

# The Yamhill County Reporter.

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### ALIEN LANDLORDS.

#### Englishmen Who Own Immense Tracts of Land in this Country.

That English aristocrats should rule large domains in the United States and rule them from London is at first a difficult thing to grasp. Not until it is borne in mind that peers and peeresses of Great Britain are large landed proprietors in our country—Viscount Scully alone owns 3,000,000 acres in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska—does the significance of absenteeism in landlords become apparent. But now the matter will be brought home to Americans more directly than it has ever been brought home yet, for there is shortly to be a union in London of the American land-owning interests, and a series of drastic measures are scheduled, which, it is believed, will not only increase the annual rentals of the vast domain involved, but which will greatly affect the destiny of the hundreds of thousands who dwell upon it.

First of all, a list of the members of the aristocracy who own the lands in question will not be without interest. Such a list has never before been given in full. The greatest of the English holdings, and the persons interested, are these:

The Texas Land Union (Syndicate No. 3), 3,000,000 acres. Interested peers: Baroness Burdette-Coutts, Earl Cadogan, H. C. Fitzroy Somerset (this is the Duke of Beaufort), William Alexander Lochiel Stephen Douglas-Hamilton, Duke of Beaudon; the duke of Rutland; Ughtaed J. Kay-Shuttleworth and Eand Ethel Cadogan (maid in waiting to the queen). This syndicate owns whole counties in Texas, and tens of thousands of persons pay it rentals.

Sir Edward Reid, 2,000,000 acres. This is a syndicate which owns lands in Florida only. It includes the present Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Randolph Churchill and Lady Lister-Kaye.

Viscount Scully—3,000,000 acres. His lordship maintains an elaborate system of bailiffs.

Syndicate No. 4.—1,900,000 acres. This syndicate has all its holdings in Mississippi. It includes the Marquis of Dalhousie, George Henry Howard Cholmondeley (Viscount Cholmondeley), Georgia, Viscountess Cross; Hon. Lady Hamilton Gordon and Hon. Lady Biddulph.

Marquis of Trevelyan—1,750,000 acres. The marquis is William Montagu Hay, famed all over Scotland as the rack rent landlord.

Phillips Marshall & Co., London—1,300,000 acres. This firm has the whole peirage for its clients.

The Anglo-American Syndicate, London—750,000 acres. The funds of widowed peeresses are largely invested here. The lands are in the south and west.

Bryan H. Evans—700,000 acres. Mr. Evans resides in London. His lands are in Mississippi.

The Duke of Sutherland—125,000 acres.

The British Land Company—320,000 acres. This land is all in Kansas.

William Whalley—310,000 acres. Mr. Whalley is the Squire of Peterboro, England.

The Missouri Land Company—300,000 acres. This operates a Missouri domain, and has headquarters at Edinburg.

Robert Tennant—230,000 acres. This is all farming land. Mr. Tennant lives in London.

Dundee Land Company—247,000 acres.

Lord Dunmore—120,000 acres.

Benjamin Newgas, Liverpool—100,000 acres.

Lord Houghton (in Florida)—60,000 acres.

Lord Dunraven (in Colorado)—60,000 acres.

English Land Company (in California)—50,000 acres.

English Land Company (in Arkansas)—50,000 acres.

Alexander Grant, London (in Kansas)—35,000 acres.

Syndicate No. 6—110,000 acres. This syndicate includes the Earl of Vemlan and the Earl of Lankeville. The land is in Wisconsin.

Mr. Elfenhauser, of Halifax—600,000 acres. The land is in West Virginia.

Syndicate No. 1—50,000 acres. This is a Scotch concern and its land is in Florida.

It is claimed that fully 20,000,000 acres of American land are thus owned by great land owners in England and Scotland. This does not include the Holland syndicate, which owns 5,000,000 acres of grazing land in western states, nor the German syndicate, owning 2,000,000 acres in various states.

