

DENNETT IS IN FAVOR OF FIXED PRICE ON THE TIMBERLAND

Commissioner Believes That \$5 an Acre Will Put end to Timber Land Problem

Portland Telegram 31st. S. A. D. Puter returned yesterday morning after an extended tour of the East, in the course of which he visited Washington, D. C., where he remained some time. While in the national capital Puter had several interviews with Secretary of the Interior Ballinger and Commissioner of the General Land Office Dennett, and was informed that it will be the policy of their department to make a fixed investigation of all public land claims concerning which there is the slightest suspicion of fraud, and where there is evidence to indicate that the land laws have not been fully complied with, such entries will be held for cancellation.

On the other hand, in cases where it is shown that the entryman has made an earnest effort to comply with the laws and otherwise act in good faith in the desire to acquire a portion of the public domain, such purposes will receive proper recognition, and final title issued with as little delay and annoyance as possible. Commissioner Dennett assured Puter that his department had about \$1,000,000 available for this purpose, which has only recently been granted by Congress, and that a large force of special agents is being sent into all the public land states, particularly the Pacific Northwest, with the object of investigating the situation.

On the subject of appraisal of timber lands as a condition precedent to acquiring title under the act of June 3, 1878, known commonly as the timber and stone law, Puter says the Commissioner expressed some doubt as to the advisability of such a proceeding, and intimated that his recent action in making the ruling that timber lands should be sold on the basis of the appraisal, was to prevent their wholesale acquisition by speculators and wealthy syndicates. Dennett inclines now to the opinion that it would be preferable to set a fixed price of \$5 an acre for this character of land, and require a deposit of \$50 as an evidence of good faith at the time of making entry, this amount to go as a credit on the purchase price. He thinks this would have a tendency to suppress fraudulent operations to a large extent, and impose no particular hardship on honest entrymen.

LAFOLLETTE DEFIES ALDRICH CROWD Says That People Demand and They Will Have Reform

Washington, June 3.—La Follette's demand in his remarkable speech before yesterday for downward revision of the tariff has created a profound impression. The leaders of the finance committee of the Senate manifest much concern over the bombshell which the Wisconsin man threw into their camp.

"The people of this nation demand a measure of foreign competition to take the place of the domestic competition which has been done away with by combinations and conspiracies. They demand this as one means of relief from the burden of the cost of living which oppresses every family in this land and presents to each the real problem of existence."

This declaration, coupled with his impressive reading of Taft's antire-election statement that the Dingley rates as a rule were too high, is believed by many here as throwing into confusion and thus completing the demoralization of party lines. This utter demoralization is daily and incessantly more and more generally and re-aligning of parties is speculated over increasingly.

Point is given to the foregoing by a report circulated that La Follette purposes traveling a Chautauque circuit this summer, reading the congressional records of senators on the trust schedules of the tariff bills, as he did when he read the record of the votes on railroad rates regulation on a tour in which he visited Oregon and all other coast states.

Mrs. Whorton and Shauer, of New Pine Creek, were in town Friday and gave the Examiner a welcome call. The ladies report that the late frost did no particular damage to fruit, except to thin out some of the cherries, apricots and peaches. The apple crop promises now to be one of the largest grown in Goose Lake valley. Good!

Convicted of Fencing Government Land

Wm. Hanley, the big Harney county look-man, was convicted of illegally fencing government land. The penalty was \$1000 fine or two years imprisonment. He has appealed the case to the Supreme court. Another man named Edward B. Hill, who also enclosed 30,000 acres in that county was also convicted on a similar charge.

LAKE COUNTY'S HIGH SCHOOLS

Board of Trade Makes a Move Toward That End

The school question seems to be moving on toward satisfactory conclusion. The matter was thoroughly discussed at the board of trade meeting Friday evening.

The consensus of opinion indicated that the better plan would be to petition the County Court for the construction of two high schools for the county, each to be sited in all particulars, and one to be located in the south of the county, and the other in the north end. This plan has the approval of Supt. Jackson, who says that in his official trip through the county the past month he has sounded public opinion regarding the matter and found practically a unanimous sentiment in favor of two high schools. In view of this condition the Board appointed Messrs. W. Lair Thompson, V. L. Snelling and J. A. Massingill to confer with the people of the north end of the county and to provide a plan of co-operation in the matter of high schools.

