

The Springfield News

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Editors and Publishers

Published Every Monday and
Thursday

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION
One Year \$1.50
Six Months .75
Three months .50
Advertising rates furnished on application.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1917.

WORTH WHILE AMUSEMENT

The people of Springfield showed their appreciation of good music and the best form of amusement by filling the new Methodist church at the rendition of "The Prince of Peace," Tuesday evening. They demonstrated their appreciation financially by putting \$26.47 in the collection plates to pay the expenses of putting on the cantata.

This entertainment is one of the finest entertainments that have been given in Springfield for several years. A large part of the singing was done by home people in a manner creditable to any group of people. It was given in one of the best little auditoriums in Oregon, and it was a demonstration of the type of musical entertainment the people of this city appreciate.

More should be accomplished along the line of musicals here in Springfield. The town probably would not support a paid Lyceum course of entertainments but it surely could organize a choral club or something of that nature and put on two or three entertainments during a season. We have enough singers, who under the direction of a good director could produce some splendid musicals.

Springfield's sole source of popular amusement, aside from dances and regular church activities, is basketball and the movies. Most people appreciate something better than this type of recreation at intervals. Of course Eugene has entertainments and theatres galore, but does Springfield have to depend on Eugene, even for its amusements? We are leaning too heavily on Eugene in this manner and are not standing on our own feet sufficiently. It might require some help from Eugene at first to put on good entertainments here, but the time would come when we could do all of the work and get all of the participants from our midst.

If we want to put Springfield on the map we will have to sit up and blow our own horn and not pump wind into the other fellow's.

A VACANT JAIL.

In our last issue we published an editorial on "Common Lawlessness," decriing property depredations by children in this community. Some of our readers may have taken the idea that this is a mighty bad place in which to live.

Springfield has made a wonderful improvement in the last two years. In the two years preceding 1915 this town had a name up and down the valley as being one of the toughest communities in Oregon. The town probably deserved the reputation it had at that time. This condition has completely reversed in two years. Our jail stood vacant this year for a period of ten months and 26 days without having even a drunk in it to spoil off.

There is probably no community the size of Springfield in Oregon that has better police court record than the record of Springfield this year. There have only been ten arrests, and most of those have been made for cases of drunkenness. The town cop's handcuffs have rusted so from nonuse this year that he would have to soak them in oil over night to make them work.

This is a good community, to live in. It has peaceable, law abiding citizens. The old days are past and should be forgotten. When we meet strangers let's tell them we are from SPRINGFIELD, the best little city in Lane county.

STATE LAND BOARD

By MARY HARDING
The State Land Board, which is a branch of the State executive department, has full authority over all State lands. The members of this board are the Governor, Secretary of State, and the State Treasurer. The Governor, who acts as Land Commissioner, appoints a State Land Agent. This agent receives a salary of \$1,500.00 per year, \$900.00 for clerical assistance, and compensation for all necessary expenses.

The State lands are classified into the following divisions:

(1) School lands, which include Sections 16 and 36 in each township, all lands selected for internal improvements, and all lands selected for capital building purposes under the act of Congress of 1859.

(b) Indemnity lands, which are those selected to satisfy losses in Sections 16 and 36.

(c) University lands which have been granted by the United States for the support and maintenance of the State University.

(d) College lands which have been granted for the support and maintenance of the State Agricultural College.

(e) Tide and overflow lands or all lands over which the tide ebbs and flows from the average line of low tide to the average line of high tide, and all islands and shore lands.

(f) Swamp lands or the land given to the State by an act of Congress of 1860.

(g) Farm lands acquired by deed, gift or foreclosure of mortgages taken as security on loans from the school, university, college, or other funds.

The Government, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer form a commission, the work of which is to sell, or lease State lands and invest all funds resulting from such sales.

The commission, or State Land Board, is authorized to appoint a clerk with a salary of \$2400.00 per year. The chief duties of this clerk are to keep the records, files and papers pertaining to this work; to record all transactions; to carry on all correspondence required by the board; to take charge of all applications for the loan of money or the purchase of lands; and to give receipts for and make payments to the State Treasurer of all money arising from State Lands.

