

## LOGGED-OFF FARM LANDS AND LOWER INTEREST RATE

### Coastal Region Counties may Find Chance for Improvement

One night last summer the city of Gresham celebrated the completion of the hard surfacing of Main street and its extension to the Base Line with band music and oratory, and later the people danced for two hours upon the magnificently paved street. It took money to make the improvement—a portion of it coming from the bond issue at a rate of interest but little under that which the citizens paid for in making loans for the other part. The private rate was somewhere around 8 per cent, the same that the farmer has been paying for land development loans excepting when he could get state school money at 6 per cent, which was not always available.

That 8 per cent interest has been a tremendous drawback to development to the whole state, but the commissions and other et ceteras make the loan terms almost usurious. But there will be some relief in sight in a short time, for the Farm Loan bank in this district and the rural credits law backed by the state of Oregon will be supplying money to farmers at 5 per cent under proper conditions. This will be different from getting a loan without paying exorbitant commissions, lawyers' fees, abstract fees and so on. And it wouldn't be surprising if the borrower would be required to submit to an operation for appendicitis and have his life insured. Then it begins to be a wonder why the state of Oregon is not more fully developed.

One very often hears the remark: "I don't believe half I read in the papers, they are such liars." Of course the newspaper men pay no attention to such remarks. They know the statement is unfounded. With very few exceptions the newspapers tell only the truth as they get it. The newspapers do not create news; they simply chronicle events as given them. The editorials are not news statements. They are the opinions of the editors or owners who dictate the policy to the editors. If there are mistakes it is because the persons furnishing the news to the reporters are mistaken.

However, sometimes it does look as if the persons who declare the newspapers are untruthful and do not print the truth are sometimes nearly right. For months we have been reading in the newspapers about the wonderful prosperity of the country; that "money is easy;" that everyone can secure loans, and so on. Then we read all about the millions of acres of rich land which lie idle, and which would and should be under cultivation. But the people have failed to see any evidence of "easy money." The land still lies idle, any uninviting advertisement of the "garden spot of the world." Idle money and idle land are not good advertisements. We seem to have a surplus of both in the northwest. Why not put some of the so-called easy money at work developing our greatest asset—the rich, logged-off, vacant land?

In every county along the coastal region of Oregon and Washington can be found thousands upon thousands of acres of good rich land which should and must be cultivated if our prosperity is to continue. The timber plays out sooner or later. That is the history of every forest. But the land never plays out if it is properly supplied with fertilizer and crops are rotated. The fertility of the oldest cultivated fields of Europe prove that.

There are hundreds of locations where good colonies should be established—colonies where city and country could be blended and where life would be worth living. All the plans of the Farm loan banks and the rural credits system have been worked out and all that is lacking is faith in the capabilities of the lands to produce. The high cost of food-stuffs offer a splendid field for the inauguration of colonies which would grow every kind of vegetable indigenous to this latitude, besides small fruits, pigs, poultry and dairy products.

Are the newspapers telling the truth about money being easy and about this coast country being so well adapted to cultivation?

At any rate, there are many who have faith in the coast country and who hope the Farm Loan bank and

**Fireman, Notice!**

All firemen are requested to bring any and all badges to the next regular meeting of the Gresham Volunteer Fire Department, to be held in the Fire Hall, February 5, at 8 p. m., and give same to the secretary.

Any one not a fireman having any such badge or badges are asked to give same to the secretary, Harry Johnson, at the Gresham Shoe Shop, or send same to P. O. box 131, Gresham.

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER

City Treasurer J. H. Metzger has made his annual report to the common council, showing receipts and disbursements in the two city funds for the year 1916.

