

Some State Officials and State Institutions

THE OREGON PRISON IS AMONG THE BEST

The Oregon State Prison, measured by those of some of the other states, is a small affair. However, the state has no special pride in having a large prison, in fact is proud of the fact that its prison is a small one. It does take pride, though, in being able to say that it has one of the best and most humanely conducted prisons in the world.

It is beautifully located, a fine view of the valley and the grand sweep of the Cascades being one of its "attractions." It was located here by act of the legislature in 1871, and has been the scene of some of the most specta-

paid from \$50 to \$70 a month and board.

The state appropriated for salaries and general expenses of the prison, \$157,000 for two years, which gives the running expenses at \$78,500 a year, or three-fifths as much as it takes to look after the game of the state. In addition to this there was appropriated \$56,500 for improvements, among them being barracks for the trustees, to cost \$28,500, but these have not been built and the money may be turned back into the treasury. An ice plant has been installed and with it a cold storage sys-



Oregon State Tuberculosis Hospital.

ular events in prison history, among these being the famous Tracy escape and subsequent pursuit.

The prison grounds comprise about 150 acres and the buildings are substantial and well arranged.

About one year ago, on December 1st, to be exact, the present warden and superintendent, Col. B. K. Lawson, assumed charge and, though he had no previous experience in prison work, soon got in touch with the work and has proven to be an ideal man for the place. He is a fine disciplinarian, but is big-hearted, kind and humane, understands men and has the respect and confidence not only of all those employed with him, but of the prisoners, who know that they will receive only the kindest treatment possible under the conditions. They know that he has the duty of keeping them safe, and that so long as they obey the prison rules they will be treated humanely and kindly.

Colonel Lawson came from Cottage Grove. The others of the prison force are: J. J. Bergen, deputy warden, who is from Portland, and who has been at the prison in some capacity since 1903. He began as a guard and for six years has held his present position. His long service tells the story of his competency and fitness for the place.

Frank H. Snodgrass, captain of the guards, is also from Cottage Grove, and has held his present position since December 1, 1912. His work has been eminently satisfactory, and he has maintained a high state of efficiency among the 26 guards under him.

Tom R. Wilson, whom everybody knows, and likes, was appointed from Portland April 1, 1903, as chief clerk, and has therefore "done ten years' time." He knows everything about the prison from gate to kitchen, and from the number of prisoners at a given date to the number of chickens and the time their mothers, the incubators, turned them loose on the world orphans. Besides keeping the books and accounts of

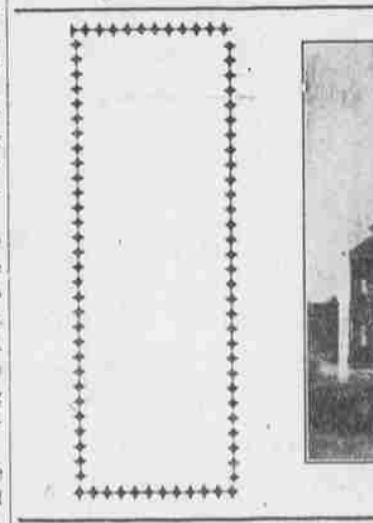
tem, and new central heating plant in which oil is used as fuel.

A notable improvement made during the year is the repainting of the buildings, making them a light gray in color, instead of the dingy red that gave them a gloomy and prison-like look.

Besides the 150 acres belonging to the state, there is leased land, making in all about 500 acres. On this farm, which is cultivated by the prisoners, all the vegetables used at the prison are grown. There is also a fine dairy, and a herd of fine cows, about 30 in all, and among these 11 head of Holsteins

He is a man of strong convictions, and his strong, square jaw indicates, and rightly so, that he will not hesitate in putting those convictions in force. He has a way, too, of brushing the cobwebs of technicality aside, and where they get in his way, if they cannot be brushed aside, he goes around them and gets to the point he started for, in some way, even if he has to make that way.

This trait, while cementing his friends the more closely to him, has necessarily made him enemies, and he has some and some bitter ones. This fact does not disturb him, for he is old-



Oregon State Penitentiary.