Any citizen over 18 years of age, upon making proper application, is qualified to buy or lease any State lands. The number of acres applied for cannot exceed 320; and the applicant must not own or have purchased any land of the same kind which with that applied for would exceed 320 acres. Those who purchase tide or overflow lands must make full payment at the time of purchase. Those who purchase school, university college, swamp, or indemnity lands, may pay one-fifth of the price at the date of purchase; one-fifth in one year with interest at eight per cent; one-fifth in two years, with interest at seven per cent; and the remaining two-fifths on demand with six per cent interest.

All applicants for State lands who make payments in installments receive, upon payment of the first installment, a certificate describing the lands and specifying the amount paid and the remaining amounts and interest to be paid. Upon full payment the applicant, after delivering the certificate to the State Land Board, receives a deed for the lands described in the certificate.

Any legal applicant is entitled to purchase, 320 acres each of school, indemnity, university, college, swamp, or tide and overflow lands. However this must not interfere with the issuance of deeds to those who have certificates of sale.

The Land Board is authorized to give leases and contracts for the mining of any valuable minerals that may be found on State lands. When any person wishes to develop mines upon State land he may pay to the Land Board \$25.00 and receive a lease

for two years. The lessee is allowed to use the timber found upon the leased land for the development of his mine, but for no other purpose.

Any person who injures, defaces, or damages State lands is guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable with imprisonment or fines. It is the duty of the State Land Agent to investigate trespasses on and damages to State lands. He then prosecutes the persons who are guilty of such, and summons witnesses.

The expenses of all these investigations and contests are then paid by the interest fund of the State Land Board.

The following form the irreducible school fund:

Proceeds from the sale of school lands.

Proceeds of property accrued by escheat or forfeiture.

Proceeds from gifts to the State or schools.

Moneys obtained as exemption from military duties.

Proceeds from the sale of tide and overflow lands.

Proceeds from the sale of 500,000 acres of land to which, by an act of Congress, the State is entitled, and lands selected by an act of Congress 1859, for capitol building purposes.

All of the money belonging to this fund, the university fund, or the agricultural college fund is loaned at six per cent interest. If at any time there is a surplus above all loans applied for the Board may invest the amount in the bonds issued by school districts.

When the officers of any school district offer to sell bonds they must notify the State Land Board in order to give it preference in purchasing any number of the bonds. If the Board does not purchase any of the bonds, then the officials of the district may advertise and sell the bonds in the manner provided by law.

On the first day of August of each year the State Land Board divides the accrued interest from the irreducible school fund among the counties of the State. Each county receives an amount in proportion to the number of children between the ages of four and twenty years. This amount is then distributed among the school districts by the county school superintendent.

All sums paid to the State of Oregon as ten per cent "of the amounts collected by the United States Government for forest reserve rentals, sales of timber, and other sources from forest reserves" are distributed among the counties in which forest reserves are located.

Any companies constructing railroads in the State may obtain right of way through unimproved State lands by paying a sum specified by the State Land Board.

A right of way over State lands can be granted to any individuals or corporations "for the construction of a water ditch to be used for irrigation, manufacturing, or mining purposes, ditches or water pipes for conveying water to cities and towns for domestic purposes, or for the extinguishment of fires.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James T. Moore, pastor. Phone 137-w. Next Sunday 9:50 a. m. Sunday school, N. W. Emery D. D. S. Superintendent, 11:00 a. m. morning worship, sermon, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." 8 p. m. Epworth League. This service will be of especial interest. All are invited. Come make the closing league meeting of the year memorable.

Part I.
9:30 Union Watch Night service. Hymns Nos. 631, 636, by union chorus choir. Prayer, the Rev. H. C. Ethel, Solo, Miss Olive Smith; Scripture lesson, the Rev. W. N. Ferris; Hymn No. 596; Address, "Four Reasons for Peter's Fall," the Rev. C. H. Jensen; Solo, Miss Mabel Duryee; Reading, "The Convicts Christmas," Dr. Keeney Ferris; (Will Carlton)

Part II.
10:30 The Open Forum. Three to five minute addresses from the floor upon any phase of the general theme, "The relation of the old year to the new, or of the past to the future." All are requested to come prepared to participate freely in the discussion.