For some time past it has been evident to the foreign land owners that concerted action on their part was essential to their interests. It is well known to those who have ever casually looked into the matter that foreign land owning has much impeded the development of the western commonwealths. These great land owners positively refuse to sell. They prefer to establish a

system of agencies and bailiffs with the result that very serious complications have resulted. The state legislatures have done their best to deal with the question, and heretofore with only indifferent success. Viscount Scully is, rightly or wrongly, made the scapegoat of the whole business. He has for years been a thorn in the path of one state administration after another, and his shrewdness in evading every provision of law directed against him has extorted the unwilling admiration of thousands. Thus Scully practically owns, in Illinois, the best part of the counties of Logan, Livingston and Tazewell. The state in 1887 passed an alien land law, directed solely against Scully. To evade it he insisted beforehand upon a clause in all his leases stipulating that the lessee should pay all taxes accruing against the property leased.

The result was the creation of a large and solid body of voters in the Scully counties, as they are called, opposed to propositions of public improvement by taxation.

The war against Scully in Illinois threw the other British landowners into a panic, and as fast as leases have fallen in they have been renewed under heavier and heavier conditions. Alien land laws have occupied the attention of legislatures, and in Kansas and Nebraska the struggle for a time had a serious effect upon land securities of all kinds.

Finally matters came to such a deplorable stage that a committee of the American tenantry was appointed to present a memorial to the London owners of land, setting forth the ruin that stared the western farmers in the face as a result of the rack-renting system that had been evolved out of the chaos. This memorial had a marked effect upon the Baroness Burdette-Coutts, who insisted upon no more evictions of American farmers. It only aggravated the Duke of Sutherland, who was then in sore need of funds, and he called his agents to collect the rents and send them over at all hazards.

Finding that mild measures availed nothing, the tenantry resorted to a more radical expedient. An association has been formed in Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas to resist to the utmost the demands of the English landlords. The organization is a secret one and is the first really agrarian agitation in American history. The association works more secretly than the Holy Vehm Gerichte, but it has already influenced legislation in a marked manner.

This is the development in the situation which, more than anything else, caused the English land-owners to form an alliance among themselves. The movement was first proposed in the interest of the Scully estate. It is intended to have an agent in attendance at the meetings of legislatures of all the states involved this winter. The matter was brought to the attention of Sir Julian Pauncefoot this autumn when he visited the London Foreign Office, but what he is to do in the matter no one cares to say. The English owners feel that they have not been fairly dealt with by their American tenantry, and it is likely that this winter will witness a crisis in the entire western agrarian movement.

The Duke of Beaufort and the Duke of Sutherland both assert that the meetings of the land-owners now periodically held at the Bank of England are meant entirely to effect economy in the collection of rents. At present each land-owner has his own set of agents who work independently. By consolidating the collection systems the landlords hope to expedite business.

The tenants profess to be alarmed by this new development. They see in it more rack-renting, and already committees have been detailed to visit the legislatures and obtain legal redress if possible.

At any event, there is now for the first time an open war in prospect between aristocratic land-owning Britons and their tenants in America.—N. Y. Cor. Globe-Democrat.

You make no mistake when you take DeWitt's Little Early Risers for biliousness, dyspepsia or headache, because these little pills cure them. Rogers Bros.

The yearly salary of Ida Lewis, the famous keeper of Lime Rock light house, at the south end of Newport harbor, is \$750 and two tons of coal. She is past fifty now, her hair slightly streaked with gray, and her face somewhat rugged and weather-beaten, but she is still alert and strong, and can man her boat in the roughest weather as quickly and well as when, at sixteen, she began her wonderful record of life-saving with the rescue of four small boys whose boat capsized in the harbor before her. She is the only woman lighthouse keeper in this country, and the government does not intend to duplicate her or appoint a successor to her when her work is done, but the department freely admits that no light is cared for by any

other employe along the coast as that of Lime Rock is looked after by its woman keeper, Ida Lewis.

Busy people have no time and sensible people have no inclination to use a slow remedy. One Minute Cough Cure acts promptly and gives permanent results. Rogers Bros.

