

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY BY THE MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

The Democratic Times, The Medford Mail, The Medford Tribune, The South City Oregonian, The Ashland Tribune, Office Mail Tribune Building, 27-29 North Fir street, phone, Main 3021.

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Entered as second-class matter at Medford, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Official Paper of the City of Medford, Official Paper of Jackson County.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year, by mail, \$5.00; One month, by mail, .50; Per month, delivered by carrier in Medford, Jacksonville and Central Point, .50; Saturday mail by mail per year, \$2.00; Weekly, per year, 1.50.

SWORN CIRCULATION: Daily average for eleven months ending November 30, 1911, 2751.

The Mail Tribune is on sale at the Perry News Stand, San Francisco; Portland Hotel News Stand, Portland; Portland News Co., Portland, Ore.; W. O. Whitney, Seattle, Wash.

Full Leased Wire United Press Dispatches.

MEDFORD, OREGON.

Metropolis of Southern Oregon and Northern California, and the fastest-growing city in Oregon. Population—U. S. census 1910—5840; estimated, 1912—12,000.

Five hundred thousand dollar Gravity Water System completed, giving finest quality pure water, and 17.5 miles of streets paved.

Postoffice receipts for year ending November 30, 1911, show increase of 25 per cent.

Banner fruit city in Oregon—Rogue River Splendid 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.

First Prize in 1910 at Canadian International Apple Show, Vancouver, B. C.

First Prize in 1911 at Spokane World Apple Show won by carload of Newtowns. Rogue River pears brought highest prices in all markets of the world during the past six years.

VON DER HELLEN HAS COMPREHENSIVE GOOD ROAD PLAN

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 24.—A comprehensive plan of highway improvement, embracing the feature of state aid to groups of counties that wish to take advantage of the act is provided in a bill introduced in the senate by Von der Hellen of Jackson county, chairman of the committee on roads and highways, on request of the Oregon Road association.

Senator Von der Hellen regards this bill as having great merit, but is not committing himself to any particular bill. He says he expects that his committee will have to gather in all the road bills as they are introduced, consider them together, and try to produce some homogeneous bill from the ones that are offered.

The bill presented by the Hotel Men's association, which was drafted by W. C. Bristol, is the first general road bill making its appearance. It fixes low salaries for a highway commissioner and assistants as a concession to the outside counties, which have not been favorable to salaries such as some of the leading road advocates say it is necessary to pay.

The bill defines a state highway as one connecting the larger centers of population, used more or less by the people of the entire state and by travel from other states. Any group of two or more contiguous counties, through their county courts, may write in asking for the establishment of a state highway.

The highway commissioner must pass on the roads designated, reporting to the governor and state engineer, who must act on his approval. The highway commissioner is to prepare the plans for improvement and estimate of cost.

The counties are to pay not less than 10 nor more than 20 per cent of cost, the amount to each county to be proportioned on an estimate of traffic. The money is to be raised by a special tax levy in each county joining in the improvement.

The highway commissioner is to be appointed by the governor and must be skilled in road building. His term is fixed at two years and salary at \$3600, with assistants at \$1500 per month. The commissioner is to have no authority to lay out or change the route of any state highway unless by approval of the county court.

Since its organization in 1910, Kansas City's Welfare board has provided free legal aid to 11,168 poor applicants.

THREE IMPORTANT MEASURES.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN H. GARKIN of this city, has three important measures now pending before the legislature which are of much interest to this section, and which were drawn to meet recent developments and conditions here.

The first, House Bill No. 143, is to regulate commission men. The bill requires that all commission men must be licensed by the railroad commission, paying for such license the nominal sum of one dollar, and must file a bond with the railroad commission providing that they will pay the proceeds of any consignment to them to the farmer so consigning it. It also provides that, in case farmers and orchard owners are unable to get reports or estimates from their products after a reasonable time, they shall notify the railroad commission and it will investigate the sale. The bill is not aimed at the honest commission men but gives the railroad commission great powers in bringing the dishonest ones to time; and provides not only for fines for not making reports when requested but also provides for the revoking of their licenses. The bill also provides that any person who receives consignments after a corporation is insolvent is guilty of a felony. Had this law been in force while the Rogue River Commission company was carrying on its practices, many of the farmers—who consigned their produce to it—would have been protected. The measure is modeled on that of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Washington, where it has been tried out for many years and found satisfactory. It is to be hoped that it will be passed at this session, as it is much needed.

