

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager

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Saturday only, by mail, per year, .20
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SWORN CIRCULATION.
Daily Average for eleven months ending November 30, 1911, 2751.

Full Leased Wire United Press Dispatches.
The Mail Tribune is on sale at the Perry News Stand, San Francisco, Portland Hotel News Stand, Portland, Bowman News Co., Portland, Ore., W. O. Whitney, Seattle, Wash.

MEDFORD, OREGON.
Metropolis of Southern Oregon and Northern California, and the fastest-growing city in Oregon.
Population: U. S. census 1910—8940; estimated, 1911—10,000.
Five hundred thousand dollar Gravity Water System completed, giving finest supply pure mountain water, and 17.5 miles of streets paved.
Postoffice receipts for year ending November 20, 1911, show increase of 19 per cent.
Banner fruit city in Oregon—Rogue River Spitzbergen apples won sweepstakes prize and title of "Apple King of the World" at the National Apple Show, Spokane, 1909, and a car of Newtowns won first prize in 1910 at Canadian International Apple Show, Vancouver, B. C.
First Prize in 1911 at Spokane National Apple Show won by Earlwood of Newtowns.
Rogue River peas brought highest prices in all markets of the world during the past six years.
Write Commercial Club, including 6 cents for postage for the finest community pamphlet ever published.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Forest Service.

To the Editor: In last night's Mail Tribune appear a leading article on "Jaek Gribble's Case" which draws an entirely erroneous opinion of the methods use by the forest service in order to establish the validity or invalidity of homestead claims.

At the outset it is necessary to state that Mr. Gribble's action in entering Dr. Emerson's cabin by the use of a personal key is regretted and doubtless due to over-zealousness in the performance of duty. In this instance he has exceeded the limitations of his instructions and in his commendable desire to do justice both to the claimant and the government, it should be remembered however, by anyone considering Mr. Gribble's conduct, that a fair and just report on a homestead claim must bring out all the facts concerning residence on the land. Since the claimant in above case did not reside all the time on his claim, an inspection of the cabin would necessarily bring out facts having important bearing on the good faith of the claimant, either tending to show his good faith or to show his lack of compliance with the law.

After going through the records in the case it is clear that Mr. Gribble's motive must be considered one of fairness and justice to all parties concerned.

Many of the homestead claimants are poor men and the loss of a claim is a serious matter to them. For this reason, if no other, the examination and reporting upon claims should have the very best attention. No effort should be spared to secure all the material facts which in any way go to determine the validity or invalidity of the claim involved.

Under the present regulations the commissioner of the general land office will not approve for patent any claim within a national forest until a report has been received from the district forester. This makes it incumbent upon us to make a thorough examination and report the facts in each case. Forest officers have been repeatedly instructed to secure all facts both favorable and unfavorable. It would be manifestly unfair to the claimant to confine ourselves to securing evidence only as to facts unfavorable to him. Care should be taken to report all facts whether favorable or unfavorable.

Have touched upon the above points, since there seem to have been placed upon us the burden of convincing the public that all claimants in the national forests will receive a square deal from the forest service. I feel certain that a careful consideration of the methods used must lead any unprejudiced person to the conviction that the forest service most assuredly cannot be charged with "harassing the homesteader," but so far as consistent with the law and the facts of the case, treats each claimant impartially. In any event, since the forest service is charged with the investigation of all claims on national forest land, it has no course but to report to the land office all obtainable facts whether favorable or unfavorable to the claimant.

Very truly yours,
SAM'L S. SWENNING,
Deputy Supervisor.

MEDFORD LEADS THE STATE.

STATISTICS furnished by Secretary of State Oleott show that there were 6417 licenses for automobiles issued this year in Oregon. Of these half were issued for Portland alone, the number of licenses for the metropolis totalling 3208.

Medford, with 243, ranks third in the list of cities, Salem with 277 exceeding her. Eugene with 150 is fourth and Hood River fifth with 117. Some Medford owners have evidently not complied with law, for there are more than 243 cars in the city.

However taking the secretary's figures in the number of automobiles compared to population, Medford leads the state, having one automobile to every 36 inhabitants, as against one to every 64 in Portland, one to every 50 in Salem and one to every 60 in Eugene.

