

# OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

## CANNOT COLLECT POLLTAX.

### Attorney General Passes on Validity of Procedure.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has filed his opinion in the validity of the polltax collection with District Attorney John H. McNary, upon a request from the latter. House bill 325, which passed the last legislature, repealed sections 3041 and 3142 of Bellinger & Cotton code, which abolishes the \$1 polltax law of 1854 and amended in 1870 to exempt firemen from the polltax roll. The act of 1885 and subsequent amendatory acts providing for the state revenues cover the entire ground of the section enacted in 1854, providing that state revenues shall be 5 mills on the dollar of all taxable property and in addition to the \$1 polltax.

The attorney general holds that after the repealing act goes into effect on May 25 the polltax cannot be legally collected; that the assessment would not have the validity of a judgment until it is entered on the roll. As the roll would not be made up before the act takes effect, the assessor would have no further authority to collect the tax or make up the roll, and that there is no authority in future for sheriffs to collect the tax.

### Plan to Finance Normal.

Salem—The maintenance of the Monmouth State Normal school has reverted to the shoulders of the board of regents. Under the provision made by them at a meeting here, a regular statement of the contingent expenses, as well as the payrolls, will be filed with the secretary of state, as heretofore, and several banks have agreed to advance the money on them, requiring an assignment of the payrolls over to them. The members of the board will individually stand responsible for the payment of the hypothecated securities. This was practically the only course they could follow, as there are no funds available by the state, and Governor Chamberlain could not take any steps towards securing assistance, even if he were so disposed.

### No Encampment This Year.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has been officially notified by the War department of the abandonment of the regular army annual encampments, on account of so many of the men being in Cuba, and the large number that will be required to go to the Jamestown exposition. The department, however, calls attention to the fact that during one week to ten days in July, camps of instruction for coast artillery will be held, and the members of the Oregon National Guard are invited to participate. Assistant Secretary of War Oliver asks that preparations be made, together with a list of men who intend to attend, and forwarded to the department.

### Board of Sheep Inspectors.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has named the new state board of sheep commissioners. The new officials are: First district—William H. Steusloff, Salem, term of two years; district embraces Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Lane, Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine and Jackson counties. Second district—Thomas Boylan, Antelope, term one year; district comprises Wasco, Crook, Lake and Klamath counties. Third district—Dan P. Smythe, Pendleton, term three years; district comprises Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Grant, Wallowa, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties.

### Grain-Bags at Nine Cents.

Pendleton—An order for the purchase of 500,000 sacks was made by the executive committee of the Graingrowers' association in this city. The name of the firm of importers or manufacturers and the price paid has not been given out, but it is thought that the sacks are made in Portland and they will not be more than 9 cents apiece delivered in this city. The contracts for 120,000 of these sacks have been signed by Morrow county growers, who asked for and were given permission to come in with the Umatilla county farmers.

### Howe Succeeds Williams.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has appointed ex-State Senator W. A. Howe, of Carlton, a member of the state board of agriculture to succeed Jasper Williams, of Albany, deceased, and President W. H. Downing, of Shaw, to succeed himself. He also re-appointed Drs. A. C. Smith, of Portland, Alfred C. Kinney, of Astoria, and C. J. Smith, of Pendleton, on the board of medical examiners. Their terms had expired.

### Commission Approves Rate.

Salem—The Oregon Railroad commission has given its approval to the existing rate of \$1.25 per thousand on lumber in carload lots from Astoria to Seaside on the Astoria & Columbia River railroad.

## GATHERING DATA ON CARS.

### Commissioner Campbell to Ask Shippers for Many Details.

Salem—One of the important undertakings of the Oregon Railroad commission is the collection of accurate information regarding the shipment of produce in carload lots. Commissioner Campbell is now arranging with the lumber companies to have them report to the commission every application for car, the number and kind, the date of application, and the date the cars were furnished; the date loaded, started from the shipping point and the destination. The commission will also arrange to learn when the cars reach the consignees and when they are unloaded. Information will be gathered also concerning shipments of other products than lumber. The purpose is to place in the hands of the commission figures which will enable it to act intelligently upon controversies that are likely to arise in the future. The reports will show to what extent the car shortage is due to scarcity of equipment, delay in loading, delay in shipping and delay in unloading.