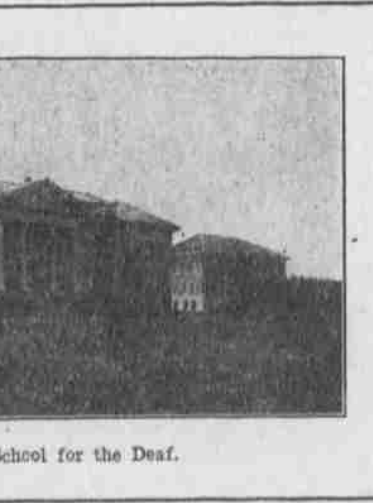
purchased this year in Washington county. While many of these are just now dry, the dairy is producing 300 pounds of butter a month, besides supplying the prison with milk. Colonel Lawson's especial pride, however, is a drove of about 200 hogs, now on the farm and which he says will be increased to 300 next year. All the berries used are put up by the inmates, and 200 gallons of tomatoes were canned by them.

The poultry yard is one of the finest in the state and it is also one of the largest. Among other improvements

made during the year was the placing of all telephone and lighting wires underground and the painting of the foundry building inside.

There are 355 inmates, and of these there are now 27 working on the roads of Marion county and 16 in Polk county. During the summer there was at one time about 90 doing road work and an average of 75 all summer. Of those inside, some were engaged in making brick, of which 1,300,000 were made, and all for use in state institutions, while others were at work on the farm and about the buildings, which are kept scrupulously clean and neat.

There were five executions at the prison during the year, and it is hoped they may be the last. They were George



Oregon State School for the Deaf.

the prison, he has found time to inaugurate a complete system of identification by both the Bertillon and fingerprint methods. He is an encyclopedia of useful and general information about all the prison affairs and the shop could hardly get along without him.

George Laberee, of Salem, is chief engineer and has held the position five years, and Levi Palmer is commissary, both capable and competent men.

Dr. R. D. Byrd is the prison physician, Mrs. Helen Huddleston, matron, while I. S. Murray is the official stenographer. The latter has held this position for nearly three years. Revs. Father A. A. Moore and W. G. MacLaren are the chaplains.

There are 26 guards, and these are

fashionably conscientious, and if he thinks a thing or measure is right, he supports it with all the force of his virile mind. For instance, he is opposed to the sale of spirituous liquors, and he does not quibble about it. Both the friends and enemies of the movement know exactly where he stands and that is DRY. Dry, did we say? Well he is more than that, he is "dusty," and if it was in his power, Oregon would not have a saloon in it for one minute. He is also a firm believer in the reclaiming and bringing under cultivation every bit of land in the state, and his backing has made possible the big irrigation schemes that will make the arid section of Eastern Oregon blossom and bear abundant crops.

He is "wet" so far as dry lands are concerned, but not that way about men. He believes above all things in the strict enforcement of the laws, and all of them, and so believing has waged an incessant war on vice of all kinds and at all times and in all places. Astoria is a cleaner city, due largely to his efforts, and while Portland is still far from being clean, it is immeasurably better for the vice campaign he has assisted in waging there. If its mayor, Albee, was a man of West's energy and character, Oregon's metropolis would be a model city so far as vice is concerned. He plays no favorites, does his duty as he sees it and as it is presented to him, regardless of whom it may jolt or what it may result in to others, or what those others may think or say of him for so doing.

He believes in "citizenship with all its rights and privileges for women, and so believing, selected a bright young woman, Miss Fern Hobbs, as his private secretary, she being the first woman to hold so important a political position in the United States. The manner in which she attends to the duties of the position shows the governor was wise in his selection.

He is a busy man, too, for the legislature has wished some work on him that should be left in other hands, and that is the interminable board work that

and Charles Humphreys, executed March 22 for the murder of Eliza Griffith, in Benton county; Mike Spanos and Frank Seymour, executed October 31, for the murder of George Dedaskalos at Medford, and Oswald C. Hansel, executed November 14, for the murder of Frank J. Taylor at Astoria.

As we stated at the start of this article, Oregon's prison is not great in size, but in management and the humane care of its criminal class, it stands the peer of the very best under the flag. It is a model most of the other states would do well to pattern after, and this is due to first, generous provision by the state, but most to the tactful manner of those whom the state has placed in charge of the human derelicts, those who are perhaps naturally criminal, and those whom untoward circumstances and perhaps resistless temptation or at least "imagined" provocation have made amenable to the law.

