

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

OPENING AT LAKEVIEW.

Every Participant Sure of Securing Land or Lot.

Lakeview—The distribution of the lands of the Oregon Valley Land company, owners of the old Oregon military road grant, and the Heryford Cattle company's lands, not only is the largest private land opening in history, but it differs in many ways from land allotments made by the United States government. In the Lakeview opening every participant gets a tract of land and a town lot. There are no blanks.

Three hundred thousand acres of land are being distributed practically without expense to the public. The lands were cut into 11,992 tracts, varying in size from 10 acres to 1,000 acres, and that number of contracts were sold for \$200 each, every contract being good for a tract of land and a Lakeview lot. The purchasers live in every state in the Union, but the bulk of the contracts were sold in the Middle West. About 3,000 contracts were sold in Nebraska, 2,000 in Kansas, and smaller allotments in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma and other states. Nearly 1,000 contracts were bought by Oregon and California people.

FOREST FUND IS \$33,120.47.

Oregon School Fund Is Increased by Reserve Receipts.

Salem—Congressman Hawley has received a letter from the acting secretary of the interior to the effect that under the terms of the agricultural appropriation act, for 1909, approved May 23, 1908, \$33,120.47, realized from forest reserves in this state during the year ending June 30, 1909, will be turned over to the state to be placed in the common school fund of the state.

The law provides that 25 per cent of the money received from each forest reserve shall be paid at the end of the year to the state treasurer wherein the reserves are located, to be expended as the legislature may direct for the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the forest reserve is located.

The total amount realized from the forest reserves of Oregon during the year ending June 30 was 132,481.88. Mr. Hawley was instrumental in securing the enactment of the clause under which the public schools receive forest reserve revenues.

Filling Farmers' Warehouses.

La Grande—Over 15,000 bushels of grain are already stored in the farmers' union warehouse at Island City, although the roof on the building is not yet completed. The union is yet in its infancy in Union county, but the farmers are working together splendidly, and it is thought that before the storing season is over 30,000 bushels of wheat will be in this warehouse. The wheat is pooled and held in the warehouse for sale, and when the buyers purchase the grain it will be conveniently near the main line of the railroad for shipment.

Alfalfa Brings High Prices.

Freewater—The alfalfa crop in the Hudson Bay country is almost entirely in stack. This section received its name from the fact that the Hudson Bay company in the early days of Oregon wintered their stock in this valley. The climate is milder than that of the surrounding country. Large bands for Spokane and Seattle markets are wintered here. The crop will be about 20,000 tons and ranchers are getting \$9 and \$10 a ton at the stack.

Prunes Crop Good.

Albany—Prune drying has begun in this vicinity, and the drier men report a good yield, with the fruit in excellent condition. The prune packing establishment is making active preparation to begin packing fruit. They expect to start the packer about the first of October under the management of La Sells Bros. It is expected that the factory will handle upwards of 100 cars of fruit this season.

Valuable Timber Land Sold.

Ashland—Eighteen thousand acres of timber land, known as the Coggins tract, lying half in Oregon and half in California, has been sold to the Northern California Lumber company. It is estimated that there are 450,000,000 feet of standing timber on the land, of which 70 per cent is sugar and white pine.

Drill for Oil Near Nehalem.

Nehalem—The Hydrocarbon Oil company is building a large drilling camp near here, a large load of heavy machinery having already been received. Actual drilling will commence very soon.

Seven Pound Potato.

Pendleton—George Dodge, gardener for the J. E. Smith Livestock company, has a potato that weighs 7 1/2 pounds. The seed was planted in March.

BIG FRUIT TRACT BOUGHT.

Eastern Capitalists Purchase 1,200 Acres in Rogue Valley.

Grants Pass—One of the largest deals to take place in Rogue river fruit lands occurred a few days ago, when a representative of Eastern capitalists purchased the S. H. Riggs property, consisting of 1260 acres. This is one of the finest bodies of land in the county, and is supplied with 2000 inches or more of water from the Applegate river. Its former owners found much profit in raising three crops of alfalfa each year, and selling it at from \$15 to \$20 a ton, but it has now become so profitable to raise fruit that three hay crops do not produce sufficient revenue to satisfy the fruit-raiser. The buyer and his associates will take possession of the premises on the first day of January, and they will at that time put on a large force of men to lay out the tract in an ideal manner, with convenient avenues running in every direction, in order to make it the largest tract of land devoted to fruit alone in Rogue river valley. The entire premises will be planted as rapidly as possible in peaches, pears and commercial apples. This place formerly belonged to Consul H. B. Miller, but last year it was sold to S. H. Riggs, who kept it nine months, raised several hundred tons of alfalfa hay, and sold out at a price up into six figures.

