

STATE SCHOOL LAND OFFICE AT SALEM

George G. Brown, present clerk of the state land board, first began work in this department August 1, 1895, and has held the office of clerk since 1903. The regular meetings of the board are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. All applications to the board to purchase state school lands must be made in person, with one-fifth of the price paid down. The land is held at a minimum price of \$2.50 per acre but the board may ask as much more as it sees fit. If the board is not satisfied with the offer the matter is referred to the local attorney of the board in each county. New surveys are advertised for 90 days and then sold to the highest bidder if at or above the minimum. The chief clerk in the office is John Mitchell, with Miss Julia K. Webster stenographer.

Oregon School Lands.

Following are the approximate areas of vacant school lands:

	Acres.
Benton	400
Baker	19,600
Clackamas	200
Clatsop	None
Columbia	240
Coos	None
Curry	None
Crook	34,900
Douglas	329
Gilliam	2,280
Grant	4,640
Harney	152,000
Jackson	409
Josephine	190
Klamath	7,800
Lake	112,440
Lane	None
Lincoln	None
Lincoln	200
Malheur	182,800
Marion	None
Morrow	700
Multnomah	None
Polk	None
Sherman	329
Tillamook	49
Umatilla	900
Union	2,000
Wallowa	2,280
Wasco	2,680
Washington	None
Wheeler	5,000
Yamhill	80

Last Report of the Clerk.

The report sets forth the amount of moneys received and receipted for, as well as the funds to which they were credited, the amount of interest-bearing funds in his department, number of acres of land sold, total number of conveyances, aggregate amount of loans approved and rejected, school district bonds purchased by the board, aggregate value of mortgages discharged and assigned, number of acres of land embraced in certificates of sale cancelled, total amount of moneys repaid on school, indemnity school, and swamp lands to which the title of the state has failed, and a list of warrants drawn by order of the board, and for what purpose drawn.

There is also included a list of farm bought under foreclosure proceedings, which have been sold during the past two years and a list of those remaining on hand. At the date of the last report of the board there were 40 of these farm on hand, two have been acquired by cancellation of certificates, making a total of 42, 24 of which have been sold, leaving only 18 now on hand, comprising 2785.55 acres, representing a cost to the state of \$20,900, principal, and a total, including interest to date of foreclosure and other costs, of \$29,024.02. The value of these places is estimated by the state land agent, who has personally inspected a greater part of them, at not to exceed \$15,000.

Indemnity School Land.

It is the opinion of the board that most of the money received on indemnity school land selected on invalid base has been repaid and that further repayments on this class of lands will be small.

On account of the creation of seven forest reserves in eastern Oregon, the state has acquired a large acreage of valid base. On June 27, 1905, the price of indemnity school was advanced from \$5 to \$6 per acre, and on April 24, 1906, from \$6 to \$7.50 per acre, and large numbers of applicants are being received at the latter price.

It is the duty of the governor, through the state land agent to select vacant government lands to satisfy the losses incurred by the creation of these reserves, but as there is no fund available for paying the expense of discovery and cruising of such lands, the governor, with the approval of the board, has followed the policy of making selections only when parties, who having knowledge of a vacant tract of land to which they wish to secure title, make a request for its selection and file an

application to purchase, together with at least one-fifth the purchase price and the required United States land office fee. As the act of 1903 prohibits the sale of indemnity lands until after they have been clear-listed to the state, the money received from applicants for these lands is turned into the common school fund to await the fate of the selection. If the selection is approved and clear-listed to the state the applicant, if he has paid in full, receives a deed from the state; if he has made only a partial payment a certificate is issued and the amount paid is credited thereon as first payment, and the deferred payments draw the usual rate of interest. If, however, the tract is not clear-listed to the state, the applicant is repaid his money.

State Land Agent.

This office is filled very acceptably by the new appointee, Charles V. Galloway. He works in perfect harmony with Clerk Brown, who has become such an authority on matters of state lands that no state land board can transact its business without his services. Mr. Galloway has a special duty to see that the state gets all that is coming to it in the way of indemnity selections, the sale or renting of state farms that have been turned over for lack of financial ability on the part of those who make loans from the school funds. He has a stenographer in the person of Miss Grace Babcock. Frequently Mr. Galloway is sent by the state land board to investigate land interests of the state in remote parts of the state and always returns with the information in his possession.

The State Land Laws.

The enactment on this subject make quite a volume. The board is composed of the treasurer, secretary and governor.

The governor is appointed land commissioner and empowered to locate or select the lands to which the state is entitled under the laws of the United States, or otherwise, and he shall be allowed all necessary expenses incurred by him in the performance of duties, and he is authorized to appoint such agent or agents as may be necessary in the performance of his duties.

The governor shall appoint a "state land agent" who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor, during good behavior, and whose duty it shall be to ascertain and make a record of the losses sustained by the state of Oregon in sections 16 and 36 by or through the United States by reason of settlements, mining claims, Indian reservations, forest reserves, fractional townships, or otherwise, and to satisfy said losses by the selection of vacant government land in accordance with the laws of the state and the United States; and he shall perform such other duties as are required by the governor or the state land board.