Gov. Oswald West

Oregon has the reputation of setting the pace for the balance of the United States in almost everything, and she is entitled to hold this record in the way of governors. When Oswald West was elected to this high position in 1910, he was but 37 years of age, one of the youngest men ever elected to the position of governor by any state in the Union. Today he is barely 40, and yet no governor from Maine to California, or Oregon to Florida, is so well known as is Governor West.

He is a man of strong convictions, and his strong, square jaw indicates, and rightly so, that he will not hesitate in putting those convictions in force. He has a way, too, of brushing the cobwebs of technicality aside, and where they get in his way, if they cannot be brushed aside, he goes around them and gets to the point he started for, in some way, even if he has to make that way.

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leaves him far too little time to look after the affairs of his office. He is ex-officio a member of the State Board of Control, which has charge practically of all the state institutions, and which is enough for one set of men to attend to. On top of this he is a member of the Board of Regents of both the U. of O. and O. A. C., and of the Mounouth normal school. He is also a member of the State Highway Commission, the State Banking Board, the printing board, the land board, the Desert Land Board, the Board of Education, the emergency board, the Board of Forestry, is chairman of the state library trustees, besides some more we cannot just now remember, and he is also commander-in-chief of the O. N. G. and the naval militia, and is a member of the militia and naval boards. He gets away with all these numerous jobs besides doing the governing stunt, and he does it by long and arduous hours of the hardest kind of work. He will leave his name high on the roll of Oregon's governors, and it will be a record his children, and theirs, can look back at with honest and worthy pride.

By courtesy of Bullock's Studio, these cuts were made from photographs taken by them.

State Treas. Kay

Taking care of the state's money is no small job, but one requiring eternal vigilance and much close and confining work. Of course, as Oregon grows in population and wealth, this task yearly becomes larger and more arduous. A few years ago a million or two would run the state a year, but it will do so no longer. It requires now above four millions yearly, and probably after the next legislature meets it will be a 5 instead of a 4 the head of those ciphers.

The present state treasurer, Thomas R. Kay, took office January first, 1911, and his term will expire on the first day of 1915, or in about a year. On taking charge of the office, he placed Thomas R. Ryan in the position of chief clerk, but made no other changes in the office force. Mr. Ryan's excellent work and thorough mastery of the duties of the position show his selection was a first class one.

The duties of the treasurer's office are manifold, for not only must an accurate account of the expending of more than \$4,000,000 yearly be kept,

Sec'y Ben Olcott

Many not familiar with the work in the state house have an idea that a state office is a sinecure, that the work is light and confined principally to drawing the salary. There never was a greater mistake. As a matter of fact, there are few business men of the state that do the work laid on the shoulders of state officers, or some of them.

A glance at the work done by Secretary of State Olcott illustrates this. He has the supervision of all the work belonging to the office and this in itself is enough for any one man, even though

preceeded him in office, worked part of his term under the new system.

Under the old law the state treasurer received a small salary, but this was pieced out by making him member of many boards, and paying him a salary for the duties of each of them. The constitution fixed the salary and this was just a plan for paying the treasurer a reasonable amount for his work. Under this system with pay for work on boards, the salary of the office amounted to about \$4200 a year. On top of this, however, there was no provision for loaning the state's money which was supposed to be kept in the vaults at the state house, or at least in the city. This was a pleasant supposition, but that was all, for the money was loaned out by the treasurers, and, well the state did not get any interest on its idle millions, and it is presumed the state treasurers did not loan it for nothing.

This perquisite, due to Mr. Kay's work, was cut out and the interest on

Sec'y Ben Olcott

the state's money now goes to the state and the state treasurer's salary is now \$4500 a year straight.

The state treasurer, like the governor and secretary of state, has a job lot of boards wished on him in addition to his other duties. Every time the legislature creates a new board, it assumes that these three officers can stand for another one and so they get it. They are "board" to death now, and have a lot of work that should be taken off

but the sources of income must all be kept track of, and for some of this income the treasurer is made the collector. The inheritance tax is one of these, and this amounted last year to more than \$80,000. In the collection of this sum a strict attention to the statements filed by appraisers of estates, caused supplemental appraisements to be filed which increased the receipts of the state more than \$10,000, adding that much to the tax on valuations which otherwise would have been lost to the state. This saving alone would pay the treasurer's salary for more than two years, and it was a matter such as is generally overlooked, as officials are given to taking such valuations as correct. This jacking up of easy-going appraisers not only brought the state in good money, but it served notice on appraisers generally that they would have to do their duty, and that the state would not stand for either crooked or careless work in this line.