### Crop Outlook Good.

Milton—Farmers in this section of Umatilla county are very optimistic over the prospect of a bumper wheat and barley crop this coming season. The fall was an ideal one in regard to rainfall, there being plenty of moisture in the ground before the setting in of winter weather. The snowfall in the mountain districts this year has been unusually heavy, thus conserving the water supply for the summer months. With the supply already produced by the thawing out on the lowlands or light soil districts, it leaves little question as to the adequate supply of moisture.

### Crop Outlook in Harney.

Burns—The winter in Harney county is over and the snow in the valley has gone off with a warm rain. There is plenty of snow in the mountains to keep the high water over the swamp land and make good crops of hay. Stockmen have turned their herds out on the range, which is better than has ever been known for this time in the year. Farmers are preparing their ground for spring crops and everything points to a successful year to the farmers of Harney county.

### More Trout for Oregon.

Oregon City—Two hundred thousand Eastern brook trout have been received at the Clackamas United States bureau of fisheries station for distribution in Oregon, and 100,000 rainbow trout have been received from California. Superintendent O'Malley has started a substation at Eagle Creek for steelhead work.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71@72c; bluestem, 73@74c; valley, 70c; red, 69@70c. Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.50. Barley—Feed, \$22@22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50. Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt. Corn—Whole, \$24.50; cracked, \$22.50 per ton. Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@35c per pound. Butter Fat—First grade cream, 33½c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound. Poultry—Average old hens, 15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14c; spring, fryers and broilers, 20@22½c; old roosters, 10@12c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 13@15c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18½@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, 16@18c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½@18c per dozen. Apples—Common, 75c@1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.50. Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7@8c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$3.25@3.50 per crate; sprouts, 9c; radishes, 30c per dozen; asparagus, 10@12½c per pound; rhubarb, \$2.25@2.50 per box. Onions—Oregon, 75@90c per hundred. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.35; No. 1 choice, \$1@1.25; common, 75c@81c. Veal—Dressed, 5½@9c per pound. Beef—Dressed bulls, 3@3½c per pound; cows, 5@6c; country steers, 6@7c. Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 10@10½c; ordinary, 8@9c per pound. Pork—Dressed, 6@9c per pound. Hops—9@12c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 27@30c per pound.

## THIRD TERM TALK.

### Movement Refuses to Down and the President May Accept.

Washington, March 11.—Politicians in Washington are trying to figure out the meaning of the sudden outburst of the Roosevelt third term boom here. They regard as especially significant the typewritten memorandum given out by Representative Martin, of South Dakota, after a conference with the president, vigorously defending the third term idea.

They have reached the conclusion that the president realizes that the third term movement must be allowed to run right on in order to head off the progress of the booms of reactionary candidates. The prevailing opinion here remains that President Roosevelt personally will go as far as he can to prevent his own re-nomination, but will stop at nothing to assure the nomination of a successor in accord with his policies.

Rather than see them succumb, many believe that the president himself, if properly approached, would take a re-nomination, providing no other candidate satisfactory to himself and friends is strong enough to unite the next Republican national convention.

### DISARMING IS EXCLUDED.

#### Russia Will Not Allow Discussion at The Hague Conference.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—Professor de Martens, Russian imperial councillor of state, who has been making a tour of the capitals of Europe for the purpose of determining the program to be discussed at the next peace conference at The Hague, is expected back in St. Petersburg this week.

The introduction of any measures for the limitation of armaments is regarded here as definitely excluded, because of the attitude of several of the powers.

United States Ambassador Riddle has inquired at the Foreign office here regarding the mode of admission to the next conference of certain South American and other states which did not participate in the first conference. He was informed that practically all the signatories had agreed to the method proposed by Russia, namely, notification of acceptance of the regulations, the signing of the protocol of the first conference and the number of delegates.

### ALL PRISONERS GOING NAKED.

#### Refuse to Wear Clothes Because Infected With Leprosy.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—Four hundred political prisoners at Smolensk have gone on a very original strike. A week ago they refused to put on any clothes and since then they have walked around stark naked.

The reason is that the prison authorities took away their own clothes and gave them clothes made from the poorest grade of burlap unfit for making bags. After they had worn these clothes a few days nearly all were suffering with a rash covering their whole bodies, but still the prisoners did not mutter. When a number of them had been infected with leprosy, one morning all of the clothes, blankets and sheets were thrown out of the prisoners' cells and they declared unanimously that they would go naked rather than run the risk of contracting diseases from wearing the prison garb.

