

TITLE TO PUBLIC LAND MADE EASY

Borah Three-Year Homestead Bill Favorably Reported.

Jones Bill Granting Three Months Leave of Absence in Each Year Also Approved.

Washington, D. C.—By a unanimous vote, the senate committee on public lands combined and favorably reported the Borah three-year homestead bill and the Jones bill granting homesteaders six months' leave of absence in each year of residence.

As the bill is reported, homesteaders, after the first six months of continuous residence upon their land, will be entitled to leave their homestead for six months in each succeeding year, the time when absent to be counted as part of the three years' residence required by law. Thus, the homesteader will be able to get title after cultivating his land for three successive summers, and will be permitted to be away from his land each winter to earn money elsewhere.

The committee was unanimous in reporting the bill and it will be called up and unquestionably will pass the senate at an early date. This combined bill is in direct line with the reform urged by Senator Borah in his speech last week. So effective was that speech that many eastern senators stand ready to vote for the measure, which is framed to facilitate the acquirement of title by homesteaders. It is believed that the bill will pass without opposition. The bill applies to enlarged homesteads, as well as to 160-acre entries.

OLD CHARGE REVIVED.

Eugene Schmitz, ex-Mayor of San Francisco, in Court.

San Francisco—Eugene E. Schmitz, ex-mayor of San Francisco, was unexpectedly brought to trial in Judge Lawlor's court on the old bribery charges that have been pending against him for nearly five years.

After gaining a postponement until January 30, Judge Lawlor reconsidered his action and sent word to Schmitz and his attorney, Frank Drew, and the district attorney to appear in court ready for trial. It was generally understood that the district attorney would ask for a dismissal of the case, believing that there was little likelihood of obtaining a conviction, because of insufficiency of evidence.

Had the case gone over to January 30, it would have been within a few days of the time when it could have been outlawed through the statute of limitations.

The indictment on which Schmitz is brought to trial is one of 14 returned against him for bribery in connection with the gas cases. The specific offense is the alleged payment of a bribe of \$750 to ex-supervisor Wilson. The indictments were returned on May 24, 1907.

Fishermen Get \$60,600.

Astoria—The Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing company, at the annual meeting of its stockholders, distributed about \$60,600 among its fishermen, regardless of whether or not they were stockholders in the company. This distribution was in proportion to the amount of fish caught by each individual and was on a basis of \$20 a ton for Columbia river spring salmon; \$8 a ton for fall fish; \$10 a ton for Shoalwater Bay fish and \$20 a ton for fish caught at Nehalem Bay.

Mother Fights School Laws.

Olympia, Wash.—Declaring she will never pay the fine nor permit anyone else to pay it, Mrs. Nellie Hines, with her 8-month-old babe in her arms, was taken to jail here to serve out 30 days, following failure to pay a fine of \$25, assessed for refusing to send her children to school. She has announced that the children are in danger of contagion if they attend, and although arrested four times has declined to obey the court's order.

Liner Smashes Cruiser.

Honolulu—In a collision between the Hamburg-American liner Cleveland and the United States armored cruiser Colorado, the Colorado suffered considerable damage. The collision occurred when the Cleveland was being brought into the harbor by Pilot Sanders. The Colorado was at anchor in the harbor.

"Sundy Law" in Bad Way.

Salt Lake City—The Sunday law under which the new commission government has been closing cigar stands, fruit stands, bakeries, barber shops and stores, was found in the city court to be suffering from a complication of infirmities which probably will cause it to be placed on the retired list.

BORAH PLEADS FOR BILL.

Idaho Senator Quickly Retorts to Objection of Baily.

Washington, D. C.—After two hours' general debate the senate agreed to vote Tuesday on Senator Borah's bill to create a children's bureau in the department of commerce and labor, and on amendments suggested by Senators Works and Pomerehne to limit the circulation of the bureau's reports.

Senator Bailey criticized what he said were Mr. Borah's efforts to put children on a level with pigs.

"The effort is to raise them to the level of pigs," responded Mr. Borah. Mr. Borah has contended that the government expenditure of millions of dollars for information concerning the condition of hogs and cattle justified the \$30,000 asked for the children's bureau.

Mr. Bailey said it was mere "fadism," and that there was even too much legislation in the interest of livestock, adding that at the present rate "we soon will be sending a schoolmaster into every district."

