

PROTECT SETTLERS.

Land Claim Not Really Effective Against Occupants—Burden of Proof on Railroad, Instead of Settler.

Settlers in the states of Washington and Oregon, and, in fact, in all the states through which the Northern Pacific railroad passes, are very much interested in the rulings now being made by the interior department on the act of congress of June 4, 1897...

The department of the interior has held "vacant lands to settlement" to mean, if necessary, all unsurveyed lands. Therefore, settlers or squatters on unsurveyed lands have been very uneasy for some time...

The land department of the railroad company, however, asserts that it is not its purpose to take the lands of any bona fide settler.

At the same time the department of the interior encourages the settlers to continue their settlement, and within three months after the acceptance of the official survey of their lands to assert their claims thereto.

The ruling of the department is that the party first initiating the right of settlement has the prior claim.

Congressman Jones, of Washington, who has just introduced a relief bill on behalf of settlers, is of the opinion that most settlers would not think of fighting the railroad company, and, therefore, the law as it was enacted does grave injustice to settlers, as a rule.

"It has been repeatedly asserted that lands upon which there are settlers have been filed on by the railroad company under the present law. To prevent this is one of the objects of the law. I know that settlers have their remedy. That is to fight the claim of the company and establish their prior rights. This is expensive. The settlers are not wealthy. The prospect of delay is discouraging, and many prefer to abandon their settlements rather than bear the expense and delay of a contest."

"The railroad cannot complain at these provisions. If its claim to a tract of land is just it will prevail. Delay and expense cannot hurt it as they do the settler. All it has to do is to inspect the land. If it finds a settler and does not think he is there bona fide it can contest his claim as any other contestant, but it should bear the burden of such contest. These hills are introduced without any hostility to the railroad, but out of a desire to do justice to the settler. I believe the government should be quite lenient with men who are striving to reclaim the public domain, especially now when the choice land is taken up. If we had more owners of small tracts of land we would be better off."

Senator Foster and Representative Cushman have each given much attention to the claims of settlers and their rights, and in all cases there is an unqualified sentiment favorable to the pioneer and home-building squatter and settler.

Government Hospital at Vancouver. President Beebe, of the Portland chamber of commerce, at its last meeting, called attention to the bill locating a permanent general hospital at Vancouver, Wash., which has been introduced in congress by Representatives Jones, of Washington, George Taylor, jr., said that the hospital was of great importance to Portland. "Vancouver's healthful location is well known," said Mr. Taylor. "Before long, many soldiers will be returning from the Philippines, and Vancouver is the place for them." The trustees voted to request the Oregon congressional delegation to co-operate with the Washington delegation in behalf of the Vancouver hospital. Statistics showing that Vancouver is a healthier place than the Presidio will be sent to Washington to help the bill along.

Northwest Notes. Steelhead salmon are reported very numerous in Coos bay.

The Dalles has authorized a contract for an electric fire alarm system for 10 years.

Fish Commissioner Little has arranged to plant a carload of Eastern lobsters in Puget sound waters as an experiment.

A horse, loaded with United States mail, was recently killed near the falls below Brewster valley by missing its footing and rolling over a precipice on the rocks, 150 feet below. The mail was recovered.

The Christian denomination of Albany intends to build a new church and has raised \$2,000 toward it. The pastor announces that the site of the building is to be determined by the amount of money raised, as the congregation intends to build only such a structure as may be dedicated free from debt.

The common council of The Dalles has passed an ordinance to refund \$30,000 of 6 per cent bonds at 4 per cent.

At the December meeting of the board of Thurston county commissioners the question of calling \$20,000 worth of the Olympia & Chehalis railroad funding bonds of 1889 was considered, and the call decided upon. Of course, as the bonds have 10 years yet to run the call was conditional on the disposition of the holders to release them.

A Pomeroy man has been fined \$20 for allowing his son to remain on the streets after 7:30 o'clock in the evening, in violation of a curfew ordinance.

The oldest letter-carrier in Seattle is Everett A. Hartley, whose term service dates from August 6, 1888. He will, therefore, wear two black stars.