Following is the condition of the general fund:

RECEIPTS.	
Jan. 1, Cash on hand	\$1036.33
County treasurer	3552.44
Marshal, impounding and selling horse	4.00
Peddler's licenses	9.00
Dr. Emily Bolcom	30.00
Dog tags	15.00
Billiard license	5.00
County, for hall rent	5.00
Arrest of drunkards	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4706.97</b>
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Portland Ry. L. & P. Co.	\$ 744.50
Street improvement	422.47
Portland water board	750.00
Transferred to water funds	900.00
Marshal's salary	420.85
Recorder's salary	120.00
Treasurer's salary	69.00
Lumber	32.37
Labor	27.96
Printing	13.75
Interest on warrants	70.00
Election expenses	17.50
Lowering fountain	30.00
Electrical supplies	47.60
Drain tile	51.94
Material and labor, building cross walk	13.80
Hardware	7.61
Supplies for chemical engine	6.25
Wood	4.00
Hauling	3.45
Hall rent	5.00
Dog tags	2.75
Grading street	2.50
Charity	13.30
Miscellaneous supplies	12.50
Balance on hand	\$ 917.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3789.10</b>

Following is the condition of the water fund for the period named:

RECEIPTS.	
Water rents collected	\$3636.65
Portland Ry. L. & P. Co.	78.16
Installing meters	25.00
Multnomah county	24.85
Gresham general funds	900.00
Warren Construction Co.	23.75
Fair ground	11.05
Borrowed from general fund	47.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4757.15</b>
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Interest on water bonds	\$1500.00
Portland water board	1309.59
Crane Co., pipes and supplies	731.71
Marshal's salary	420.85
Neptune Meter Co.	200.00
Treasurer's salary	93.75
Interest on warrants	25.96
Hardware	11.42
Electrical work	16.50
Labor	68.08
Hauling	1.65
Paint	2.00
Paid general fund money borrowed	\$ 312.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4757.15</b>

### DOMESTIC ART TEACHER RECEIVES CERTIFICATE

Miss Esther Elford, teacher of domestic art in the Gresham graded school, received this week her certificate from State Superintendent of Schools Churchill, which assures the continuation of her work in the school. Miss Elford's work is highly satisfactory and her pupils and friends are well pleased at this happy adjustment of a misunderstanding. Mrs. E. A. Pomeroy, instructor in music and Miss Elsie Metzger, teacher in the grade school, received certificates following the examination.

**Umbrella Repairs.**  
Will be in Gresham until February 5, and am prepared to furnish umbrellas covers and do expert repairing. Telephone 545. J. J. RYAN.

**Stepping Orchestra Dance.**  
Given in Regner's opera house Saturday evening, January 27. Good music, good floor management. Gentlemen 75c. Ladies free.

rural credits law will supply the cash for development at a reasonable rate of interest with commissions, lawyers, operations for appendicitis and life insurance requirements eliminated.

## TWO-COLUMN NEWS STORIES OF GRESHAM AND VICINITY

### WINS LIFE PENSION FOR INJURY.

Attorney Milo C. King returned home from St. Helens on Wednesday after successfully winning a verdict for a client from the State Industrial and Accident Commission.

The case in question was that of O. Eneberg who was injured while working for the Standard Box & Lumber company in Yamhill county.

The accident occurred in March, 1915, when a heavy timber fell across his abdomen, crushing his stomach, liver and intestines out of place, thereby rendering him permanently disabled. He was brought to Portland where Dr. Sifton performed the operation of sewing the stomach to the diaphragm. Dr. Inglis of Gresham testified to the injured man's condition.

The plaintiff sued for permanent disability benefits but an attempt was made to show that his present condition was due to other causes than the accident. It was proved conclusively that he was totally and permanently disabled; also, that the disability was due to the accident and not to any disease or previous injury which the state's attorneys contended was the case and had refused a continuance of his compensation on that account.

Another line of defense on the part of the state was the possession of a receipt in full from the plaintiff for \$50, releasing the commission from all liabilities. It was given because of destitution. This receipt was introduced in evidence but the jury considered that it had been signed under distressed circumstances.

