran into a pile of gravel in front of the new creamery building several months ago.

The case went to the jury only as to the city and Perkins, the court having eliminated the individual members of the council, they having been named as defendants in the suit, together with the city and contractor.

The defense of the city and Perkins was that the pile of

## SCHOOL BOARD CLOSES BUSINESS

**At Last Meeting Before Election List of Teachers is Completed and Auditor's Report Heard on Condition of Clerk's Books**

An adjourned meeting of the board of education Friday evening elected two teachers to fill the complement required for the Springfield schools for the year 1915-16, and also received the report of the district clerk as certified by the auditor employed by the board. The teachers elected are Allen Rothwell of Eugene, who will teach reading and arithmetic in the upper grades of the grammar school, and Miss Oro Wilson, who will take Mrs. Ida Richardson's work also in the departmental section of the schools. This completes the work of the board before the annual school meeting, which is to be held this evening for the election of a director to serve three years, and a clerk for one year.

The term of Dr. W. H. Pollard, who has served five years on the board, expires at this time.

Following is the report of the clerk, submitted to the directors Friday evening, and to be transferred by them to the taxpayers at the annual meeting tonight:

To the County School Superintendent of Lane County, Oregon:

I herewith transmit to you, as required by law, the annual report of the schools in District No. 19, in your County, for the year ending the third Monday in June, 1915.

## SISTER DIES AT HOME AT GLENN'S FERRY, IDA.

Rev. H. C. Ethell received a telegram Friday morning telling him of the death the evening before of his sister, Mrs. Clara Blackwell, at Glenn's Ferry, Idaho. Mrs. Blackwell was a little over 60 years of age, and is survived by her husband and by four children, all at home. She is survived by two brothers, Rev. H. C. Ethell of Springfield and John J. Ethell of Bloomfield, Iowa; and by two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Rawlings and Mrs. Josie Macy, both of Los Angeles. Mrs. Blackwell was born in Davis County, Iowa, and was a successful school teacher in both Iowa and Idaho before her marriage.

## SPRINGFIELD WOMEN ELECTED TO OFFICE

Mrs. S. M. Cranmer and Mrs. J. P. Fry returned Friday from McMinnville, where they attended the meetings of the annual convention of the state G. A. R. and Ladies of the G. A. R.. Mrs. Cranmer was re-elected junior vice-president, and Mrs. Fry was elected on the board of administration.

They brought back with them the portrait of Lincoln given as a prize to the chapter gaining the most members in the year.

Eugene—State University will put in printing plant.

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