Part III.
11:15 Solo, Miss Eunice Parker; Address, "Making the New Year Glorious," the Rev. W. N. Ferris; Hymn

BAPTIST CHURCH

Reverend W. Norton Ferris, minister. Bible school at 10:00 a. m. Divine worship at 11:00 a. m. New Year, service by pastor. Senior and Junior meetings 6:30 p. m. Preaching service at 7:30 p. m. Rev. Ferris will speak. Music by chorus. All are cordially invited. Strangers always welcome.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Chris H. Jensen, pastor, sermons for next Sunday as follows: Morning "Saul of Tarsus." Evening, "What becomes of man after death." Do not miss hearing the evening sermon which will be illustrated by means of a chart. Christian Endeavor at 8:30 Topic, "Lessons to learn from the past" Leader Marjorie Knott.

FOREST NOTES

As a result of land classification work, more than eight million acres were eliminated from the National Forests in the fiscal year and, in addition, over 1,100 individual tracts within the Forests were made available for homestead entry, according to the annual report of Henry S. Graves, Chief of the Forest Service, which emphasizes the necessary permanent character of the National Forests, and points out the importance of definitely determining the status of the land which the Forests contain.

"The National Forests," says Mr. Graves, "are gaining stability through the land classification work. It is important for the general public to know what lands will be available for agricultural settlement. The whole Forest enterprise is based on the assumption of permanence. All the work is conducted with a view to constructive development of the property and its constantly increasing usefulness.

"Every timber sale is made with a view to future consequences. The work of protection from fire is not only to prevent destruction of standing timber but to save young growth and encourage the natural reproduction on lands which have been injured by previous abuse. Millions of trees are established each year which will not come to maturity for a very long time. A regulated system of grazing looks to the upbuilding of the Forest range, as well as to its present use, and the investment of public funds in extensive improvements is predicated on the permanence of the Government enterprise."

The need for consolidating land ownership where Government and private lands are interlocked is pointed out by Mr. Graves. Congress has, he states, already authorized an exchange of lands on the Florida, the Oregon and the Whitman National Forests. Under the same policy exchanges have been or are being negotiated with South Dakota, Idaho and Montana and Washington for school lands in the National Forests located in those states. The consummation of three of these exchanges now awaits final approval by Congress.

Other measures which will have a far-reaching significance in relation to the permanence of the National Forests, says the report, are the appropriation by Congress at its last session of ten million dollars for the construction of roads within the Forests in the eastern mountains by purchase. "The appropriation for the construction of roads will permit the heretofore inaccessible, will greatly increase the use of the resources in the Forests, will shorten lines of travel across the States and between communities, will stimulate prospecting and mining in mineral regions and will aid community upbuilding.


"The importance of having public Forests at the headwaters of important streams has been recognized and greatly emphasized through the appropriation of \$3,000,000 for continued purchases of lands begun under the so-called Weeks Law. The work of establishing these Forests has been started under the most favorable auspices, its discontinuance would have been peculiarly unfortunate. With the new appropriation the purchases may now go forward with a view to blocking out and extending the various units."

Acting District Forester T. P. McKenzie, Portland, Oregon, says that great progress is being made in the economical handling of stock on the National Forest ranges. More than three score stock associations are organized in Oregon and Washington to cooperate with the Forest Service. They also cooperate with one another. A unique instance of this is seen in plans devised to prolong the serviceable period of bulls on the range.

Many associations purchase all bulls for use on the National Forest range occupied by the cattle of their members in order to insure that only high grade animals will be turned out. Because of the ill effects of inbreeding usually the serviceable period of a bull on a range is two years. To prolong this period to at least ten years, one association plans to exchange bulls with another at the end of each two years. The Forest Service is encouraging these plans, for it means the production of only high and valuable stock on the National Forest ranges.

EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The last E. L. devotional meeting of the year will be held in the League room at the Methodist church Sunday night from 8 to 9:30 owing to the union watch night service to follow. Leota McCracken will lead with the topic, "Beginning All Over Again" Phil. 3:12-15. There will be special music, installation of officers, and reception of members. A cordial welcome to all young people.



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