Some discussions were had relative to the plan of the schools, and it was at least tentatively held, that the intellectual should not take up the attention of students to the exclusion of the practical side of life's work, and that in addition to the regular established course for the high school, there should also be provided a manual training school for the young men, and a course in domestic science for the young ladies, and in addition there should be a small farm added to each high school, in which agriculture and other practical essentials, could be taught by actual experience, so that when graduates from Lake County High schools passed from the school room to take up the actual realities of life, that heart, brain and hand would be so trained that they would be fitted as first-class citizens. Graduates from such schools would be sought after, and in this way Lake County would win a place in educational matters second to none in the state.

It is to be hoped that prompt action can be had in this matter, so that the construction of the needed school buildings can be brought to completion and ready for the students soon to arrive here from all parts of the Union.

SCHOOLS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE

Supt. Jackson Thinks Improvements are Necessary

Supt. of schools Jackson, was in town Friday, on his return from a tour of the schools of the county.

He says that some of the schools, those recently built, present a very neat appearance, the house being painted white with red roof, with neat fence, trim and tidy out buildings, and well kept grounds. Other schools presented a very dilapidated and neglected appearance. In view of these conditions he made a special appeal to civic pride for the prompt repair of buildings and fences, and where needed either that new building should be erected or up-to-date additions be constructed. He also recommended that there be a uniformity in painting all school buildings white with red roofs, and that all grounds be nicely fenced as such things always appeal to the newcomers, many of whom are now on the ground and others headed this way.

He expects that the county will be supplied with a new corps of teachers by fall and says that up to Sept. 1st of this year that there doubtless will be places for all applicants.

The general condition of the schools is good, and with the graduates of the lower grades enabled to pass on to high schools within the county, Mr. Jackson believes that Lake County will soon take front rank in an educational way in Oregon.

There is considerable speculation as to the purpose of the so-called "automobile road" leading out of Alton, headed for Lakeview and now under active construction. There is no doubt but that it will be used as an "automobile road"—at first!

OREGON VALLEY LAND CO. SECURE CLEAR TITLE

Absolute Title To the Military Road Land Grant Passes into Hands of the Contract-Holders

Every contract holder in the Oregon Valley Land Co.'s enterprise, to the number of twelve thousand, will be pleased to read the dispatch received by the Examiner Sunday morning, which gives them title to their holdings with none else disputes. The telegram reads:

Kansas City, Mo., June 3, 1909. Lake County Examiner, Lakeview, Ore.

We now own the stock of the Oregon Military Land Grant Co. with an liabilities and with clear title to its lands in Oregon.

OREGON VALLEY LAND CO.

RAILROADS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR MAKING A COUNTRY

Facts Showing That Railroad Extension Booms Canada and Washington

The Canadian Northwest, in spite of its rigorous winter climate is going rapidly forward and gaining in population every year by the thousands, many of the settlers being Americans. The movement, principally, is due to the fact that it has been discovered to be a productive wheat country. But great wheat harvests without transportation are waste.

That is what is the matter with Eastern Oregon. Here we have—according to the testimony of witnesses before the hearing of federal enquiry in San Francisco last week as to the Harriman merger, where witnesses pointed out that the vast possibilities of most of this vast area—about 30,000,000 acres—which are good as any of the great fruit and wheat belts of the Palouse and Yakima valleys in Washington, that were nothing but Indian reservations and bunch grass before the railroads pushed onward to the Pacific.

We all know what the Palouse and the Yakima countries have done in the matter of grain and fruit, and Eastern Oregon would do as well or better, were it not for the merciless grasp, the death grip, of this man Harriman. Fortunately there are indications now pointing to entrance of Hill into this vast domain, and when he does come, with him will come a stream of population that will indeed cause this desert to bloom as the rose!

It is too true that lack of railroads is the one drawback under which this country is kept from coming into its own. The intending settler, if he is discreet naturally will enquire into the attitude and enterprise of the railroads upon which he will have to depend to get his products to the market, be it either grain or fruit. That is why the movement to the British Northwest provinces is now so pronounced. The home seeker finds that up there all railroad men

HILL INTIMATES STATE SHOULD BUILD RAILROAD

Portland June 3.—James J. Hill practically served notice on Portland last night that Eastern Oregon would have to look elsewhere than to him for relief to the transportation problem that is confronting it.