The case was tried before a jury at St. Helens and was a signal victory for Mr. King, the Gresham attorney. The verdict was for a cash compensation of \$750 and \$50 a month during disability, which will be for the rest of his life, and to his widow and dependent children after his death if they survive him.

This is said to be the third case against the State Accident Commission, and the only one in which the rights of the workman protected by the compensation law were contested and clearly determined. Attorneys for the state were J. A. Benjamin, assistant attorney general, and District Attorney Cooper of Columbia county.

### LAYING HENS MAY BE REGULATED.

A woman subscriber of the Outlook, having read the story about wiring chicken houses to induce the hens to lay more, thus unburdens herself on the subject because of, as she says, "a silly thought came to her mind."

"We noted with interest the piece on the editorial page last week, which told of the poultryman in California who is using electricity to increase the egg receipts.

We accepted the electric cars, lights, cook stoves, vacuum cleaners, etc., to say nothing at all of telephones and the telegraph, all as a matter of course; but when it comes to making the hens lay more, we have to pause in our swift flight through the twentieth century and wonder why we didn't think of that before.

"Considering the fact that a hen seems to have the least of that desirable commodity known as common sense, it seems as if they could be fooled still farther by turning the lights up at 11 p. m. and off at 4 a. m., thus making two working days in every twenty-four.

"We expect the enterprising poultrymen of this neighborhood will be wiring their henhouses soon, and the next legislature will have a chance to regulate by law the working hours of a hen."

### WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT INSTALL.

The Women of Woodcraft met last Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Minnie Clannahan for the regular installation of officers recently elected. Mrs. Clannahan was the installing officer. Those installed were past guardian neighbor, Mrs. Lizzie Jack; guardian neighbor, Mrs. Clannahan; adviser, Mrs. Ella Middleton; banker, Mrs. Amelia Mewhrter; clerk, Mrs. Eliza Metzger; musician, Mrs. Iola Bates; magician, Mrs. Carrie Powell; manager, J. H. Metzger. Several officers elected were not present and will be installed at a later date. They were manager, Mrs. Thillie Hillyard; physician, Dr. S. P. Bittner; inside sentinel, Mrs. Amelia Duncan; outside sentinel, Mrs. Emma Manning; attendant, Mrs. Rose Metzger. At the close of the business session the members were invited to the dining room, where a delicious luncheon, beautifully appointed, was served. The lodge colors of red, white and green were used in the decorations with pleasing effect. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Bates on the afternoon of February 27.

### CHICKEN THIEVES MAKE ESCAPE.

Chicken thieves have been in evidence again during the past week. It is estimated that more than 200 have been stolen lately, some of them as far east as Springdale, beyond the Sandy river.

The thieves are out at night in automobiles. It is pretty certain that at least three parties are in the business, all working together.

An attempt to rob the chicken house of David McKeown was made on Tuesday night, one mile west of Gresham. The intruders were almost caught but escaped before an officer could be found. On Wednesday night another party was detected in their operations near Brunner and were shot at twice by James Cogswell.

Constable Squire and City Marshal McKinney were notified but became separated and their men escaped in the darkness. An auto, ready for instant use was seen near the McGregor farm, but it also got away. A watch is being kept for the men and the machines which are under suspicion.

### BUILDING RAILROAD TO TIMBER.

Cameron & Taylor's lumbering enterprise at Bull Run has begun to expand in preparation to prosecute a ten years' business. The company's holdings of timber in the Cascades, adjoining the Bull Run reserve are among the best in western Oregon.

The mill began operations two weeks ago after being shut down for the holidays and work began last Monday on a four mile railroad on which will be operated a small locomotive for the purpose of bringing logs to the mill. The locomotive was taken to the camp in sections as it could not be transported through the mountains where it will be used in any other manner. About one mile of grading has been done.

Heretofore the company has been depending on four donkey engines to bring the logs from the mountains to the mill.