"According to Colonel Waterston, that is just what you are about to do," Mr. Borah rejoined. Mr. Bailey replied that his "part of the party" had no such intention.

Senator Overman, of North Carolina, criticized reports of child labor investigators. Some of those reports, he said, were obscene.

"They told of children chewing tobacco," said he. "Was not there a strong opposition to that investigation from the cotton mill owners of the state?" demanded Senator Dixon.

Mr. Overman said he had not heard of it.

Sensors Heyburn and Thornton also opposed the bill. Senator Hitchcock spoke in favor of it.

"GAG" RULE CHARGED.

Ex-Postal Clerk Accuses Postmaster-General of Tyranny.

Washington, D. C.—Charges that the postmaster general and other postal officials suppress facts and misinform congress as to the safety of the lives of clerks in the railway mail service were made before the house committee on postoffices by Urban A. Walter, of Denver, formerly a railway mail clerk and editor of a postal journal.

Specific regulations of the postoffice service, he said, forbid clerks to discuss wrecks. He charged that "the postmaster general has not stopped short of misinforming the committee and the public," as to conditions under which clerks work.

Mr. Walter exhibited a letter file in which he said he had 500 letters from mail clerks reporting unsanitary and unsafe mail cars, and said the positions of the authors would be placed in jeopardy if the names were published.

"It is a remarkable situation that this 'gag' law of the department should keep congress from getting at the facts," said Chairman Moon. "We can subpoena these men, but we cannot protect their jobs if they testify."

BIRD HAVENS DESIGNATED.

Auklets in Alaska, Prairie Chickens in Nebraska, Protected.

Washington, D. C.—Three new national bird reservations, two in Alaska and a third in Nebraska, have been created by President Taft and placed under the department of agriculture. On Foster Island, one of the Alaska reservations, the rhinoceros auklet breeds. The island contains one of the most extensive bird collections in Southeastern Alaska.

"The Nebraska reservation is in the heart of the prairie chicken country, and furnishes the only refuge which has been established for this fast-disappearing game bird," said Dr. Henshaw, head of the Biological survey.

This makes a total of 55 bird reservations established to date, eight of them in Alaska.

Bill Boon to Foresters.

Washington, D. C.—On motion of Senator Dixon the senate adopted an amendment to the house bill for relief of employes of the bureau of mines, providing that hereafter any employe of the forest service injured while on duty shall be compensated by the government for such time as he loses as a result of his injury and granting one year's pay to the family of any forestry employe who may be killed in the service.

Judge Mack Continued on Court.

Washington, D. C.—Judge Mack, of Chicago, junior member of the court of commerce, has been designated by the chief justice of the Supreme court to serve for five years more on the commerce court bench. The commerce court judges rank officially as circuit judges and are under the jurisdiction of the chief justice.

CORRUPTION IS CHARGED.

Culberson Accuses Committees and Wants Investigation.

Washington, D. C.—Demanding an investigation into campaign expenditures in 1904 and 1908, Senator Culberson, of Texas, in the senate, made sweeping charges of corruption against the Republican committee for those and other years.

Indirectly he charged that foreign ambassadorships were bestowed as a reward for campaign contributions and inferentially that ex-President Roosevelt had condoned the use of money in politics.

Mr. Culberson's address was made in anticipation of an unfavorable report by the committee on contingent expenses on his resolution providing for an investigation.

Referring especially to the campaign of 1908, Mr. Culberson said that the contributions to the Democratic fund had been made by 74,000 persons, with \$15,000 as the largest, while those to the Republican fund were made by 12,330 persons, with Charles P. Taft, brother of the president, at their head with a donation of \$110,000. Among the contributors mentioned were Ambassadors Reid and Kerens and Minister Lars Anderson.

"It has been estimated," he said, "that the enormous and unconscionable sum of \$11,000,000, was raised and probably expended by the committee of which he was chairman. The very size and audacity of the fund, if approximately correct, smacks of extortion, profligacy and corruption. Who contributed it and where did it come from?"

COERCION IS CHECKED.

Land Office Issues Circular Limiting Activities of Agents.

Washington, D. C.—Relief from unwarranted activities by special agents of the General Land office is promised in a new circular of instructions soon to be issued. Many entries on lands withdrawn as coal lands have been complaining that after being induced to sign agreements for limited patents, with the understanding the patent would issue without delay, they have been informed their patent would not issue until the land had been examined.