### PLAN TO FORTIFY PHILIPPINES.

#### President Considers it and Will Push Construction Rapidly.

Washington, March 11.—Fortifications of the Philippine islands formed the subject of a lengthy conference at the White House tonight, participated in by the president, Major General Franklin Bell, chief of staff; Brigadier General Murray, chief of coast artillery; Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, and Captain Mason Sargent, of the naval general board. There is available at the present time for this purpose \$1,435,000 and tentative plans already have been prepared for carrying out the project. These were carefully gone over today by Secretary Taft and Generals Bell and Murray and it was the secretary's intention to be at the White House tonight and join in the conference, but he was unavoidably kept away.

### Will Bridge Gap of Time.

Washington, March 11.—As a result of consultations between Secretary Root and Director North, head of the American Tariff Expert commission, which visited Germany relative to the making of some tariff arrangements before the expiration of the German order suspending for a year the application of the German maximum tariff rates to American exports a new arrangement will have been made which will bridge over the period of time between that date and the reassembling of the next congress.

### Those 600 Not Avened.

Danville, Ill., March 11.—In the trial here of Will J. Davis, charged with manslaughter, owing to the Iroquois theater fire at Chicago, in which nearly 600 lives were lost in 1903, Judge Kimbrough today held that part of the Chicago ordinance on which Davis was indicted is void.

# NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

## DECLINE TO MEET PINCHOT.

### Fulton and Heyburn Unwilling to Support Charges.

Washington, March 13.—In a report made to the house, Representative Littlefield, of Maine, chairman of the committee on expenditures in the department of Agriculture, defends the Forestry bureau of that department.

The recent attacks made upon Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, by Senators Fulton, of Oregon, and Heyburn, of Idaho, on the floor of the senate are held to be disproved by Mr. Littlefield after an examination of Mr. Pinchot under oath. Senator Fulton charged that the Forestry bureau was the "worst organized department of the government," and blamed it for the land frauds in the Far West. Upon examination, Mr. Littlefield found only one flaw in the entire organization of the bureau, which was only minor in character, and immediately remedied on his suggestion. He showed that the land frauds of which Senator Fulton complained were all perpetrated before the bureau of Forestry was established and when that branch of the government was under the control of the Interior department.

Senator Fulton declined an invitation to appear before Mr. Littlefield's committee and cross examine Mr. Pinchot, as did Mr. Heyburn, who charged that at a meeting of the advocates of forestry at Boise, Idaho, last summer he had been howled down and openly insulted by employees of Mr. Pinchot's bureau. Mr. Littlefield himself was present at this meeting, and stated that there were not to exceed twenty foresters in an audience of 1,500 at that meeting, and Senator Heyburn had never mentioned the matter to him.

## LAND ORDER IS RECALLED.

### President Finds Holding Up of Titles Hardship on Settlers.

Washington, March 14.—President Roosevelt today sent the following letter to the secretary of the interior cancelling his order of February 12, relating to the issuance of evidence of title under the public land laws:

"My order of February 12, 1907, relating to the issue of evidence of title under the public land laws is hereby cancelled for the reason that congress did not appropriate an amount sufficient to enable the commissioner of the general land office properly to carry out the purposes of that order, which were to have such examinations made of all applications for patent as would facilitate the issuance of title to bona fide settlers and homesteaders; would reduce illegal entries to a minimum and bring the work of the land office up to date. With the amount actually appropriated it is not possible to carry out the order or to provide with certainty for the detection of fraud without causing unreasonable hardship to bona fide settlers and homesteaders.

"In order to accomplish as much as can be accomplished with our present means in preventing illegal acquisition of public lands, the commissioner of the general land office will detail all his available field and office force in such manner, by concentration or otherwise, as will as effectively as possible with the actual appropriation restrict fraud, enforce the existing laws and promote the bona fide settlement of public lands by homesteaders."

### Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, March 9.—Washington rural routes ordered established May 16: Hatline, Douglas county, route 1, population 340, families 85; Walla Walla, Walla Walla county, route 6, population not given, families 120. Maurice W. Staples has been appointed regular, John S. Gates substitute, rural carrier, route 1, at Endicott, Wash.

Oregon postmasters appointed: Corbet, Newell P. Gleason, vice W. H. Reed, removed; Leland, Percy G. Mims, vice H. C. Ball, resigned; Mapleton, Ernest A. Tabor, vice F. C. Bean, resigned; Wren, George W. Hovey, vice Richard Wilde, resigned.

