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LAND FRAUDS FOR REVENGE.

The land fraud cases continue to attract general interest throughout the West, in fact the whole country is watching Oregon and awaiting developments.

One thing is certain, and that is the public domain of the state has been handled in a reckless and profligate manner, and the result is that today very little desirable land remains for actual settlement.

The land, which under the intent of the government, was to be offered for the purpose of settling the country, has passed into the hands of speculators and corporations, and very few actual homes have been established.

The people have been robbed of their heritage, and deprived of their rights under the laws of the country. It is another case of too much law, and the people seem to be the chief sufferers.

The timber of Oregon was considered of little value until recent years, at least the residents of the state did not recognize the true worth of the stately fir, pine and cedar trees, and they allowed this vast source of wealth to slip away from them.

The talk and furor raised against certain high officials, chiefly pointed toward Senator Mitchell and Congressman Hermann, is not the true merit of the land business, and the men who are raising all the disturbance and crying "stop thief" are either weaklings or they are deliberately turning the public eye from the real facts.

It is true that subordinates of high officials may have used their positions to extort money from settlers, and false reports may have been made by several of these men for a pecuniary consideration, but the men above them were not parties to their criminal acts, at least the evidence does not bear out the suspicions cast by the prosecutors.

It is related that several years ago a score of timber land holders, who had acquired claims under the homestead law, were frightened by the appearance of a government official, who inspected the land, and was about to make a report on the actual conditions.

Final proof had been made on the several claims, yet in some instances cabins had not been erected, and no effort made to establish a permanent residence on the land by the claimants. The latter were residents of towns and cities in the state, and they made a constructive home on the land, by visiting it once or twice during the year, and spending a few days hunting and fishing in the vicinity.

The claimants called a meeting and resolved to head off an unfavorable report. To do this it was necessary to assess each \$50, and the money was forthcoming. The fund was placed in the hands of a chairman, and from there disappeared. Whether it ever reached the government official, or went to enrich the individual is not clear, but the settlers, so-called, were short half a hundred each in cash.

Some time later another employe of the government made his rounds, but he was easier than the first one. Another meeting was called, and the holders of the land "dog" again. They found \$25 apiece would be sufficient for their purpose this time, and they rejoiced.

This was in Albany, and the claim-

ants paid their money. Their patents were issued in due course, after the investigators had received their stipend. That money was used by the claimants is not denied, but that it ever went into the pockets of Mitchell or Hermann is an unwarranted assertion, and cannot be held against the men who are now under fire.

A number of politicians of various shades and breeds have made insinuations during the past two years that Congressman Hermann was guilty of fraud, but they have failed to offer a scintilla of evidence, and as the grand jury investigation progresses the attacks fall flat, and it is doubtful if another indictment will be returned by that body.

The powers behind the prosecutions do not care to get the little perjurers and bribers. They do not care to get the great big land thieves, like the railroad corporations. They want a few leading politicians and office holders in the state of Oregon, and they will give all kinds of inducements to the real thieves if they will turn "state's evidence," and tell things that would cast a suspicion on the men now in control of the political situation in Oregon.

There is more spite work than anything else against these men, and while the government is expending its energy in that direction, the real timber land thieves and hoodlums will make their escape, and the people will never get a chance to see the usurpers of the public domain punished.

The Journal is ready to assist in every way in the prosecution of the guilty parties, but when a direct effort is made to pass the main criminals and shoulder the responsibility on men entirely free from connection, it believes, as do most of the people of the state, that malice alone prompts the prosecution.

Turn the search light on the little fellows and on the big fellows, but do it for the purpose of bringing them to justice, and not for revenge.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

There is great public interest in the erection of the new high school building that has been ordered by this district.

The report of the board of education in favor of erecting a "substantial brick building" was approved by the electors' meeting.

The board of education has just purchased the additional lot that gives the school district a fine half-block site on Center street, in the heart of the city.

The question of the character of the building to be erected must be left largely to the building committee, who are Messrs. Byrd, Lee and Condit.

The decision to build of brick precludes the consideration of stone, concrete or frame structure.

Fortunately good building brick can be made at Salem, and common brick are sold for \$7 per thousand, and pressed brick at \$15 to \$20.

There is difference of opinion as to the style of brick structure to be followed. Some advocate veneered brick over a frame structure, some hollow brick walls, and some solid walls with furring.