Representative Mondell, author of the law under which settlers may secure patent to surface of coal lands, protested to the commissioner general of the land office. It was charged that special agents were in many cases using coercive methods to secure signatures of settlers to agreements to take limited patents.

The commissioner agreed to issue new circulars warning the special agents that this practice must cease, and that when they have informed the settler of his rights in the matter their duty ends.

HARVESTER FEUD FLOURISHES.

Concerns Have Had No Business Dealings for Years.

Washington, D. C.—James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel corporation, surprised the Stanley "steel trust" investigating committee with the statement that the Steel corporation and the International Harvester company have had no business dealings with each other for five or six years.

The information, coming on the eve of a proposed congressional investigation of the harvester company, in which it will be sought to show as one existing condition that the harvester company and the Steel corporation had interlocking directors and that the latter gave rebates to the former on steel, was doubly surprising.

Mr. Farrell said that the harvester company had a boycott on the Steel corporation and that the trouble started as a "mere quibble between salesmen."

Astoria Enters Protest.

Washington, D. C.—Protests have been received by the Oregon delegation in congress from the Astoria chamber of commerce against the proposed consolidation of the Oregon customs districts. The protest recites that 2,000 coasting and 68 foreign vessels entered and departed at Astoria last year without going to Portland. If any change be made, it is urged that the Coos bay and Yaquina bay districts be added to Astoria.

Sitka Station Abandoned.

Juneau, Alaska—The United States marine barracks, maintained at Sitka for 30 years, has been ordered abandoned by the Navy department as an unnecessary expense to the government. The only duty of the marines for years has been the guarding of 10,000 tons of coal stored on Japonsky island for naval purposes.

Postal Savings Banks Ordered.

Washington, D. C.—Postal savings banks will be opened at the following places on February 20: Jacksonville, Monmouth and Myrtle Point, Or.; Rosalia, Shelton and Sumner, Wash.; Hagerman, Idaho.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

PLANNING ENGINEERING SHOW

Students Will Airships and Do Brass Casting Stunts for Visitors.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—"Bigger, brighter and better" is the slogan of the engineering students of the Oregon agricultural college in their plans for the annual engineering show, to be held this year March 15 and 16. Hitherto the exhibit has been called an electrical show, and a manager, one of the electrical students, chosen to make the plans. This year it was decided to secure the cooperation of all of the engineering departments and make it an inclusive demonstration of what the college engineering as a whole can do.

Many new features are to be introduced this year. The forestry department will exhibit for the first time, and Prof. George W. Peavy, head of the department, is greatly interested in the display which is being prepared. The civil and mechanical engineering departments, hitherto but minor exhibitions, will this year have the larger part of the space.

A blacksmithing shop will be in full operation by the mechanical engineers, and a foundry, pattern making, and machine shop will interest visitors with its actual processes of making brass castings, and completing the burnishing processes, giving the visitors paper weights, monograms and other souvenirs made "while they wait." The woodworking shop and power plant will also show interesting operations. A number of new pieces of equipment in the mechanical laboratories will be in full operation, and furnish spectacular features.

A. M. Jepperson of Baconia, and J. F. Hess, of Corvallis, have purchased the Curtiss biplane exhibited at last year's show, and after many tests and the building of models and gliders, will be ready to give demonstration of aviation.

The Architectural club, just formed this winter, is another new feature as it, also, will have an exhibit, for which it is now holding a contest in which the members are competing for the honor of arranging the club exhibit.

QUARRY NEXT STEP.

Governor Lays Plans for Road Construction Work.

Oregon City—The establishment of a state rock quarry at some convenient point between Oregon City and New Era is contemplated and that within the near future, according to Governor West, who was in the city accompanied by George F. Rodgers chairman of the State highway commission, Governor West and Mr. Rodgers were met at New Era by a committee from the Oregon City commercial club and with L. R. Fields, superintendent of the Southern Pacific company, drove down the river road past the Wittenberg estate quarry a short distance north of New Era and the Willamette Pulp & Paper company quarry just south of Pulp Station.

Either of these quarries would be adaptable to the use of the state for obtaining suitable rock for road construction. The rock from the Wittenberg estate quarry has been examined by the State engineer and State geologist and has been pronounced first-class for road building.

The rock on the paper company's land is of similar formation and character. In both places there is sufficient land fronting the rocky bluff to install the necessary switches or sidetracks to connect with the main line of the Southern Pacific company only a few hundred feet distant from the quarries.