The private banking firm at Burns has been dissolved, and in its stead a bank has been incorporated by citizens with a paid-up capital of \$25,000. J. W. Biggs is president. The news says the stockholders are prominent citizens of Harney county.

DEMAND IS QUIET.

Prices, However, Continue Steady in Nearly All Lines of Trade.

Bradstreet's says: Quietness as to demand but marked steadiness as to prices is still the leading feature in trade lines, a condition it might be remarked not uncommon at this stage of the year, which is a sort of middle ground between stock-taking and inventory time and the actual opening of the spring season.

Aggressive strength in prices is confined to a few staples, such as pork products, which are firmly held on a rather tardy recognition of the fact that supplies, both of live hogs and dead meats, are far from burdensome. Tallow, cotton-seed oil and similar products are sympathetically strong. Raw and refined sugars have both advanced this week, not apparently because of the war between the refiners being settled, but really because supplies of raw are limited.

What few lines of next season's woolen goods have been reported are at advances ranging from 25 to 35 per cent.

Iron and steel are extremely quiet, but signs of weakness are not numerous, the shading in pig iron being confined to a few grades and markets.

The demand for lumber is naturally light, but the length of supplies is notable, as evidenced by the fact that white pine stocks are 22 per cent smaller than a year ago.

Hides are dull at the East, but considerable buying is reported West, and quotations are fairly firm. Wheat including flour shipments for the week aggregate 4,348,926 bushels against 3,509,682 bushels last week.

The current week's failure returns reflect the annual clearing out of delinquent traders in a total for the week of 295, as compared with 229 last week, 304 in this week a year ago, 323 in 1898, 478 in 1897 and 412 in 1896.

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BRAVE GEN. LAWTON.

HIS DEATH ROBBED THE NATION OF AN IDOL.

Dashing Volunteer of the Civil War, Fearless Indian Fighter, a Hero as El Caney and Hunter of Filipinos—Dies on the Field.

The Filipino sharpshooter's bullet which took the life of Gen. Henry W. Lawton did more. It plunged the nation in grief, for Lawton was a popular idol. The same fearlessness which cost him his life had given him a warm place in American hearts and his government regarded him as one of the most valuable of its military men.

Lawton's death occurred in San Mateo. With a small force he had left Manila for an expedition in the Mariquina valley, an insurgent stronghold. It took all night to cover fifteen miles through rice fields, mud and over rocky hills. In the morning an attack was made on San Mateo. Lawton personally directed the work. He walked along the firing line, 300 yards from the Filipino trenches, heedless of the warnings of his staff officers that his white helmet and yellow coat made him a shining mark and regardless of the bullets that fell about him. He laughed as they whistled past him. Finally one struck him in the breast, and with the remark, "I am shot," fell into an officer's arms and died almost instantly. Many tears were shed as his men, having driven the insurgents from San Mateo, followed the body of their dead general, borne on a stretcher by six stalwart cavalrymen, back to Manila.

Gen. Lawton was a victim to his sense of duty. In spite of his officers' protests he persisted in placing himself in imminent danger, remarking, "It is my duty to see what is going on on the firing line."

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MORMON ROBERTS' WIVES AND THEIR HOMES.



(Mrs. Celia Dibble Roberts and house in Centreville; Mrs. C. A. Roberts and house, Centreville; Dr. Maggie Shipp Roberts and house, Salt Lake City.)

There are probably few men in the United States in which the public has a greater interest than Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon, the question of whose eligibility to hold a seat in Congress became a matter of national concern. The three wives of Mr. Roberts take life easy in their Utah homes, even though Mr. Roberts is under indictment for bigamy in Utah. Wife No. 1, Mrs. C. A. Roberts, and wife No. 2, Mrs. Celia Dibble Roberts, live in separate houses in Centreville, a few miles distant from Salt Lake City. The third wife, Dr. Maggie Shipp Roberts, maintains an establishment in Salt Lake City. It is said that all the Mrs. Roberts are as happy as if each was the only wife of one man.

gan the study of law. He was attending Harvard University in 1896 when he received a commission as Second Lieutenant of regulars upon the recommendation of Gen. Sheridan and Sherman. After a brief service in the infantry he was made a Lieutenant in the Fourth Cavalry, and with that regiment he was identified in nearly all the important events of his subsequent career. In 1870 he was made a captain, and it was while in this position that he rode the Southwest of the murderous Geronimo.