The next, House Bill No. 142, is to provide for interest on county moneys. This idea was introduced by the county judges at their session at Portland, when they passed a resolution calling upon the legislature to provide means for the depositing of county funds so that they could earn interest for the county. The measure provides that the county courts shall advertise for bids; and, upon opening the bids, shall order the deposit of the funds of the county treasurer and sheriff in the banks giving the highest rate of interest, not less than two per cent, nor more than three per cent. It is estimated that over the state this will save the tax payers from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in interest during the year. In some cases, as the law now is, the county officers are letting the banks use the funds without interest, or, as has been done in some instances, getting the interest themselves. The measure provides that banks shall give bonds for the safe-keeping of the moneys entrusted to them and also limits the amount that may be put in any one bank. Under this measure, if enacted, there will no longer be any funds deposited by the sheriff or treasurer of a county in his own name; but all funds must be deposited in the name of the county, under heavy penalty. It is expected that the measure, in Jackson county alone, will save a good deal more than the salary of the sheriff and treasurer and their deputies.

The next, House Bill No. 108, providing for a state bureau of mines and geology, was passed its third reading by the house of representatives Wednesday and referred to the committee on mining. This bill provides for the creation of a state bureau of mines having for its object the study of the mineral resources of the state of Oregon, the same as is done in Washington and California. The bill provides for an appropriation of \$25,000. This amount is to be expended by a board composed of five members, consisting of the president of the University of Oregon, the president of the Agricultural college, and three thoroughly trained mining men to be selected by the governor from the American Mining congress and other like bodies in the state. The mining industries, especially in southern and some parts of eastern Oregon, have not been developed as they should be, because mining interests, and capitalists interested in mines from the east, have been unable to get any data as to the mineral resources of the state. This will be obviated by this bill. The government has already voted about \$10,000 to be used in conjunction with any state offices that may be appointed for the investigation of our mining resources. This, it will be remembered, was the bill that was adopted by the Northern California and mission. The mining committee is thoroughly in favor of and recommended by Professor Parks of the Agricultural college in his report two years ago to the conservation commission. The mining committee is thoroughly in favor of some legislation, and the early passage of the bill is confidently looked for.

CHOSEN FRIENDS WIN FROM ASHLAND BOYS

The Chosen Friends defeated the Ashland Athletics at a basketball game at Ashland Thursday night; score 32 to 21. The Chosen Friends have improved at so rapid a rate that they are now rated among the topnotchers of the valley. Ashland led the local boys at the end of the first half, 14 to 12, but in the second half the Medford boys took the game and the crowd by storm winning in easy style. The basket shooting of Rader was a feature.

BRING TUBERCULOSIS CURE TO AMERICA

BERLIN, Jan. 24.—Carrying the first non-virulent turtle serum bacilli for the cure of tuberculosis ever taken to America, Dr. Heid of Pittsburgh sails for the United States tomorrow. Dr. Heid obtained his cultures of the Friedmann bacilli from Dr. Piorowsky after Dr. Friedmann refused to give him any. Dr. Friedmann has not yet fulfilled his promise to give his secret cure to the German government for investigation.

JOLTS AND JINGLES By Ad Brown

Bud Anderson, my Bo, Bud Anderson, my Bo, Bud, When first we saw you fight, We liked your swinging left, Bud, We feared your smashing right, And now you've left your home, Bud, To fight a southern foe; Our blessings on your wallop, Bud Anderson, my Bo.

If a man's name indicates anything the newly elected Senator Colt will answer "neigh" on all calls.

A German duke claims to be king of Ireland. It's a safe bet he doesn't make the claim on the street corners or in a mixed crowd.

Sometimes I wish that I Were built on lines a fighter, So I could send a bold defy To unsigned letter writer.

It is rubbing it in to have slush on the streets and a story like "The Pifer" in the Saturday Evening Post at one and the same time.

CHARLES M. SCHWAB, BACK FROM EUROPE, TELLS OF WONDERFUL NEW ORE FIELDS



CHARLES M. SCHWAB

Details of the important arrangements on behalf of steel interests in this country which he was reported in recent cable dispatches to have made in Paris were made known by Charles M. Schwab on his arrival in New York in board the Kaiser Wilhelm II., of the North German Lloyd line. Mr. Schwab, who is president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, disclosed the fact that by arrangement with French financiers, who had received a concession by the Chilean government, he had taken over for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation a large field of iron ore deposit in Chile, near the shores of Grande Cruz Bay. He said that a fleet of steamships will be sent immediately to carry the ore to this country. Mr. Schwab declared the ore fields to be the richest in the world, assaying sixty-seven per cent to the ton. There are 100,000,000 tons of iron ore available in the fields.