"I believe the state should own the quarry and that the land should be purchased outright" said the governor. "Permanent ownership would justify the state in going to the expense of constructing buildings, and we would have a supply of good rock that would last beyond this generation. We expect to be able to procure a rock crusher at a small cost in California from a railroad company, and by the use of convict labor, which costs about 25 cents a day, crushed rock could be sold to any county in the state reached by rail lines at a very small cost. Not more than 15 men could be used profitably in a quarry."

Kernville to Have Cannery.

Newport—Kernville, on the Siletz river, is to have a new salmon cannery. At present the only cannery on the Siletz river is that belonging to the Elmore estate. H. F. Barnes, a Portland business man, who owns the canneries at Waldport, on Alsea bay, and Oysterville, on Yaquina bay, is to establish the new Siletz cannery.

Bend Flour Mill Operating.

Bend—The flour mill of the Bend Milling & Warehouse company is now in operation. It is operated by electricity, power being obtained from the Deschutes river.

EXTEND WEST SIDE ROAD.

Salem, Falls City & Western to Bridge Willamette.

Salem—Resolutions of the board of directors of the Salem, Falls City & Western were filed with the secretary of state, showing a contemplated extension and branch of that road, which promises to be one of the most important pieces of railroad construction, for this particular section at least, that has been contemplated for some time.

Under the resolution the road plans an extension from Salem to Oregon City, via Silverton, Molalla and Mulino. The resolution also contemplates a branch from this extension to Stayton.

The Salem, Falls City & Western now operates from Black Rock to West Salem, which is directly across the river in Polk county from this city. Last year the road secured a franchise into the city to operate along Union street to a point past Capitol street and at the time it was rumored that the move had in view an extension to Silverton and Abiqua. At the same time the franchise was granted the road secured permission from the state and the War department to construct a bridge across the Willamette river from West Salem to Salem, to be used as a connecting link for its line from West Salem into this city.

MACHINES CUT EXPENSE.

Secretary of State Olcott Installs Labor-Saving Devices.

Salem—Secretary of State Olcott has installed two labor-saving machines that will greatly increase the efficiency of this department and at the same time save the state considerable money. One is a camera especially designed for photographing records, and the other is a rapid addressing machine.

In the past it has been the practice to record articles of incorporation with a typewriter, requiring comparing, correcting and checking, all of which was very slow and expensive.

The addressing machine will save the state from \$1,000 to \$1,300 in the mailing of the initiative and candidates' pamphlets for the 1912 primary and general elections.

FARMERS TO POOL CREAM.

Crabtree Residents to Have Creameries Bid for Product.

Albany—Farmers residing in the vicinity of Crabtree, Linn county, have perfected an organization to pool their cream for sale to the creameries. They will thus sell all of the cream of the members of the organization to the creamery making the highest bid. In this way the farmers expect to receive a higher price for the product.

It is said that the creamery men too, are satisfied with the arrangement, for it will afford a regular supply to the creamery which makes the successful bid and lessen the operating expenses of all. At the present time there are five cream routes running out of Crabtree, two each for two Portland creameries and one for a Corvallis creamery. The competition for cream thus is keen, and one creamery may secure the bulk of the cream of that vicinity one day, and practically nothing the next.

LAND AGREEMENT LAGS.

Desert Board and Irrigation Firm Bicker Over Points.

Salem—Although the essential features of the agreement between the Desert Land board and the Central Oregon Irrigation company have been practically decided upon, it became evident at the meeting of the board that the actual signing of the agreement may be yet far away.

Verbal agreements have been reached on practically every part of the proposition between the board and representatives of the company, but in some manner written statements as to what these agreements really are do not seem to coincide with what is agreed on orally.

Benton Fruitgrowers Elect.

Corvallis—At the annual election of officers of the Benton County Fruitgrowers' association held here, the following persons were elected to serve the ensuing year: President, W. S. Brown; secretary, J. A. Kerr; directors, W. F. Groves, George Armstrong and Charles Pernol. A purchasing committee was appointed through whom all the spray material used by members of the association will be bought.

Many Turn to Frustrating.

Falls City—Preparations are being made here for more extensive orchard and berry planting this spring than ever before. Falls City people are turning from the uncertainties of the lumber business to agriculture, gardening and fruit raising.