While assuring his fellow guests at a dinner at the Arlington club of his confidence in Portland and his belief in the future of this state as a wheat producer he told them that he felt his duties lay along the line of developing the present territory of the Great Northern, and not in reaching out in new fields. Hill was the principal speaker at the dinner tendered him.

He listened attentively to the accounts of Eastern and Central Oregon and the needs of the interior of the state for a railroad given by other guests. But when he concluded his talk no one present was in doubt as to whether there was any hope of the railroad magnate building a line through Oregon. Personally, he said, he felt he was beyond the age where

he could serve two masters.

He said he had no doubt but that Eastern Oregon had great opportunities, but he felt they are for other hands. In reply to some inquiry as to his opinion of state-built railroads, Hill stated that his own experience had naturally prejudiced him against them. He said, however, that he did not wish to appear as being against such schemes under all circumstances because he realized that there are occasional conditions that reverse the working of any rule and some times the only way to get what you want and must have is to do it your self.

M. B. Rice, secretary of the Board of Trade, has received a communication from the Portland Chamber of Commerce, in which it is stated that the move to secure a rate of \$1.35 per cent. from Portland to Klamath Falls has been taken up with the Southern Pacific, and with pressure being brought to bear it is hoped that rate will be secured.

Board of Trade To Assist the O. V. L. Co.

A move was made at the Board of Trade meeting last Friday evening, on motion of V. L. Snelling, to assist the Oregon Valley Land Co. in securing the right of way for that company in its endeavor to provide better transportation facilities for this town and tributary country.

The committee appointed for that purpose was V. L. Snelling, Col. Light and Dick J. Wisler.

The sense of the meeting, as voiced by Mr. Snelling, was to the effect that the people of this town and county, in view of the benefits being derived by the operations of this company should assist in every way to further the plans and work of Mr. R. J. Martin and his associates in their great undertaking, which means so much for the future welfare of this country.

SMALL FARMERS ARE DOING WELL

Concrete Instances Given to Establish Fact Beyond Dispute

Will 5, 10, 20 or 40 acres in Goose Lake Valley support a family?

Well, it all depends upon the man. For instance, The Examiner is informed on the very creditable authority of a neighbor that during the season of 1907, Mr. C. M. Taylor, who lives near New Pine Creek, Oregon, in the southern end of Lake County, in the Golden Goose Lake valley, actually received in cash from a local market the magnificent sum of \$4,500 for his garden and orchard products! This sum was obtained exclusive of a further income of dairy, poultry and other farm products.

The Examiner is strongly inclined in the belief that \$4,500 per annum will keep any family in very good circumstances, provided, of course, that the head of the same possesses no vicious or extravagant tendencies.

But, notwithstanding Mr. Taylor's success, do not jump at the conclusion that every man who comes here could do as well or better every year. Some might do so, but the majority might not. Again, for instance, some men possess the habits of a spendthrift, or might be lazy and imprudent, and of course the 10 acres or even a 1000 acres in such hands would not amount to a hill of white beans.

The fact of the matter is that it takes work, and lots of it, and close attention, with no side issues, to make a success in any line, and the man on a ten acre, or even a 40-acre tract in the Golden Goose Lake valley, or in any other valley or section anywhere in order to succeed must hustle.

It is pretty evident that Mr. Taylor is a hustler, and so is Mr. Briles, of Davis Creek, another man who has made a success in gardening and orcharding in the Golden Goose Lake Valley and there are many others whose names we do not now recall.

LAGRANDE LAND AS \$800 AN ACRE

Once Considered Almost Worthless

The Oliver boys now of Lakeview, and others who have lived in Grand Ronde Valley in which La Grande is situated, in no essential except the railroad is there any difference between that valley and Goose Lake valley. If any preference is to be given it should be in favor of this locality. And yet there land is selling for \$800 per acre, while here it can still be had for \$20!