Taking the 1910 census figures for cities exceeding 2500 population, and the 1911 auto license record, we have the following comparison:

City.	Population.	Licenses.	Inhabitants per auto.
Albany	4275	97	44
Astoria	9599	65	146
Ashland	5020	79	63
Baker	6742	89	76
Corvallis	4552	54	84
Eugene	9009	150	60
Grants Pass	3897	83	46
Medford	8840	243	36
Marshfield	2980	32	93
Klamath Falls	2758	54	51
La Grande	4843	59	82
The Dalles	4480	74	60
Oregon City	4287	36	119
Portland	207,214	3208	64
Pendleton	4460	64	69
Roseburg	4738	57	83
Salem	14,094	277	50
St. Johns	4872	40	122

Jackson county is as much in the lead of counties on the auto record as Medford is of the cities. The record shows a total of 381 licenses issued for the county, those in addition to Medford and Ashland being: Central Point 21, Eagle Point 2, Jacksonville 13, Gold Hill 5, Woodville 3, Wellen 2, Phoenix 4 and Talent 9.

A DESERVED RECOGNITION.

SENATOR George E. Chamberlain has introduced the following bill in congress, which has been referred to the committee on Indian affairs:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled

"That the president be, and is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the senate, to appoint William Sooy-Smith, late a brigadier general of United States Volunteers, to be a brigadier general on the retired list, United States army, as of date of the approval of this act."

This is a deserved recognition of one of the most distinguished survivors of the civil war, who after a long and useful life, is spending his declining years upon a Medford orchard.

General Sooy-Smith, though well along in the eighties, is remarkably vigorous and well preserved. Graduating from West Point in the early '50s, after a brief service, he resigned to enter civil life. At the outbreak of the civil war he was appointed a colonel of volunteers and afterwards promoted to brigadier general, serving with distinction throughout the war. As General Grant's chief of staff and commander of cavalry he won fame and for his numerous exploits received the thanks of congress and was presented with a sword.

Though offered a commission in the army at the close of the war, General Sooy-Smith reentered civil life and ranked as one of the nation's greatest civil engineers.

It is but right that his brilliant services should be recognized by his country in a fitting manner.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

- B. F. Benson to Jesse Lee Helms lot 19, Woodlawn add. Medford 10
- C. W. Palm to Woods Lumber Co., lot 7, block 3, Palm second add. Medford 10
- R. O. Burgess to Frank O. Burgess, property in Riverside subdivision West's add. Medford 10
- W. A. Jones, sheriff, to Woods Lumber Co., land in section 36, town 37, 1 west. 1152
- W. I. Vawter to J. F. Mundy, land in town 37, 1 east. 1
- Lester W. David to J. F. Mundy, 1640 acres in Jackson county. 10
- J. Arnold Scudder to Gordon Voorhies, land in town 38, 1 west 10
- Gordon Voorhies to J. Arnold Scudder, et al, one acre in town 38, 1 west 10
- P. H. Robinson to Edythe Bowland Wilson, mining property 1000
- T. W. Daily to R. H. Toft, lot 7, block 3, Central subdivision Cottage add. Medford 10
- J. A. Lyon to Sarah Burdett, lot 24, block 1, "Whitman Park" 500
- Sarah Burdett to Wm. Earhart, lot 24, block 1, Whitman Park 600
- Jackson Agee to D. D. Good, lots 1 and 2, block 49, Summit add., Ashland 100
- Geo. N. Lewis to J. H. Wilson, property in McCully add., Jacksonville 400
- Frank Oscar Stinson to T. W.

Daily, lot 7, block 3, Central subdivision Cottage add. Medford 10
Phebe M. Dekum to Charles Kell, lots 9 and 10, block 20, Dekum's amended add. Gold Hill 1
Charles Kell to A. J. T. Smith, lots 9 and 10, block 20, Dekum's amended add. Gold Hill 10
G. H. Hedberg to Lavinia S. Carpenter, lots 3 and 4, block O, R. R. add. Ashland 10
J. W. Abbott to Robert Payne, 8.5 acres in town 39, 1 east. 10
Bentra P. Smith to O. F. Carson, et al, land in town 39, 1 east 10
Frank Benedict to J. A. Cotcher, 2 acres in town 38, 4 west 250
J. E. Warren to Rankin Estes, lots 3 and 4, block 3, Palm's add. Medford 10
Rankin Estes to M. J. Estes, property in Palm's add. Medford 10
Phebe M. Dekum to P. H. Myers, lots 5 and 6, block 19, Dekum's amended add., Gold Hill 1

Taft Not to Withdraw.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11.—Reports that President Taft is to withdraw from the presidential contest were today pronounced a malicious fake at the White House. An anti-Taft leader said: "We thought three days ago that Taft would withdraw. But we don't now. Everybody on the inside believes that Taft intends to fight to the last ditch. He wants a re-nomination more than he ever wanted anything in his life and is lining up every bit of power he has to get it."

