

WILL INTRODUCE A NEW HOME-STEAD LAW IN SENATE

Production of Crops Would Be Only Requirement Necessary in Order to Secure a Title

Editor Republican.

I am sending this general form of letter to many newspapers, granges and commercial organizations of Oregon for the purpose of getting before the people the idea I have embodied in a bill I shall introduce in the Senate that production of crops rather than residence upon a homestead is the essential of successful and most efficient development of our resources. I have done this in the hope that the people of Oregon will favor their delegation here in Congress with their views as to the wisdom of the proposed legislation.

I am informed by Mr. William Hanley, an extensive stock raiser in Harney County, that there are 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon incapable of irrigation, but nearly all of it is susceptible of cultivation under the scientific methods now in vogue in "dry farming." Mr. Hanley's suggestion of substitution of crop production for actual residents as the consideration for obtaining title increasingly impresses my mind.

If the bill which I have prepared should become a law, the homesteader on non-irrigable land in what is known as the arid region need not live upon his land at all, but must live within the State. He must cultivate it either personally or by representative and he must show by annual proofs that within a period of five years the land has produced crops of a total value of \$1500.

Assuming that Mr. Hanley's estimate of 20,000,000 acres of vacant land in Eastern Oregon is correct and that same can be brought under cultivation by adoption of what is known as "dry farming," this area of land would furnish opportunities for 60,000 homestead entrymen who, before they could acquire title, would be obliged to produce crops of a total value of \$90,000,000. Thus it will be seen that the Nation, State and community would be benefited in the development of our natural resources, wealth increased, and, what is more important, a class of citizens gained who would be obliged to produce rather than merely live on the land—a population of workers.

In its present condition and in the present state of transportation facilities most of this land is not suitable for home making, though it could be cultivated by men who would make their homes elsewhere, or upon the land through only a part of the year. My bill is based upon the theory that if a tract of land is made productive it will provide some family with a home even though that family lives in a town near the land rather than upon the land itself, and that, therefore, all of the essential objects of the homestead law will be accomplished. The great difficulty under the present homestead law is that a great many men who settle upon land under the homestead act do as little cultivating as the law will permit and avoid as many as possible of the Government's requirements and the land is not made productive.

Believing that production is the real essential, I made that the most important feature of my bill. Land suitable for "dry farming" is frequently such as a man would not wish to make his home upon for twelve months in the year, but the present law permitting an entry on 320 acres requires actual residence, and, I believe, without accomplishing any desirable end by such requirement.

Under the plan proposed by my bill an entryman under the 320-acre homestead act could keep his family in any town of Oregon, where his children could go to school and all members of his family have the advantages of attendance at church and social functions, and, at the same time, by complying with the law regarding cultivation and production, he could secure title to the land. There would be no opportunity for fraud because the bill requires that annual proofs must be submitted showing the amount of land cultivated and the character, quantity and value of crops produced.

I believe that the average farmer on 320 acres of land subject to entry under the enlarged homestead act would be able to produce crops of much more than \$1500 in value in a period of five years; but the \$1500 minimum limit is fixed as a standard to which the entryman must work, and I believe that even under adverse circumstances any man who is enterprising and diligent will be able to produce crops of this value.

The theory of the homestead law is that the Government should provide cheap homes for the people. This theory is in no way violated by my bill. Land taken under this measure would maintain homes for the entrymen even though these homes were

a few miles distant rather than upon the land itself.

The residence requirement of the homestead law is in the nature of a penalty, the punishment being inflicted not only upon the entryman but upon his wife and children. At present the entryman takes his family into isolated regions in which vacant lands can be found and keeps them there to live a period of five years of banishment from association with fellow-beings.

In a great many cases the homesteader performs just as little work upon his land as possible, and as soon as he gets title removes his family to town where they can have the advantages of school and social intercourse. The real object of providing homes is not accomplished by the requirement of actual residence upon the land. This object would be accomplished, however, by the requirement that a man shall bring his land into productiveness. To produce, some one must cultivate the land. To cultivate economically, vicinity, labor and intelligent attention are required of the entryman or his representative. The entryman's desire is the acquisition and ownership of the land; title can only be obtained through production; production necessitates increased population either of the entrymen or their representatives. The value of the land acquired by the entryman depends upon continuing production. Thus, it is certain that the land once acquired will, under normal conditions, continue productive, as otherwise there is no incentive for entry nor to purchase after title is acquired. Necessitated production eliminates the evil of idle land due to non-resident ownership.

My bill requires that the entryman shall cultivate at least one-eighth of his land the second year, one-fourth the third year, one-half the fourth and fifth years and that he must file in the local land office by the first of December of each year a sworn statement verified by the affidavits of two persons having knowledge of the facts, showing the character, quantity and value of the crops produced by him.

I would be pleased if the people of Oregon would advise their delegation in Congress of their views of this measure.

Yours very truly,

JONATHAN BOURNE.

DISASTER IN PRIMERO MINE

110 Men Entombed in Colorado Mine From Explosion Caused by Gas

United Press Service.