The state's money is kept in 72 depositories scattered all over the state in as many different banks, and draws 2 per cent yearly, the low rate being caused by the fact the money is loaned "on call," that is must be paid on demand.

Besides the handling both in and out of the state's money, paying its bills and keeping account of them, the state treasurer has had the charge of the state's school fund, amounting to something more than \$6,000,000. This money is kept loaned out on interest and there is much work in keeping it at work, getting it in from borrowers and loaning it again to others. This department is indeed an immense farmer's bank, loaning money to farmers at a low rate of interest, and doing business on a capital of six million dollars. It is different, too, from most banks, for there is no reserve fund, the whole capital being kept at work. This is a fund that is steadily growing.

A few years ago, due to Mr. Kay's work before he became treasurer, the system of paying the state treasurer was changed, and Treasurer Steele, who

company with a plant of its own every entry is indexed against the land itself, and the "tract index" thus becomes a dragnet with no deed, mortgage, tax sale or other matter affecting the title can escape.

But more than reliability should be required. There should be required financial and moral responsibility. The making of abstracts is a profession requiring skill and training as much as any other profession. It is cheaper and safer to go to the best abstractors and get the best aid. A company with a complete plant behind it is financially responsible because it has a large sum of money invested in that plant, and its reputation is at stake. Because it has that large sum involved there is an assurance of permanency which is lacking in the work of one who has no plant, one who has no financial standing to maintain.

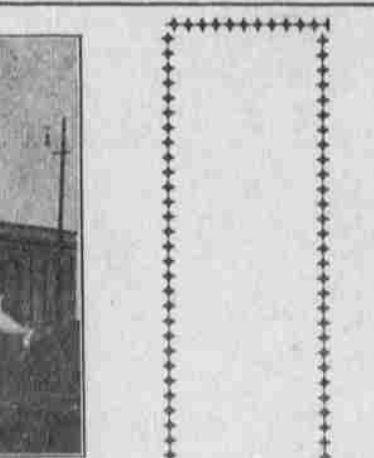
The question of moral responsibility is more personal. Who are the men who own this complete plant and what is their standing as men and in their profession? Have they had experience in title work, and a thorough training? The Salem Abstract company was organized in 1880, 34 years ago. It has grown with Marion county and with Salem. As years pass records necessarily increase and titles become longer and more intricate, requiring additions to the plant, more safeguards, and an even higher degree of training and proficiency than a decade or two ago. The Salem Abstract company has kept pace with the best advance in its line, and its plant today is better than many plants in larger cities than Salem and older and more populous counties than Marion.

Thirty four years in the title business



View of Portion of Buildings, Cottage Farm, Oregon State Hospital, Salem.

splendid officer bringing a well trained mind to bear on the systemizing of the work of the office, and applying to it the same keen business methods that have made his management of his manufacturing industries so successful.



New Receiving Ward, Oregon State Hospital, Salem.

IT HATH A SONOROUS SOUND.

According to the reports, Colonel Roosevelt, while at Buenos Aires, remarked in his usual earnest manner: "We wish to use so much of collectivism as will form the best basis for an altruistic individualism."

Well, we are for it.

What's the answer?

A brunette may be fairer than a blonde in some ways.



New Receiving Ward, Oregon State Hospital, Salem.

requiring an advanced technical skill and accuracy, and never a suit brought against it for damages for error, of any kind, is a record of which the Salem Abstract company is justly proud, and which it expects to maintain. Andrew A. Lee, the president, has been associated with the company for over 24 years, and his long experience and training have placed him high among title men in the state. George J. Watson, the secretary, is a lawyer who has practiced in New York and in Oregon, and has made a specialty of titles. For all these reasons, the certificate of the Salem Abstract company gives assurance now as for many years past that there is back of it reliability and financial and moral responsibility as well.