In this connection the Pendleton East Oregonian says: So far as can be learned at this time the highest price ever paid for Grand Ronde valley fruit land was paid to William Hall this afternoon when the Logan-Sherwood Realty Co. completed a sale of Mr. Hall's ten acre tract to Locke B. Moe, of Nebraska, for \$8,000 or \$800 per acre. Mr. Moe has been investigating all this interior country for the past month and has been in this valley for the past two weeks. He found nothing to compare with the values offered here, and consequently paid his money where it would bring him the greatest returns. The Meadowbrook irrigation project had a good deal to do with his final choice of location. Incidentally it may be said that Mr. Hall bought the place in 1900 for \$500.

The Honker's Lawn Tennis Club played their first game Sunday. It is expected that the three courts will be completed by next Sunday. Work has begun on the new club house, which will be completed as soon as possible. The grounds are located to the north of Drenkel and Palne's First Addition, near the new residences of the Seagers.

NORTH END OF LAKE COUNTY ATTRACTING NOTICE

Land of Three Hundred and Twenty Homesteads is Fast Filling up

Cliff, Or., June 4.—Very much interest in this part of Lake County by prospective homesteaders is apparent as shown by the large number of people coming in here daily for the last two months. A large percentage of the filings have been in the vicinity of Fort Rock. But recently many filings have been put onto lands further southeast, in and nearer to Lake and Cliff settlements. Notice has been issued by the Lakeview Land Office that all of this county from township 25 south and all of ranges 11 to 23 east of lands still vacant, are subject to the new homestead law of 320 acres, or an additional 640 acres to all resident homesteaders.

A very large acreage of land throughout this valley is being cleared and put into crop. Owing to the almost extreme dry spring that has prevailed grain crops are not looking their best. The weather, however, is getting warmer and cloudy, and indications are more favorable for better crops. Grass on the ranges, is good and stock is now doing well.

Christmas lake valley is one of the best grass-producing sections in Southern Oregon. Consequently a fine and profitable stock-growing country. It is predicted that eventually this whole valley will be fenced and the homesteaders and private holdings will invest largely and successfully in stock-raising. The lay of the land in the whole valley is a level plain.

Quite a large amount of land is now held by private owners who scripped it, and some has been commuted. As to land values, it is hard at this time to estimate the general price it can be bought for. Some of the best can be bought in this vicinity at about \$10 an acre.

As to railroads, it is simply up to E. H. Harriman, when he sees fit to build. The final survey runs directly through this valley, emerging from the Cascade through the Walker Range in by Fort Rock, through to Christmas Lake, thence a little south and near Cliff, or through to the Harney Valley country.

There is yet quite a large amount of government land sufficient for a colony if such wanted to establish itself in one locality. Since the first settlements three years ago, it is so far only developed as a grass and stock country, while some have had fair success with the grain, such as rye, barley, wheat and oats to a limited extent, and many have faith that it will ultimately produce good yields under proper tillage of the dry farming system.

VALLEY FALLS IS NEWEST TOWN

Located in Lower Chewaucan and has fair Promises

A petition for a postoffice to be known as Valley Falls with Ernest L. H. Meyer as P. M., is being circulated for presentation to the post-office authorities in Washington.

The new town is located midway between Lakeview and Paisley, 25 miles north of here on the old stage road, which is said to be a better road than the one now in use, although five miles longer to Paisley. The petition has about 30 names, and probably will be granted.

Mr. Meyer is one of the O. V. L. Co. engineers. He is about to establish a store at Valley Falls, and has a stock of goods now on the way, and is erecting a store building, with barns for the accommodation of teamsters.

Valley Falls is situated on the lower end of the Chewaucan valley, and is on the surveyed line of railroad running from Lakeview North to intersect the Vale-Eugene east and west line. The town is platted, and already half a dozen or more lots have been sold. It is so situated that it will, on the coming of the railroad, command the trade of the Chewaucan valley, and will grow into a town of considerable importance. The promoters are all railroad engineers, who assisted in the surveys throughout this section, and for that reason probably are fully aware of what will be the outcome, or in other words the future is assured for the new town of Valley Falls.

Everybody's baseball team can have a try at winning the big prizes offered at Lakeview Baseball Tournament the week of the Glorious Fourth.