Grand Ronde's Greatest Crop.

La Grande—Heavy rains throughout Union county have greatly delayed threshing, but it is estimated that most of the work will be finished within the next two weeks, although there will be a small amount that will not be finished in the next 30 days. The yield in Union county is estimated to run over the 1,000,000 bushel mark. This will be the largest amount of wheat ever grown in the Grand Ronde valley. The farmers are not so inclined as they were at first to hold onto their wheat until it reaches the dollar mark and are letting the wheat go in small amounts every day. The price ranges around 80 cents for bluestem, 79 for 40 fold and 77 for club.

30 Cars Prunes Shipped.

The Dalles—The prune crop of this county, with the exception of a few orchards on extremely high ground, has been harvested and the crop has been marketed. There was a total of 30 cars shipped in carload lots, besides perhaps four cars shipped in small quantities by express. The prunes have netted the growers a little better than \$22.50 a ton, f. o. b. The Dalles. The bulk of the crop has been bought and shipped by The Dalles Fruit company, though a few carloads have been shipped by growers.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 97c; club, 87c; red Russian, 85 1/2c; valley, 90c; hfs, 87c; Turkey red, 87c; 40-fold, 89 1/2c. Barley—Feed, \$26.50; brewing, \$27.50 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$13@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50@17.50; alfalfa, \$14; clover, \$14; cheat, \$13@14.50; grain hay, \$15@16.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36c; fancy outside creamery, 33@36c; store, 21@22c per pound. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, candled, 31c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 15 1/2@16c per pound; springs, 15 1/2@16c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, young, 14 1/2c; geese, young, 10c; turkeys, 20c; squabs, \$1.75@2 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 10c per pound.

Veal—Extra, 10@10 1/2c per pound. Fruits—Apples, \$1@2.25 per box; pears, 50c@1.25; peaches, 65c@1.25 per crate; cantaloupes, 50c@1.50; plums, 25@75c per box; watermelons, 1@1 1/2c per pound; grapes, 60c@1.25 per basket; casabas, \$1.75@2 per crate; quinces, \$1.50 per box.

Potatoes—\$1 per sack; sweet potatoes, 2@2 1/2c per sack.

Onions—\$1.25 per sack.

Vegetables—Beans, 46 1/2c per pound; cabbage, 16 1/2c; cauliflower, 75c@1.25 per dozen; celery, 50c@1; corn, 15@20c; cucumbers, 10@25c; onions, 12 1/2@15c; peas, 7c per pound; peppers, 5@10c; pumpkins, 1 1/2@1 3/4c; squash, 5c; tomatoes, 35@40c per box.

Hops—1908 Foggles, 20c; clusters, nominal; 1908 crop, 17c; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop, 8c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound; valley, 25@26c; mohair, choice, 24@25c.

Cattle—Steers, top, \$4.25; fair to good, \$4; common, \$3.50@3.75; cows, top, \$3.25@3.50; fair to good, \$3@3.25; common to medium, \$2.50@2.75; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls, \$2@2.25; stags, \$2.50@3.50.

Hogs—Best, \$8; fair to good, \$7.75@7.85; stockers, \$6@7; China fats, \$7.50@8.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; yearlings, best, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; ewes, 3c less on all grades; spring lambs, \$5@5.25.

TAFT SMILE WINS.

President Beams His Way into Favor With Chicagoans.

Chicago, Sept. 17.—President Taft smiled his way into the hearts of 500,000 Chicagoans yesterday. Geniality and "Bill" Taft—for that's what the multitudes called him—ruled the city for 15 hours. From the moment he arrived until he entered his private car to leave, through all the automobiling and speechifying and handshaking and excitement, there was one thing which shone as brightly as the sun of a perfect day. It was the famous smile. That smile was commented upon everywhere. It was cheered and it made those who saw it feel more pleased with the world and with themselves. Good humor, jollity, happiness—these followed Mr. Taft like attendant guardians wherever he went.

And in response to that smile Mr. Taft got the smiles and laughter of the throngs, as well as their shouts and applause. All the way through the 16 miles of streets which he traveled during the day in a motor, at the West Side ball park, at the Orchestra Hall meeting, at the bankers' ball, Mr. Taft saw thousands upon thousands of faces which smiled at him and which cheered him.

"It's grand," said the chief executive before he had been in the city five minutes. "I'm really vastly glad to be here."

As his automobile swept down Michigan avenue in the midst of 150,000 school children, he turned to his aide-de-camp, Captain Archibald W. Butt, U. S. A., and his voice was just an atom husky.

"This is wonderful, Butt," he said. "The cheering of the children is most pleasant to me, and yet affecting, for we know that the cheering of the children is sincere."