PRIMERO, Colo., Feb. 1.—Seven more bodies were recovered today from the Primero mine of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, making a total of 42 known dead. There were 110 men in the mine at the time of the explosion, and there are still 70 men unaccounted for who are either dead or entombed alive. The bodies recovered were taken from the main tunnel. The mine consisted of four tunnels bored into the side of the mountain, and three of these tunnels still remain unexplored and it is believed that the missing men are imprisoned there.

Rescuers carrying the slogan, "Remember Cherry," are working frantically to save the lives of the men entombed. Gas is supposed to have been the cause of the explosion, although it will not be determined definitely until an examination is made later.

SULLIVAN BELIEVES FIGHT HAS BEEN FIXED

The Ex-Champion Says He Does Not Think Jeffries-Johnson Match Is on the Level

United Press Service.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—John L. Sullivan, ex-champion of the world, made the announcement today that he thought that the Jeffries-Johnson fight had been fixed. He said: "I don't think that Jeffries and Johnson are on the level about this match. Johnson can win if the bout was level. In my opinion the fight looks bad, and I don't think Jeffries could be dragged into the ring with the black unless it was arranged so that Johnson would lay down."

CONGRES TO INVESTIGATE HIGH COST OF LIVING

United Press Service.

WASHINGTON (D. C.), Feb. 1.—The ways and means committee of the House yesterday decided to investigate into the high cost of living. A sub-committee was appointed to determine the best means of conducting the investigation so as to reach the real cause of the trouble.

STRAYED — From my stable in Klamath Falls, one bay driving, mare branded Z; weight about 1100 pounds; had on a blanket and headstall of a halter. Information leading to the recovery of same will be suitably rewarded. J. B. Mason.

MAY RUN FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA NEXT ELECTION

When Asked Today Whether He Was a Candidate or Not, He Refused to Either Affirm or Deny It

United Press Service.

PORTLAND, Jan. 31.—Assistant United States District Attorney Francis J. Heney, when asked today if he were a candidate for the nomination for Governor of California, refused to affirm or deny that he was. He handed out his old-time, stereotyped reply, accompanied by his well-known smile—"I have nothing to say on that subject." Advice from San Francisco are to the effect that Heney's friends are planning the launching of a boom for their leader, with the confident hope that he will be successful.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 31.—Governor Gillett today reiterated his intention to support whomever the Republicans saw fit to nominate as his successor, stating that the extent of his activity would depend on the intensity of the fight. He refused to make any statement relative to the reported candidacy of F. J. Heney.

Secretary of State Curry said that he intends to leave his candidacy for the gubernatorial nomination in the hands of his friends throughout the State, and that he will remain at his desk and attend to his official duties. He is perfectly confident of his success. Much interest is manifested in the reported candidacy of State Bank Examiner Anderson, but no official confirmation is yet obtainable. There is still continued talk of Mayor Mott of Oakland as well as Speaker Stanton and Senator Belshaw.

HOUSES AT PAISLEY FILLED WITH ICE

Residents in Chewaucan Driven From Homes by Flood Awaiting Thaw

The account of the destructive flood at Paisley in the Chewaucan Valley, which appeared in this paper last week, was verified by Mrs. Mike Hough, who is in the city from Paisley on her way to visit friends in the Rogue River Valley. Mrs. Hough States that the flood was the most extensive known in that section and the water covered the valley to a depth of eighteen inches and in many places it reached three feet.

Most of the residents were compelled to move to the mountains back of the town and were living in tents. Before the water went down the cold weather set in, converting the entire valley into a lake of ice. Mrs. Hough states that when she returned to her home she found the floors of the kitchen covered with ice so that it was impossible to occupy the house. She therefore decided on a visit to await the thaw and the recession of the water.

Virgil Conn, the merchant, has large shipments of merchandise piled out in the mountains awaiting the thawing of the ice before they can be brought to town, and there is a lot of furniture and household goods also stored in the hills.

A course in wireless telegraphy will be added to the curriculum of the Ohio State University the coming year.

Extensive deposits of asbestos of fine quality and color recently were discovered in the Urenberg district of Russia.

STATE NEWS OF INTEREST

Plans Laid for Big Racing Association in the Northwest

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31.—(Special)—Preliminary steps were taken here this week for the formation of a Western Fair Association for the country west of the Rocky Mountains, to bear the same relation to this territory as the American Trotting Association and the National Trotting Association do to the East. The step was taken at the meeting of the North Pacific Fair Association, which appointed a committee to work on the project and report at the next meeting.

New officers for the North Pacific Fair Association were elected as follows: President, F. A. Welch, Salem; vice-president, W. H. Gibbons, Boise, Idaho; secretary and treasurer, John W. Pace, North Yakima, Wash.

Dates set for the various racing meets of the Northwest during the coming season are as follows: Everett, August 29 to September 3; Portland, September 5-10; Salem, September 12-17; Walla Walla, September 19-24; North Yakima, September 26 to October 1; Spokane, October 10-15.

The annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants' Association at Eugene during the past week was a triumph. Its membership is composed of up-to-date merchants whose aim is to serve the customers with first-class merchandise at moderate prices. During the discussion at the various sessions of the convention, they insisted on pure food and the trend of the gathering was toward better citizenship.

Modern commercial activity is emphasized by the progressive spirit of the Medford Commercial Club. It has a membership at present of 562 and when one realizes that there is an initiation fee of \$5 in addition to the monthly dues, one gets a better appreciation of the reason why people hear so frequently of the Rogue River city.

State-wide interest is shown in the development Congress to be held at Eugene February 11 and 12. Commonwealth Day, the fifty-first anniversary of the admission of Oregon as a State, will be celebrated on February 12. Questions of general interest, such as the conservation of the State's resources, extension of irrigation, country additions, and educational subjects will be taken up.

Japan, showing its friendly feeling toward Oregon and the Pacific Coast, has sent 170 bushes of native roses to be set out in the parks and public squares of Portland on February 22, the official rose planting day, when the metropolis will make a holiday and hold special exercises. The gift is a gracious one and is much appreciated by Rose Festival officials. A number of foreign nations have been heard from, each contributing native roses to be planted here on Washington's Birthday. It is expected by rosarians that the bushes will thrive in their adopted country as well as in their own clime.

Driving a gas burner down over an oil can spout and soldering it to prevent it slipping will prevent waste oil running down on the outside of the can.

The man who is always putting his foot down is pretty sure in time to encounter a tack.

NEW BANK MOST POPULAR PLAN SUGGESTED FOR YEARS

Hog Combine Reaches End of Instructions and Must Await the Return of Charley Moore

There was probably never any proposition suggested to the people of this county that met with such instant favor as the suggestion by this paper of the need of a Farmers & Merchants National Bank. It has created more talk than even the Court House removal, and talk that is bound to cause results. The people of this county are beginning to get tired of having to pay 10 per cent interest, when other places even on the coast can get plenty of money for 6 per cent and never to exceed 8.

There is always a limit to anything. This was found to be true in the price of meat and the people of the entire United States are now watching the result, and there is very little doubt as to what it will be. In the matter of money the conditions are the same. Any intelligent man will tell you that only in exceptional cases will any business warrant the payment of more than 8 per cent. A farmer cannot pay more than 8 per cent and make a success even in a country as prosperous as Klamath County.

The banks of Klamath Falls know this as well as anyone, but, living up to their reputation as members of the "Hog Combine," they never hesitate to demand every cent they can squeeze out of the man who finds it necessary to borrow. They expect to do this as long as they have control of the money of the county, but with a people's bank here things will be different. When that time comes the present combine will be down on their knees begging for the trade of the farmer and working man, and they won't be asking 12 per cent, either.

By the way, things are a little quiet in the Court House business, and the establishment of a new paper. It seems that they have gotten to the end of their instructions and it will be necessary to send to Portland to have Chas. S. Moore come back, before any further steps can be taken in the matter. Moore didn't tell his henchmen what to do in case this paper should do such an unheard of thing as to refuse to lay down and be good. Now, they are all at sea, and each one thinks he is the leader, and will not know any different until Charley Moore returns and tells him the truth. It was very clever of Moore in running away just as he did so that some one else would have to take the responsibility in case his plans were not successful.

PASSENGERS PROTEST AGAINST COASTWISE LAWS

United Press Service.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 1.—Six hundred and fifty passengers on board the steamship Cleveland held a mass meeting and signed a petition to Congress protesting against the coastwise laws prohibiting travel between American ports in foreign ships. Their indignation is due to the fact that twenty passengers wanted to land at Honolulu and were not permitted to do so unless they paid \$200 each, as provided by the law governing such cases.

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RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Supreme Ruler of the Universe has removed from this life the mother of our brother, D. W. Burling; therefore, be it

Resolved, by Klamath Lodge No. 99, Knights of Pythias, that we express our sympathy for our brother in this his hour of bereavement and that a copy of these resolutions be sent our brother, that copies be furnished the local papers, and that they be spread on the minutes of the order.

WM. WAGNER,
ALBERT E. ELDER,
NEIL CAMPBELL,
Committee.

Read and adopted at a regular meeting of Klamath Lodge No. 99, K. P., held on the 19th of January, 1910.

C. B. CRISLER,
Chancellor Commander.

Attest: E. L. ELLIOTT,
(Seal) K. R. & S.

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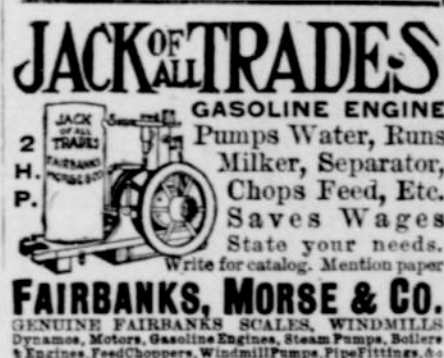
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