There are houses built on the latter plan, lath and plastered on strips attached to the brick walls, leaving an air space so as to ensure dry walls.

It is a fact that on the south and west sides solid brick walls cannot be kept from becoming water-soaked, even rotting the furring to which lath and plaster are attached.

Hollow brick walls, with furring on the south and west sides would ensure an absolutely dry structure.

These suggestions are thrown out for what they are worth, and for the purpose of creating a wide interest in the proper construction of an important public building.

It is not yet known what plan the board will adopt of securing plans and

Humors

They take possession of the body, and are Lords of Misrule. They are attended by pimples, boils, the itching letter, salt rheum, and other cutaneous eruptions; by feelings of weakness, languor, general debility and what not.

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Which radically and permanently drives them out and builds up the whole system.

the services of an architect.

One plan is to buy plans and specifications outright, and then employ a superintendent of construction to see that they are complied with.

Another plan is to select an architect, have him make plans and specifications, and supervise construction. In this way the ideas of the board can be embodied in the building.

On this plan the building committee could get the benefit of all the architect knew about school houses, all that the board knew and practical suggestions from the city superintendent and principals.

Any attempt to get plans to favor certain contractors will be discounted by the board of education, if they are the servants of the people.

The work of the architect should be under their direction. His time and services should be theirs. Then let all contractors have an equal chance, and build early to get the best figures.

SCHOOL BOARD REFORM.

The Journal believes that at the close of this year there is an opportunity for the Salem Board of Education to take a step in the direction of reform.

As is well known the city, county and state require all bills to be made out on a regular blank form, fully itemized and sworn to.

The bill becomes a voucher, and is numbered and filed. There are suitable blank spaces for the names of the committee authorizing the purchase or service performed.

There are spaces for the attest of the clerical officer and the "O. K." of the auditing committee. Some of these forms are now complied with, but the bills come in in all kinds of paper scraps, and some of them are not properly vouched for.

This is not a reflection on the school board, but the inevitable working out of a bad system, which should give place to a better system of accounting.

The school district is growing rapidly, and should adopt some plan of purchasing supplies at wholesale, and from the lowest bidder, instead of carrying open accounts.

There is another growing abuse, and that is letting contracts without bids, for bills that run into the hundreds of dollars. These are only suggestions of common business sense, and not criticisms.

Even lodges and other bodies transact their business on these plans, and the board of education should take time by the forelock, and get out of a rut that is sure to cause trouble in future.

X-RAYS

Brite and fare—not enough to hurt.

Isn't it nice to have some one else indicted.

Let us be thankful. The X-Ray man has not yet been accused of any land fraud.

Roseburg is taking steps to secure public ownership of water and lighting plants.

Now the Oregon National Guard is filling the papers with its plans for charitable consideration.

If the new ten-yard rule is adopted for football we are sure to see the real thing in the way of fatalities.

O. P. Coshaw and Dexter Rice have formed a law partnership, and will make a strong team of Blackstoneites.

See, here, is Os West trying to get a Marion county grand jury at work. We didn't think that of a nice, clever young politician like Os.

An Iowa statistician figures that the beef trust has robbed the farmer of only \$12,000,000 the past year. They should return thanks.

The fifteenth anniversary number of The Journal on New Years—the linen or china wedding event—you can get into it with a nice ad, at very moderate rates.

The Century Club.

The Century Club will give another of their pleasant dancing parties at the armory tonight. The hall has been tastefully decorated with flags, and presents a fine appearance.



How to get people "back to the soil" has been a question for years with economists. It has been brought forward more clearly of late by the military success of the Japanese—a people living on small farms, on what we would call a meagre diet, yet manifest highly civilized and physically strong.

The extension of irrigating schemes in the arid regions of the United States has directed attention to the possibility of a profitable use of much smaller tracts of land than we have been accustomed to accept as our minimum allotment for a home.

When in order to "get back to the soil" there was required ability to secure and handle 20 or 160 acres of land, the difficulties seemed insurmountable. But if it can be shown to the people to whom this counsel is given that they can be supported and can even accumulate property on a tract of 3, 5 or even 10 acres, the problem will seem much easier of solution.

Farming is a profession, and should be studied as such. This pursuit is subject to a great variety of modifying influences and requires wide intelligence and careful judgment to secure the full measure of success.