### DR. WHITMAN'S RIDE.

Appropriate to the discussion now going on relative to annexation of Newfoundland, is the account of Dr. Marcus Whitman's trip from Oregon in behalf of Oregon. He at that time found the secretary of state, Daniel Webster, busy negotiating with England for a trade of American interests in Oregon for the fisheries of Newfoundland. In the light of the value of our possessions upon the Pacific coast to-day, and what they did to uphold and defend the flag in the trying days of the rebellion, Dr. Marcus Whitman in his dress of the plains, standing upon his frozen feet before President Tyler and Secretary Webster, pleading for Oregon, richly deserves preservation in a great national picture upon the walls of the national capitol. It was a great event in national history. Great because successful. Great because it was timely. Had action been deferred even for a year little or nothing could have been accomplished. Dr. Whitman was told: "It is impossible to cross the plains during the winter." His reply was: "I must go." All of history records no more romantic and perilous journey, accomplished neither for money nor for political power, nor for any expectation for reward. Thus regarded, it calls for honors which the old patriot and hero has never yet received from the American people.—Moro Observer.

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### Saint Paul an Armenian.

Appropos of the recent murderous outrages of the Turks wherein it is alleged that several thousand Armenian Christians were slaughtered, the St. Louis Republic says: "Not everybody knows that St. Paul was an Armenian, and that Tarsus, where he was born, is a town still existent in the little country where the Turks are said to have massacred 10,000 men, women and children in cold blood. The Armenian Christians have clung to their faith with a heroism which can only be compared to that of the ancient Christian martyrs. For 1,500 years they have been Christians and during most of the time they have been steadily persecuted. They claim to have been the first nation that embraced Christianity. The Mohammedans blotted the Armenians out as a nation in 1375."

### Women Legislators.

The tenth general assembly of Colorado is gnashing its teeth and tearing its hair in distraction. The cause of this unparliamentary behavior is the fact that the English language has no pronouns of the common gender, and that the tenth general assembly of Colorado has three women among its representatives. Every sentence abounds with "he or she," "his or her," "him or her," until the ears and brains of the representatives are weary. The three women who are members of the Colorado legislature are Mrs. Carrie Holly, Mrs. Francis Klock and Mrs. Clara Cressingham. They are said to be a credit to their sex in the way they accept the unique situation. They took the oath of office with dignity, and with far more ease than some of the youthful masculine legislators. They were not overcome when their brethren, in a spirit of jocularly, appointed them a committee to escort the new speaker to the chair. They were self-possessed and very watchful. They sit quietly behind their big desks from the time the speaker's gavel calls them to order until it is time to go home. They are quiet enough to suit the most fastidious clamor for peace, but what they will be after they find out the style of doing business no one will venture to guess. All men are willing to leave well enough alone and take their chances on the future.

The name One Minute Cough Cure suggests a medicine that relieves at once and quickly cures. Its use proves it. Rogers Bros.

The Scientific American says the breeding of eels is a mystery. Nobody ever saw any of their eggs. The ancients used to have a notion that eels were developed from horse hairs. Another theory is that they were the progeny of a kind of beetle. It is now known that they must spawn in the ocean. Eels put into land-locked ponds do not breed; they must go to the sea to propagate their species.

Some of the towns along lake Erie are apprehensive that the ship canal now under construction between lake Michigan and the Mississippi river will lower the lake level to an extent that will interfere injuriously with the present flow to the Atlantic. Prof. Wright, of Oberlin, expresses the opinion that the flow in the canal at the start will be equal to five per cent of the existing volume of water passing over Niagara, and that in the course of time the amount of water diverted will reach ten per cent. Some of the army engineers contend that the canal will lower the lake level west of Niagara from nine to eighteen inches. In view of the capacity of the great lakes to accommodate enormous falls of rain without rising, it seems highly improbable that a canal or two will affect their depth seriously. If any trouble occurs a few dams could be built that would raise the level of Superior several feet, and hold back a small ocean in reserve for dry seasons.