### Ammunition Not Guarded.

Washington, March 14.—That ammunition used in infantry rifles is not guarded as closely as has been claimed by discharged negro soldiers, and that it is possible for soldiers to obtain extra ammunition was brought out in the Brownsville inquiry today. This testimony was given by Captain D. W. Kilburn, of the Twenty-sixth infantry, which regiment preceded the negro soldiers at Fort Brown. The same witness declared that citizens of Brownsville made threats that they would run negro troops out of town.

### Forest Rangers for Idaho.

Washington, March 9.—The following forest rangers have been appointed in Idaho: W. A. Wickersham, J. W. Hill, H. A. Beigh, C. T. Gray, J. L. Wooden, C. K. Hoyt, of Boise; G. W. Hudnutt, Badger; C. H. Huff, Priest River; H. O. Rose, Weston; J. D. McCall, Lardo; G. F. Johnson, Meacham; D. H. Kerby, C. E. Herrich, Alphi; W. M. Carrbell, Weiser.

## PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS IN JULY

### Taft Will Attend Opening of First Assembly in September.

Washington, March 15.—Secretary Taft's proposed visit to the Philippines in September to attend the opening of the first Philippine assembly has directed attention toward the new legislative body to be created for the islanders. The assembly will consist of 61 members apportioned upon the basis of one delegate for each 9,000 persons, and provision is made to increase the number to a total of 100. It will in a general way correspond to the American house of representatives, while the Philippine commission will correspond to the United States senate, and the acts of the assembly must secure the approval of the commission before they become laws.

Elections are to be held on July 30. Secretary Taft will start for the islands in August, and the first assembly will convene in September. Subsequent elections for the assembly are to be held upon the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd numbered years, the delegates to hold office for two years.

The election law of the Philippine islands requires that voters must be males 23 years old, citizens of the Philippines. The Australian ballot system is to be used, and heavy penalties are prescribed for corrupt practices.

## WITHDRAWN FROM FOREST.

### Large Area in Pend d'Oreille Mountains Open to Settlers.

Washington, March 16.—The Forest service has received notice that 372,000 acres of land in Stevens county, Wash., have been released from temporary withdrawal. This land lies between the Pend d'Oreille river on the east and the Colville and Columbia rivers on the west. It is principally unsurveyed and mountainous. The area was originally withdrawn pending examination to determine suitability for addition to the Priest River national forest.

Its release was recommended by the forester because of numerous protests by settlers against its reservation and because protection of the watersheds was not necessary in order to conserve any streams used for irrigation purposes. Reports of examiners show that it is chiefly a brush land area much burned over, though a small proportion is timbered.

The released land will be subject to settlement for 90 days before becoming subject to entry.

### Will Transfer Inspectors.

Washington, March 12.—Secretary Straus, of the department of Commerce and Labor, is greatly dissatisfied with the present methods of steamboat inspection, and today announced that marked reform is to be immediately inaugurated with a view to increased efficiency of service and reducing the chances of disaster. He has directed a change in the station of all inspectors of hulls and boilers throughout the United States and will ask congress next winter to authorize him to keep inspectors continually on the move.

### Gets Deserved Promotion.

Washington, March 12.—No government official ever earned promotion more than F. H. Newell, who was today made director of the reclamation service, succeeding O. D. Walcott. Mr. Newell entered the government service in 1888, first undertaking general irrigation surveys and later taking charge of the hydrographic bureau, when it was formed. For 18 years he has devoted his entire time to studying the resources and irrigation possibilities of the arid West, and he is now better informed on this subject than any other living man.

### Reopen Much Coal Land.

Washington, March 13.—President Roosevelt will sign an order restoring to the public domain practically 30,000,000 acres of land recently withdrawn as coal land. The land was part of a withdrawal aggregating 64,000,000 acres. Since the withdrawal experts of the Geological survey have been engaged in ascertaining the coal bearing value of the withdrawn land and, while the land to be restored to entry is still classified as coal land, it is understood its value as such does not warrant exclusion from public entry.

### New Bids for Life Saving Tug.

Washington, March 12.—Bids will again be opened April 4 for the construction of a life saving tug for the station at the entrance of the straits of Fuca. The department hopes to get bids from the Pacific coast. In previous competitions Pusey & Jones, of Wilmington, were the lowest bidders, at \$189,000, but their bid exceeded the appropriation. Congress has since increased this, and now \$203,000 is available.