The Sentry believes that most men have a natural aptitude for drawing support from the soil, since the mechanics from large cities, and even their children frequently make a measure of success cultivating little corners of town lots.

It is no longer necessary for men to search the outskirts of civilization to find land where they may secure a living. Small tracts of from one to five acres may be had on easy terms almost anywhere, even in the suburbs of large cities and out along trolley lines. Thus the isolation of farm life is avoided, and when there are 40 to 50 families instead of one on 160 acres, co-operation makes house building, as well as the procurement of tools, animals and machinery much easier.

It is also much easier to combine work on the land with employment in the shop or store to the great advantage of the worker. Health would be promoted, and great pecuniary advantages would result from a judicious combination of this kind.

It would be interesting, for example, if a factory could be established, the employes of which would work eight hours a day therein, and during the proper season devote two hours a day to the intelligent cultivation of a two-acre or three-acre field.

On this tract could easily be produced vegetables and small fruits sufficient for family use and a marketable surplus, which, under favorable circumstances, would in many cases equal the earnings in the factory.

A comparison of the health and prosperity of the operatives of such an institution with that of the workers in a neighboring establishment, giving 10 hours a day to their indoor work, would, we are confident, make an unmistakable showing in favor of the former.

Details have recently been made public as to the operations of a five-acre farm in an eastern state that is making a comfortable living for a family of four and a good profit in addition. After paying for the farm, the implements, a cow, some poultry and pigs, which cost \$1200, the owner had \$300 left for working capital. A garden was planted, which soon furnished most of the food for the family, and the surplus was sold in a neighboring town. The cow and poultry, too, contributed to the income. Small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries and blackberries, and trees like pears, peaches and plums, were set out. In the fall the hogs were butchered, and this, with the surplus poultry, gave the meat for the family, with some left for market.

The accounts for the first year showed very little money, but showed no debt, a substantial living and good health. The man from the start never purchased anything he had no money to pay for. He preferred peace and security to the uncertainties which always come with debt and "charge accounts."

Each year his income increased until today he shows a net gain, after paying all living expenses, of \$500 a month. He keeps 300 head of poultry, and devotes the rest of his land to gardening, vegetables and fruits.

This success shows what can be done by a combination of muscle and brains on a small piece of land. The same measure of success is possible to many people in different localities, and each instance thereof helps to solve the problem of getting people back to the

Smooth and Easy

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soil and relieving the congestion in cities. The plan as applied to factory employes is worth careful thought. THE SENTRY. Sure Cure for Piles. Itching piles produce moisture and cause itching, this form, as well as Bilig, Bleeding or Protruding Piles are cured by Dr. Bo-san-ko's Pile Remedy Stops itching and bleeding. Absorbs tumors. 50c a jar at drug-gist, or sent by mail. Treatise free. Write me about your case. Dr. Bo-sanko, Palla, Pa. Fore sale by Dr. S. C. Stone, druggist.

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Salem Flouring Mills

HURRAH FOR THE NEW YEAR. And the shoes Jacob Vogt sells. Hopes of nice fitting shoes, styles to the minute and priced reasonably are fulfilled every week day in this year in this shoe emporium. Comfort for elegance for long lasting qualities Vogt's shoes take second to none. We know your needs, and are ready to meet them to a nicety. Like to have your own.

FOR PAPA'S CHRISTMAS there is nothing that will please him more than a well-filled bottle that will enable him to dispense "good cheer" to his friends, and to make his table beautiful and festive. We have the choicest table wines, champagnes, cordons, Cedar Brook whiskeys at prices that will enable you to entertain to your heart's content. E. Eckerlen 258 Commercial Street

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Advertisement for Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Includes illustration of a woman and child, and text: "Of course consumption can be cured. Modern medicine teaches it. No one longer doubts it. Babies have it. Young mothers have it. The aged have it. None are exempt. For over 50 years doctors have prescribed Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for this disease. It quiets the cough, controls the inflammation. If interested, talk this over with your doctor."



What Santa Says Goes. Santa Claus is the high muck during the Christmas holidays and his mandate has gone forth, edict has been promulgated—your laundry work to the Salem Steam Laundry. Obey his behest and you will not be disappointed. Hurry orders filled promptly, please give us a reasonable time to get out your work. Some new machinery just in. The Salem Steam Laundry

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