At the great bankers' ball there were silks and white shoulders and jewels; there was rhythm of wafts music and glow of pendant lights; there was dancing by blushing debutantes and epigrammatic foreign consuls; there was promenading by prominent bankers and dowagers and beauties and politicians. And the chief individual figure of the scene was the big man in evening dress who smiled and smiled and smiled.

Unqualifiedly President Taft is in favor of union labor. This was the subject of his main speech today, and in plain terms he upheld organization, but demanded that the rights of non-union labor be protected. Next to this in national importance was his denouncing the present court system. He deplored delays in the administration of justice and announced an intention to urge congress to make a change.

MONEY FOR WIDOW.

Mrs. Harriman Is Made Only Beneficiary in Will.

New York, Sept. 17.—A hundred brief words, weighted each with approximately \$1,000,000 and containing in their entirety the last testament of E. H. Harriman, given out yesterday, make his widow, Mary Averill Harriman, one of the wealthiest women in the world.

It perhaps is the briefest will on record for the disposal of an estate of such magnitude. All his property is left to Mrs. Harriman. Wall street estimates that Mrs. Harriman will inherit in realty and personal property between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000. Mr. Harriman's private fortune is supposed to have been greater than this by many millions, but there is reason to believe that his unmarried daughters, Mary and Carol; his married daughter, Mrs. Robert Livingstone Guerry; and his two sons, William Averill and Roland, a boy of 14, together with his surviving sister, Mrs. Simons, and other relatives, have all been substantially provided for with gifts out of hand.

The will is dated June 8, 1903, and is witnessed by Charles A. Peabody, president of the Mutual Life Insurance company, who drew it, and C. C. Tegenthoff. Mr. Peabody was Mr. Harriman's close personal friend.

Mr. Harriman, by making no bequests to children or relatives, avoided the large share of the enormous inheritance tax which, under the laws of the state of New York, would otherwise be imposed.

Fires Destroy Homes.

Oxnard, Cal., Sept. 17.—A great forest fire is burning tonight in the hills. Telephone messages from Somis at 6 o'clock called for all available men to fight the flames. Four families were burned out in Las Posas hills today. Hundreds of tons of hay and beans were burned. Several hundred men fought the fire all night, and have the biggest task yet before them in saving the ranchers' homes. The fires began early Monday morning, and have burned in varying directions ever since, devastating a solid stretch of 30 miles of hills.

Canada Helps Travelers.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 17.—The Canadian Railway commission has made an order commanding all railroads in Canada, which do an international business, to direct their conductors to prevent any undue interference with passengers in Canada by United States immigration officials.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

HEAR PACIFIC RATE CASES.

Full Interstate Commission Will Sit on Coast in October.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The entire Interstate Commerce commission will visit the Pacific coast this fall and conduct hearings on all complaints of record from that section. The hearings will begin at Seattle, October 7, and after clearing the Washington docket, the commission will move to Portland on October 14, and to San Francisco four days later.

Among the questions to be heard are the allegation that various distributive rates in the Northwest are excessive. Testimony will also be taken on various complaints affecting the contemplated rearrangement of all transcontinental rates to Pacific coast points. Most of the large cities have entered complaints which will be heard. In most instances where time permits, the commission will hear arguments after hearing testimony.

Among cases on which testimony will be taken at Portland are: Oregon Railroad commission vs. O. R. & N. and other roads; Farmers' Co-operative & Educational union vs. Great Northern and others, and Astoria chamber of commerce vs. Great Northern.

At Seattle the commission will take up the following: Portland chamber of commerce vs. O. R. & N. and others; Transportation bureau, Seattle chamber of commerce, vs. Northern Pacific and others; Humboldt Steamship company vs. White Pass & Yukon route, of Alaska; F. S. Harmon vs. Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, and Seattle Frog & Switch company vs. Northern Pacific.

At San Francisco a long docket is to be heard, the most important case being that of the Pacific Coast Jobbers' & Manufacturers' association vs. Southern Pacific and other roads.

Ballinger Denies Rumor.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Secretary Ballinger is suffering from sore throat today and on the advice of his physician is not at his office. He has been ordered to remain at home as quietly as possible and expects to be back at work in a day or two. He will depart for the West Saturday and will meet President Taft either at Denver or Helena. Secretary Ballinger denies the report that he contemplates resigning from the Taft cabinet, as published in yesterday's dispatches.

Land Withdrawn From Entry.

Washington, Sept. 15.—The secretary of the interior has withdrawn from entry southwest quarter of section 29, township 25 south, range 14 east, in Lake county, Oregon, until the geological survey can make an examination of the peculiar formation on this land, known as Fortrock. If this land mark is considered of sufficient importance, it will be permanently reserved as a national monument.