SILENT SINNER AT THE JUDGMENT

Dr. Palmer Preached a Rousing Sermon at the First Baptist Church Last Evening—Much Good Was Accomplished.

Evangelist Palmer preached a rousing sermon last night at the Baptist revival on "The Silent Sinner at the Judgment," Jer. 13:21. "What wilt thou say when He shall punish thee?" The speaker said in part:

"Sinner what will you say when you stand at last before God to be judged? Will you say 'Oh Lord, I did not believe in this doctrine of hell fire.' You remind me of a woman who went to an artist to get her husband's picture painted in oil. The artist agreed to do the work, but the woman stood around and made suggestions. When the picture was finished the artist sent it to the lady's home. It was placed in the parlor. One day a number of friends came in and were admiring the picture. One of them discovered that the artist's name was not on it. The lady who had the picture made went to the artist and demanded why he left his name off the picture. The painter replied, 'I left my name off on purpose; it is not my picture but yours, and now if you wish to put anybody's name there, put your own. I wouldn't have mine on it for \$1,000.' Hear me, sinner, when you paint a picture of the future world, and leave hell out, I dare you to put to that picture the name of the living God, who lifted the Alpine mountains into communication with the stars; or the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, who said, 'The wicked shall be cast into hell, with all the nations that forget God.'

"Again, when God shall punish thee, will you say, 'I would have been a Christian, but I just couldn't believe that old Bible. I was an infidel.' You remind me of the old blacksmith infidel in Ohio. He had a big book of clippings on infidelity in his shop. Again and again his conscience would trouble him. When he was sick or would see a funeral procession pass, the old fellow trembling in his knees would take down that book and pour over its pages to bolster up his weakening backbone. I tell you sinner, that the bottom always drops out of the old infidel boat when it gets into deeper water. 'Again, when God punishes you, will you say, 'I would have been a Christian, but I was doing church work, and I thought that was enough.' Yes, there are people who are willing to give a little of their money and a little of their time to the church. They are willing to do anything in the world but give their hearts to Jesus Christ and become true Christians. There are plenty of people who are great successes in getting up church fairs, festivals and bazaars, who are as dead as door nails when it comes to spiritual work. Just imagine, if you will, the Angel of the Gospel, flying through the heavens with an ice cream freezer in one hand, and a lemon squeezer in the other.

"Let us have church entertainments, plenty of them, but let them be free, with the supreme object in view of saving souls. 'But, again, when God punishes you, will you say, 'Oh Lord, I would have been a Christian, but I just couldn't decide what church to join.' Yes, you run around from church to church and never settle on anything. I meet a lot of these religious tramps in every community. They remind me of a story my friend Dr. Bulger tells of an old farmer in Arkansas. He lost his voice so that he couldn't call his hogs. He got them to come to a new call. He would rap with his knife on the board fence, and the hogs would prink up their ears and come running. One day a woodpecker came that way. He began to peck on the tree. The hogs listened, then came running to the tree. The frightened woodpecker flew to another tree a quarter of a mile away and began to peck again. The woodpecker flew from tree to tree, until they became regular razor-backs. Hear me, my friends, the people that run around from church to church, then to Christian Science, then to theosophy, then to spiritualism, are of no real value to the world—they are regular razor-backs."

Before the sermon Rev. A. A. Holmes baptized thirteen happy converts. Many persons came forward to confess Christ at the close of the sermon. The church was crowded. Dr. Palmer will preach tonight on "Why Tarried Thou?"

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Houses to rent in different parts of the city.

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10 acres near Central Point.
412 acres near Roseburg, will take part in trade.
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The J. T. Broadley flower store is now in the M. F. & H. store, across the street from former location.
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