### SECOND NUMBER OF ARGUS OUT.

The January number of the Union High School Argus has just been issued. It is an improvement over the previous issue and is filled with almost everything interesting pertaining to the school. The stories and poems it contains are really gems of literature showing that there is an embryonic talent concealed in the busy brains of some of the students.

Especially commendable are short stories by Miss Leisla Ruby, Miss Olive Olsen, Ernest Quesinberry and poems by Miss Edith Jelden, Ellen Simonsen and Marguerite Tacheron.

The other features of the magazine are all exceptionally good.

### GRAND JURY INDICTS ITALIAN.

Michael Chiamenti, alias Mike DeBella, who persuaded Gladys Opal Davis, a school girl of Fairview, to elope with him to Los Angeles, was indicted by the Multnomah county grand jury on three counts, for kidnapping, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and criminal attack.

Chiamenti was apprehended in Los Angeles and returned to Portland by Sheriff Hurlbut. He was living with the girl in the southern city and she was brought back to Portland also.

### HEMORRHAGE TAKES JAPANESE.

A Japanese farmer named Y. Mori, living near Montavilla, about six miles west of Gresham near the Section Line road, died of a hemorrhage of the lungs on Tuesday last. He was seized with a severe coughing spell and died in about three minutes.

He was about 35 years of age and leaves a wife and child. He had been a tenant farmer on the Ruhl place for several years.

## COUNTY AUDITOR MAKES SEMI-ANNUAL STATEMENT

### Nearly Half Million Dollars Remaining in all County Funds

County Auditor Sam B. Martin is sending out his semi-annual report for the last half of 1916. It shows a general and consolidated summary of the condition of the several classes of funds of Multnomah county.

The general county fund receipts for the half year were \$543,680.52, the balance on hand January 1, being \$48,151.49.

The road fund made a showing of \$409,901.96 in the way of receipts, with a balance of \$2,410.16.

The port of Portland received the sum of \$137,029.38, all of which was disbursed or turned over to the treasurer of the port.

The sum of \$1,129,137.01 was turned over to the treasurer of the city of Portland as its share of the receipts during the six months' period.

In the state school fund there was \$302,276.97 collected, of which \$158,223.77 was disbursed, leaving a balance on hand of \$144,053.20.

Covering the state tax fund was the sum of \$506,022.62. Of that sum \$437,530.52 was paid to the state treasurer; \$31,250 to the Interstate bridge commission and \$37,242.10 was transferred to the general fund.

The county high school fund amounted to \$16,147.59, of which there remained a balance on hand of \$49.44.

Receipts in the school district fund reached the sum of \$871,472.43. It was all disbursed except the balance of \$1,955.28 remaining on hand.

The public library fund accumulations were \$68,083.02. Of that sum there remained on hand \$6,069.79.

In the trust fund there was \$29,645.43, of which but \$550.06 was paid out on warrants.

The public library fund has a balance on hand the sum of \$825.79, there having been no receipts or disbursements during the six months.

A balance of \$354,619.25 remained in the Interstate bridge fund on July 1, 1916. Of that amount there was expended \$137,587.47, leaving a balance of \$217,031.78.

The special road fund created by the bond issue is nearing exhaustion. The report showed \$193,563.58 on hand added to which was the sum of \$7,520.99 received from the roadmaster. Special road warrants totaled \$195,131.83. The balance on January 1 was \$5,952.65.

Transactions on the Riverside drive covered the sum of \$146.92 in receipts and disbursements.

In the fair fund, received from the tax levy was \$12,782.49. Of that amount the sum of \$5000 was paid to the fat stock show; \$1500 to the poultry show, and \$1000 to the county fair. The remainder of \$5,282.49 was still on hand as an unexpended balance.

The cities of St. Johns and Linnton turned in the sums of \$173.72 and \$122.17 respectively on delinquent taxes. These places are now a part of the city of Portland.

Receipts for the city of Gresham during the half year were \$1,509.15. Of that amount \$931.82 had been turned over to the city treasurer, leaving a balance of \$577.33.