Hitchcock Coming West.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Postmaster General Hitchcock left Washington tonight on a trip to the Pacific coast, going by way of New York city. He will arrive in Seattle in time to be present at the Washington state postmasters' convention, September 20 and 21. He will attend also the conventions of the Oregon and Montana postmasters.

Irrigation Contract Awarded.

Washington, Sept. 18.—A contract has been awarded D. H. Traphagen, of Seattle, for the construction of that portion of the distribution system of the Tiston irrigation project on the Natches Ridge, Washington. The work involves the excavation of 117,700 cubic yards of material. The contract price was \$31,500.

Taft's Secretary at White House.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Fred W. Carpenter, secretary of the president, and Rudolph Forster, one of the assistants secretaries, who were at Beverly, Mass., have returned to Washington and assumed their duties at the White House. President Taft will at all time be in easy communication with Washington.

Spencer Eddy Resigns.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The State department today received the resignation of Spencer Eddy, of Illinois, minister to Roumania and Servia. Mr. Eddy's wife, is the daughter of John D. Spreckels, of San Diego. Ill health is given as the cause for Eddy's resignation.

He Defended John Surratt.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Judge W. F. Morris, former chief justice of the court of appeals for the District of Columbia, died today, aged 74 years. Judge Morris defended John H. Surratt, one of the alleged conspirators against President Lincoln.

SILETZ SEEKING PATENTS.

Court of Equity Is Hearing Oregon Homestead Cases.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Proceedings looking to compelling the patenting of the long-suspended Siletz homestead entries in Oregon were begun in the court of equity in this city today. Stearman & Loughran, local representatives of A. W. Lafferty, of Portland, filed a bill in equity praying for an order restraining the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of the general land office from promulgating final decisions now in course of preparation, directing the cancellation of the entries in question until the final hearing on a bill for a mandatory injunction compelling the issuance of final receivers' receipts as of dates of reception of final and commutation proofs at the Portland land office.

These cases were adjudicated by the interior department upon contests filed against entries long after the lapse of two years from the dates on which proofs were received at the Portland office, and it is contended by counsel for the claimants that the department acted without its power in authorizing proceedings under contests filed after that period, it being argued that submission to the register and receiver of proofs, regular in form and unobjectionable, entitled the claimants to final receivers' receipts on the dates when such proofs came in the hands of the register, and the receiver had later, it is alleged, defaulted in his duty under a law in withholding the issuance of such certificates at that time.

Counsel contend that the issuance of receiver's certificates was a ministerial act, which might have been compelled by mandamus, inasmuch as the proofs when received at the Portland office were unobjectionable. Had the certificates been issued when the proofs were presented at Portland, the contests brought more than two years after the making of proofs would have been barred by the provisions of the act of March 3, 1891.

DROP MALHEUR PROJECT.

No Funds Available to Continue Irrigation Work.

Washington, Sept. 18.—It was announced today that the government will not at the present time undertake the construction of the Malheur irrigation project.

Secretary Ballinger, though anxious to help settlers in the Malheur contract country, finds after a study of the entire irrigation situation, that the condition of the reclamation fund will not now justify the adoption of any new projects. Many millions of dollars, in addition to what is at present available, are needed to complete projects in course of construction and as the adoption of new projects would seriously interfere with finishing what has been heretofore undertaken, it has been decided temporarily to lay aside all applications for new work. This decision is approved by President Taft.

The question whether or not the Malheur project shall be built by private enterprise has not been passed upon, and probably will depend largely upon the attitude of landowners. How long it will be before the Malheur project can be undertaken by the government is purely a matter of conjecture.

New Governor of Porto Rico.

Washington, Sept. 16.—It was announced tonight that the president would appoint George R. Colton, of the District of Columbia, as governor of Porto Rico. Mr. Colton first went to the Philippines as lieutenant colonel of a Nebraska regiment. After that he was made collector of customs at Manila. This office he now holds, having come home on leave of absence to assist the bureau of insular affairs in preparing the Philippine tariff bill.

Consular Promotions.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The following promotions have been made in the consular service: David F. Wilbur, of New York, from consul general at Halifax to consul at Kobe, Japan; James W. Ragdale, California, from consul at St. Petersburg to consul general at Halifax. Ragdale entered the consular service at Tientsin, China, in 1897 and was transferred to St. Petersburg in 1908.

Show Disgust With Peary.

Washington, Sept. 15.—"Pole hunting is a sportsman's job; the scientific value of the discovery is very slight," said Henry W. Perkins, acting superintendent of the coast geodetic survey, today. All Washington replies: "If that is true, why, in heaven's name, can't the question of the victory be settled in a sportsmanlike manner?"