His regiment did nothing but fight Apaches for years, and Lawton studied them as a naturalist studies venomous snakes, and took much the same view of them. In 1880, when Geronimo and his Apache band of thieves had been off the San Carlos reservation a long time, raiding in the vicinity, Lawton was sent after them by Gen. Miles. The cavalrymen chased the Indians over the deserts and into the mountains. Their horses gave out and they followed on foot. Their rations gave out and they lived on what they could gather as they moved. They ran Geronimo down, after covering 1,380 miles. One day one of the old chief's braves came into camp with a message. Geronimo wanted to talk, and Lawton went alone to see him. An Apache is no more trustworthily than a mad dog, but Lawton sat down with the treacherous chief in the midst of his warriors and poverpooled with him to such effect that he presently led him and his war party prisoners to Gen. Miles.

From 1888 until the Spanish war broke out Lawton was attached to the Inspector General's department, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In May, 1898, he was made a Brigadier General of Volunteers and as Santiago directed the operations against El Caney. The marvel is that he was not killed. He never availed himself of cover. His commanding figure was the most conspicuous thing wherever there was hot fighting, and every Spanish sharpshooter within a mile had always a chance at Lawton. When he reconnoitered, he rode preferably in front of the trenches on the firing line. When he had to move about the zone of action he went right across, regardless of any storm of bullets, even though a de-tour to the rear would avoid all danger. He simply never thought of the possibility of being hurt by bullets, he had defied them so often.

In the Philippine Jungles. In January, 1899, he was sent to the Philippines and did the severest fighting. He relieved Gen. Anderson in command of the regular troops, and on April 10 he captured Santa Cruz, a Filipino stronghold at the extreme end of the lake near Manila. There was sharp fighting, and Lawton led his troops, using the Indian tactics which he had learned so well on the Western plains. Then he captured San Rafael after a jungle fight, and then San Isidro, the insurgent capital. President McKinley sent him congratulations for these successful operations. His operations covered the entire central part of Luzon. Up to the day of his death Lawton was in the field almost constantly, dispersing the insurgents and cutting off the ammunition and supplies. He was under fire several times, but he drove the insurgents before him everywhere. His son, 11 years old, was with him in the Philippines. The youngster was under fire with his father at Santa Cruz, and the General was intensely proud of him.

In November the whereabouts of Gens. Lawton and Young, on account of the rapidity of their movements, became almost as mysterious as that of Aguinaldo. But it was understood that Gen. Lawton was ambitious to capture the Filipino leader, and that he would run him down if possible. It was just such a chase as he made after Geronimo, the Apache. Many of the General's horses were dying, and the soldiers, and even some of the officers, marched ahead half naked, their clothes being torn to pieces in getting through the jungles. Hundreds of them were bare-footed. Bread was scarce and carabao meat and bananas made up their rations.

The General was at Tarung on Dec. 1, his troops having captured large quantities of insurgent supplies. Later he returned to Manila, and as already set forth, started Dec. 18 to capture San Mateo, where he was shot and killed. A detachment of the Fourth Cavalry, his old regiment, was with him when he died. By a singular coincidence, it was while fighting a Filipino leader named Geronimo that he met his fate. Gen. Lawton, like so many eminent soldiers, died poor. He owned nothing except a piece of property in California which he purchased several years ago for \$15,000, but which is mortgaged for half that sum. To aid his family a bill was introduced into both House and Senate providing for a pension of \$2,000 a year for his widow, and an appeal was made for a popular subscription, to which there was a generous response.

WEALTH OF LI HUNG CHANG. Some of the Ways in Which He Accumulated Enormous Fortune. Li Hung Chang, the most conspicuous Chinese of the age, is often called the richest man in the world. This assertion is easier made than proved, for nobody knows how rich he is. His fortune may certainly be counted by millions of dollars, but how many millions is purely conjectural. One way in which Li for many years made an enormous sum of money was to use thousands of soldiers in his own private enterprises without paying them a cent for their labor. In the course of time he purchased extensive estates in the rice-growing regions and raised more bushels of rice every year than the bonanza farmers of North Dakota used to raise of wheat. He got his labor for nothing and his great crop of rice was almost carefree. He simply turned his soldiers loose in the rice fields, and they had to be content with the rations and the miserable pittance paid to them by the government.