A Few Men Own Nearly All the Timber

The concentration into the hands of a few powerful interests of an enormous percentage of the timberlands of the United States has created a problem so grave for the nation in the judgment of Luther Conant, Jr., commissioner of corporations, that has recommended to President Taft that the existing national forests not only be retained by the federal government, but increased as far as practicable.

To increase government ownership of forest lands the commissioner urges that the forests of Alaska be included in reserve, as well as all timbered lands recovered in forfeiture suits. He advises a further searching inquiry into land grants of the past with the view of instituting additional forfeiture suits if the facts justify the procedure.

Charges Fraud Mr. Conant warns that attempts are still being made to "secure the transfer of public timberlands to private owners under the same pleas of settlement which in the past often proved wholly specious and insincere."

"Much of the timberlands will remain in public ownership," continues the commissioner, "is adapted only for timber purposes. All that could be properly asked by a bona fide settler is the surface of arable land after the timber has been removed, but to frequently back of the argument made in the name of the 'settler' is the desire to acquire the timber or other natural resources rather than the soil itself. It seems desirable, therefore, to direct public attention to the fundamental difference between depositing of agricultural lands to actual settlers, whose industry contributes directly to the material and social upbuilding of the community, and the alienation of virgin timberlands, which do not require, and, indeed, hardly permit of, improvement by private owners, and the value of which is rapidly rising because of reduction in the supply and the increase in population. The public service involved in the mere speculative holding of this timber for advance in price, under present conditions of settlement of the country, is practically negligible. When, moreover, such lands become concentrated in a comparatively few hands, there is, instead of a public service, a serious public danger."

Owls Much Timber "Without entering into a discussion of possible solutions of certain grave problems involved in the present concentration of timber ownership, it may be pointed out that the government today still owns, exclusive of the forests of Alaska, about one-fifth of the country's total supply of merchantable standing timber. It is the agency best adapted to practicing reforestation on a large scale. Recently important suits for forfeiture of extensive timberlands have been brought by the government on the ground of non-fulfillment of conditions imposed in the grants by which these lands were alienated from the public domain. For these reasons, it would appear, therefore, that the government may later be able to materially strengthen its relative position as a timber owner."

In the summary of the report previously published, the then commissioner of corporations, Herbert Knox Smith, set forth that the

Southern Pacific company is the greatest private holder of timber in the United States, controlling 100 billion feet, the Weyerhaeuser Timber company, with 90 billion feet, the second largest and the Northern Pacific Railway company, with 30 billion feet, the third. Going further in detail the full report declares that the following five interests control in the aggregate 102 billion feet of timber, practically all located in the Pacific northwest: Companies controlled by Charles A. Smith of Minneapolis; Thomas B. Walker of Minneapolis; concerns in which N. P. Wheeler and W. E. Wheeler of Endeavor, Pa., are the chief stockholders; companies in which the A. B. Hammond company of New Jersey is the principal interest; and the timber interests of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railway company (subsidiary to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway company).

After enormous sales, the commissioner points out that the Southern Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe own together 5,500,000 acres of timbered and non-timbered lands, an area as large as England. The Amalgamated Copper company Mr. Conant adds, owns over 1,000,000 acres of timber land and more than 100,000 acres of non-timbered land, all in Montana, and Thomas B. Walker personally owns 700,000 acres in California.

PROBE CONDITION OF BYBEE BRIDGE

Attention having been called to the condition of the Bybee bridge over Rogue river by residents of that section, County Judge F. L. Tou Velle has asked Contractor Purham who built the bridge many years ago to make an investigation of the structure and file a report.

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COMMISSION IS SUGGESTED TO CONSIDER TOLLS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Assuring England that domestic coastwise trade will not be permitted to extend its operations into competitive foreign fields, and foreign shipping will not be made to pay increased tolls to make up for the remission of tolls to American vessels, a note from Secretary Knox is today before the British foreign office. The note in reply to Sir Edward Grey's protest that American vessels should not be unduly favored, declares that Sir Edward's note, coming before resident Taft's proclamation fixing canal tolls, does not apply to the controversy, and anticipates conditions that may never arise.

Knox suggests a special commission as outlined by the unratified Bryce-Knox treaty, to consider the whole dispute. He proposes to give this commission life by an immediate legislation of ratifications, and then have it merely investigate and report, without bringing any country to a definite course of action. Knox suggests it could become effective after the expiration of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty June 4 next.

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