The state land agent receives an annual salary of \$1800 per annum, same to be paid quarterly as other salaries are paid; and he shall be allowed \$900 per annum for clerical assistance and shall be allowed all necessary expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties, and said expenses and allowance for clerical assistance shall be paid by order of the state land board out of the school fund interest account.

What Land May Be Secured.

Any vacant, surveyed, non-mineral, government land in Oregon, whether timbered or otherwise, may be secured through the state in the manner here indicated. The maximum area that can be sold to one person is 320 acres (in case of an irregular section 330 acres). The tracts need not be contiguous nor the applications presented at one time.

In filling the blanks the application to purchase is to be completed in full, containing a correct description of the tracts to be selected and with affidavits sworn before a notary public of county clerk within this state. On the indemnity list blank each smallest legal subdivision of the land desired should be separately described under the heading "Selections." The non-mineral affidavit is to be made by some competent person who is familiar with the land in question and may be either the applicant or another. On this blank nothing else is to be filled.

The present price of indemnity school land is \$8.75 per acre. At least one-fifth of the total purchase price must accompany the application and should be in the form of a check, draft or money order payable to G. G. Brown, clerk of state land board.

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Welch & Mourer, the Salem contractors, have justly added to the fame of this city by erecting many of the best structures in Oregon. The past year they put up the new wing to the asylum, a \$225,000 addition to the half mile of four story brick



Wm. M. Welch.

buildings owned at that institution by the state, a library building at Eugene, cost \$30,000, a high school at St. Johns worth \$22,000, and the Gordon hotel at Portland worth



George C. Maurer.

\$45,000. This makes a total of \$312,000 of public and private buildings in one year. The same firm put up the \$70,000 high school at Salem. For prompt and efficient execution this firm has a splendid reputation.

POPULAR FAMILY GROCERY IN THE SUBURBS

Frank G. Bowersox has made a splendid record for himself in the grocery business in this city for the past ten years. He has built up a trade at what is known as the Yew Park Grocery that employs four people, and his delivery wagon is called on to make a constantly larger circuit. He was in business for two years at Glendale, where he sold out to Jenk Harding, when he returned to Salem and bought out A. M. Patrick. Mr. Bowersox has great natural abilities as a merchant and aim to please the people at all times.

Singer Machines

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The Oscillating Hook has the most scientifically correct motion for making a perfect lock-stitch, because variable speed is avoided; there is less friction and a shorter, and, consequently, a stronger needle can be used. It will pay you to investigate this machine before buying.

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OREGON INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

The Oregon Institute for the blind is a school of learning established by an act of the legislature for the benefit of the blind youth of the state. The school is strictly educational in its character. The school gives facilities to the blind of both sexes residing in the state for obtaining an education equal to those furnished children in our best public schools. It also provides the means of acquiring a knowledge of music and such instruction in industrial pursuits as will aid the pupils to become independent and useful citizens.

Manual Department.

A thorough course is given in several industrial trades, such as cane seating chairs, piano tuning, hammock and net making, basketry and weaving. The girls are instructed in sewing, both by hand and machine, knitting, crocheting, bead and fancy work.

There is a large well equipped gymnasium in connection with the school and the pupils are given a systematic course of physical exercises throughout the school term. The purpose is to make the pupils useful, contented, self-supporting citizens.

Location.

The institution is located at Salem, where it has been provided by

the generosity of the state with beautiful grounds, convenient buildings and suitable apparatus for the instruction of the blind. The school is only a short distance from churches, lecture halls, and the business part of the city, yet it is separated from it by a stream, thus affording pupils the advantage and privileges of a city life with the quiet of a country home.

Literary Department.

The literary department of the school affords instruction in all the branches taught in the public schools, and the work required of the pupils, with tests for their progress, may be found in the course of study prescribed for the schools of Oregon.

Musical Department.

The musical department is well supplied with instruments and books on music. Instruction is given on the piano, organ, violin, cornet and other instruments. All the children are taught singing, and those who display special talent are given individual training in vocal music.

Conditions of Admission.

The school is supported by appropriations made by the legislature and the advantages it offers are free to all blind youths of the state and those whose sight is so defective that they cannot obtain an education in

the public school. The only parents are required to bear the cost of supplying their children with comfortable clothing in such cases as to admit of the necessary for washing and mending, and to pay traveling expenses to and from the school. If the parents, or friends of a child are not able to provide these necessary expenses, county courts are required to render such assistance.

Condition of Admission.

1. Insufficient vision to attend public school.
2. Ability to receive instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, physical and moral training.
3. Willingness to conform to necessary rules and regulations.
4. Good moral character.

Board of trustees—Gen. B. B. Belain, governor; F. W. Doremus, secretary of state; J. H. Anderson, superintendent of public instruction.

Officers and employees—Superintendent: Mrs. E. T. Doremus; Mildred Kruse, matron; Ethel Harding, teacher; J. H. Roberts, teacher; N. E. Johnson, janitor; Mattie Melton, housekeeper; Jessie Stoot, housekeeper; Potter, waitress; Maggie Stoot, waitress.

Superintendent Moore was many years county superintendent of schools in Marion county, and has a reputation as a thorough educator and at the same time is particularly adapted by disposition and training to have the care of the blind.

Moore as matron is a woman of sound mind and with her husband doing a good work for the state. Those entrusted to their care