Fairview's receipts were \$396.96, of which there was \$30.06 yet on hand.

Troutdale had a credit of \$394.51 of which all but \$14.92 had been turned over.

In the registry indemnity fund the balance and receipts of \$1,935.71 remained stationary.

The fish and game fund holds \$27.59, and the judgment fund, \$38.00.

The condition of all the above-named funds shows the amounts of \$463,509.96.

The report shows a healthy condition of county finances, with available funds for every division sufficient probably to carry on business until this year's taxes shall begin to come in.

### A Cheap Piano.

To those contemplating the purchase of a piano, and who want to get a high-grade instrument at the price of a cheap one, and on easy terms—now is the time, as I have already sold one and have only one new one left.—Adv.

R. R. CARLSON.

The Grand Trunk Pacific dry dock, at Prince Rupert, cost \$2,500,000.

**Stockholders, Attention!**

Postal card notices have been sent to every stockholder of the local telephone company asking them to attend the adjourned meeting to be held next Monday afternoon. Those who cannot attend are requested to send their proxies so that there may be a majority represented. Two directors are to be elected and some important matters considered.

### GOLDEN CHIMES AND "DAD" LECTURE

Many good things have come to Gresham in the way of entertainments during the years past but few if any have been more pleasing and lasting in wholesome effect than the Golden Chimes by P. Waldo Davis and humorous lecture, "Dad," by Gordon J. Taylor, given here last Wednesday night in the Methodist church.

When Professor Davis opened the program with several selections on his triple-toned golden chimes, accompanied by Mrs. Gertrude Milhowski, he captivated the large audience and it was wondered if the lecturer could get an interested hearing. But Mr. Taylor, from the first, true to the traditions of his race, won by his homely humor, flashes of wit, and soul-stirring pathos, interesting, amusing, instructing, both to old and young for a full hour which seemed much too short.

After listening to Mr. Taylor's characterization of "Dad," that humble, familiar, important, often maligned personage, stood out in a clearer light as the one best friend of the family and state, although the exalted position of mother was raised still higher.

It would be a good lecture for all spinsters and bachelors to hear, but the effect would probably be either saddening or maddening, which in either case might lead to beneficent results.

Mr. Taylor has done as great a work in his lecture on such an unpromising subject as "Dad" as the artist did with his painting of the old woodshed. The artist became rich and famous. Taylor makes us all richer by exalting the commonplace.

The program closed as it had opened with several fine selections on the golden chimes, and the audience was well pleased. Professor Davis is an expert and enthralls his audience by both the skill of his playing and the memory awakening, soul-stirring character of his selections.

The Epworth League was well pleased with the financial results of the entertainment.

### WAR TO BE WAGED ON THE PESTIFEROUS MOLE

Final arrangements for a series of meetings to be held in the county by County Agricultural Agent Hall and Theodore H. Scheffer, of the United States Biological Survey, on the methods of trapping moles and the preparation of their skins for market are now being arranged and from the interest that is being shown by many communities poor old Mr. Mole is in for a bad spring.

Already about ten different communities have been heard from by Mr. Hall and the need for a systematic campaign for the destruction of this field, meadow and garden pest becomes more apparent each day.

As far as possible the meetings will be held in the schoolhouses of the county so that the boys may be interested in the trapping of the moles. Mr. Scheffer will outline the habits of the mole, the amount of damage he does, and the means of disposing of the skins which can be sold for from 10 to 25 cents. He will give demonstrations on the setting of traps and also will show how the mole may best be skinned.

About a dozen meetings will be held during the week of February 5 to 10. As yet the time and the place of the different meetings has not been decided upon but they will be announced within the next few days.

### Tailoring

For men and women—cleaning, pressing and repairing done well. Peter Lenard, Powell street.

It costs little to brighten up your furniture and wood work with a coat of chinamel. The varnish that doesn't break or spot at L. L. Kidder Hardware Co.