The great man also became his own contractor for army supplies. He would sell his own rice to the government for army rations at an enormous profit, and pocketed a handsome rake-off on all other supplies furnished to the tens of thousands of soldiers in the Pechili province. Then he was chief supreme of the custom houses for a long distance around the Gulf of Pechili, and there was nothing mean about the stream of gold that poured into his strong-box through this channel. It has long been notorious that one of the methods he employed was to import quantities of goods through his agents without the payment of a cent of duty, and then sell the goods at a round figure to his countrymen. This method of money-making finally involved the old gentleman in trouble, charges were made against him, and he came near losing his official head; but his power was so great and his real services to the state were so valuable that he was almost invulnerable in spite of the many enemies who have always been ready to accuse him.

There was once a Viceroy named Tsai-Kwo-Fan, who was said to have died without leaving a single enemy behind him, for, according to his satirical countrymen, he had killed them all while he was alive. Early in his political career Li Hung Chang is said to have followed this illustrious example, but for many years he has been too powerful to think it worth while to pay the slightest attention to his rivals and opponents, except those who were so powerful themselves that he could not with impunity inflict personal vengeance upon them.

One of the greatest sources of money-getting employed by Li Hung Chang during the later years of his career as Viceroy was as a money lender. There is little doubt that he was the king of pawnbrokers the world over. His loan offices were scattered far and wide over his province, and he loaned great sums of money on mortgages and on pledges of personal property. In a country where no legal rate of interest is fixed this business has brought enormous returns to Li Hung Chang.

SUPPOSE WE SMILE.

HUMOROUS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE COMIC PAPERS.

Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings that are Cheerful to Old or Young—Funny Selections that Everybody Will Enjoy.

Old Beau—Ah, Miss Clara, I love you. May I hope to some day call you my wife?
Miss Clara—Have you spoken to my mother on the subject?
Old Beau—Why—er—yes, I believe I did—some twenty-odd years ago.—Chicago News.

Artificial Courage. Miss Sourface—I'm sure Mr. Dash was intoxicated when he called last evening. Why, he actually tried to kiss me.
Miss Gabby—Yes, they say drink nerves men to desperate deeds.—Baltimore American.

Meets Them Every where. Tired Treadwell—Dis is a werry small world, after all.
Sauntering Sim—Wot makes you t'ink so?
Tired Treadwell—Hardly a day goes by but what I meet somebody I've handled in some other State.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Saving. Mrs. B—You know well enough how I scrimp and save. I never have things the way I did before I married you.
Mr. B—I've noticed that, my dear. Why, you don't even have a birthday any more.—Philadelphia Bulletin

Undecided. Mrs. B—You know well enough how I scrimp and save. I never have things the way I did before I married you.
Mr. B—I've noticed that, my dear. Why, you don't even have a birthday any more.—Philadelphia Bulletin

He—To be sure, there are some pleasant things about a bachelor's life, but then there are times when one longs to possess a being whom he can care for, and whom he can call his own!
She—Say, if you feel that way, why don't you buy a bulldog?—Heitere Weit.

Illustrious Precedent. "That was a pleasing afterthought of yours," remarked the old preacher who had listened to a sermon by one of his youngest brethren, "when you drew upon the analogies of nature to prove the immortality of the soul."
"An afterthought?" said the younger clergyman, in some perplexity.
"Yes, you thought of it about 2,400 years after Socrates."—Chicago Tribune.

A Classical Nurse. "Mehtitbel," said a Boston mother to the nurse, "did I not see a policeman pushing Revere's ambulator awhile ago?"
"Yes, ma'am, but I was merely acting upon Emerson's advice."
"Emerson? What does Emerson say which is at all applicable to such a case?"
"He told us to hitch our wagons to a star."—New York World.

Then She Called the Dog. Miss Sourface (to tramp)—Did you ever have a romance in your life?
Tramp—Yes, mum; I had a sweet-heart once that looked like you.
Miss Sourface (sitting out another piece of pie)—And did she die?
Tramp—No, mum. He fadder wanted me to marry her, so I run away from home.—Baltimore American.

Seeking Information. "Pa, what is a Journalist?"
"A journalist, my son, is a mental bankrupt, who failed as a newspaper reporter."
"I guess he married her after he had been jilted by several others. He didn't want to give up without winning some one."
"What a silly thing she was. I wouldn't serve as any man's consolation prize."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Divorces Galore. "The leading lady doesn't always lead."
"No?"
"No. She's been led to the altar four times."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Self-Possession. Jinks—Was Coulter cool and collected at the time of the fire?
Jenks—I should think so. He took time to take off his nightshirt and put on a suit of pajamas.—New York Press.

The Fine Distinction. "I never made such a speech in my life," said the scared hero.
"We don't want a speech," cried an enthusiastic man in the crowd. "Just say something."—Philadelphia North American.

Not Heart Hungry. "Are you one of the heart-hungry women of whom the poet talks?" asked the soulful young man.
"No," replied Mrs. Parvenu with a decided shake of her head. "I can't say that I am. My preference is for liver and bacon."—Chicago Post.

Professing Silence. "I think that husbands ought to pay their wives a weekly salary," declared Mrs. Tomdick.
"About how much?" asked Mrs. Ho-jack.
"Well, say \$10 a week."
"I used to think so, too, until I discovered that my husband pays about \$800 a year for my millinery and clothes alone, and then I decided that any salary I would like to ask for wouldn't go very far."—Detroit Free Press.

Her Connections. "The idea of a telephone girl trying to log in society."
"Why not? I'm sure she has many of the best people on her calling list."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Swapping Telephones. The following story comes from the Grand Rapids Press, and has to do with a man and a woman who are employed in different offices in one of the large buildings of that city. Each office has a telephone, but as it happens one is an instrument belonging to the Citizens' Company, the other a Bell instrument.
One day the man had occasion to use the Citizens' line, and stepped across the hall to the lady's office.
"Have you a Citizens' phone?" he asked, and she replied in the affirmative.
"Well," he ventured, "I'm a citizen. May I use it?"
"Why, of course he might use it; but inwardly she was inclined to envy his ability to stand up and assert his citizenship in this way, for some of her womanly propensities were of the "newish" sort. An hour later she balanced accounts with him.
"Have you a Bell telephone?" she asked, on stepping into his office. He did not try to deny it.
"Well, I'm a belle; may I use it?"

Small Want.

Lady of the House—Go on away from here. We have no old clothes, no cold victuals, no—
Hopeless Henderson—I didn't want nothin' to eat nor wear. I just called to see if you had an old automobile to give away.—Indianapolis Journal.

Most of Them Do. She—Do you believe that man sprang from the ape?
He—No. But I believe all women spring from the mouse.—Chicago News.

Had Met Before. "What! Do you know that gambler?"
"No—no; he's merely a chance acquaintance."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

He Discovers the Reason. Professor (to whom a stranger had just been introduced)—Have you studied at our university?
Stranger—No, professor, I am traveling for a wine house.
Professor—Ah, that is the reason why I have never seen you at my lectures!—Flegende Blaetter.

The Minding. Mrs. Henpeckke—A husband and wife should be of one mind.
Mr. Henpeckke—Yes; and it isn't hard to tell who's going to do the minding.—Philadelphia Record.

Further Evidence. "There is something, after all, in the idea of opals being unlucky."
"What new light have you had on it?"
"Young Hankinson has a fine opal ring. He was wearing it the evening he proposed to Miss Garlinghorn."
"And she refused him?"
"No. She accepted him."—Chicago Tribune.

Wouldn't He Like Him. Hewitt—Do you suppose that the clergyman will consent to your marrying his daughter?
Jewett—Why, of course. Do you suppose he'd lose a chance to get a wedding fee?—New York World.

Pop's Side Information. Tommy—Pop, what is a willful waste?
Tommy's Pop—The kind you can't get your arm around, Sh—h—h! Here comes your mother.—Philadelphia Record.

An Offer-er. Miss—And why do you want to leave, Kate? Is it anything private?<