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L. S. BARNES, President. CHAS. H. FISHER, Vice-President. DORA C. ANDRESEN, Sec. and Treas.

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### A SILLY PROCEEDING

One of the bitterest fights of the session was over house bill 302, placing the forfeited Oregon & California Land Grant lands on the assessment rolls. It had a stormy passage in the house and there was considerable of a row in the senate over it. It passed, however, Saturday afternoon, it being the special order at 4 o'clock when Representative Bean spoke, at the senate's request, for ten minutes, defending the bill; and Eaton, who opposed it, answered in a seven minute talk, Bean having three minutes to close. It is probable it would not have got by had not a compromise been agreed on by which it was submitted to the people by referendum.

The Capital Journal has called attention several times to the different roads taken by the legal mind and that of the layman in dealing with questions of law. This may be the reason the idea of taxing the lands seems absurd to other than the lawyers, although many of them take the layman's view of it. The advocates of the bill admit the lands were forfeited by act of congress for failure of the railroad company to comply with the terms of the grant. They know that the state of Oregon through its legislature asked congress to take this step. Now it seems the advocates of this bill are denying that congress has really forfeited the lands, for, if because the railroad did not fulfill its part of the contract, and the lands by reason of this breach of contract are forfeitable to anyone, it must be to the original owner, and the party of the first part in the contract under which the railroad secured such title as it had. They certainly did not revert to the state of Oregon, for it never had a shadow of title, nor has it now. Congress in forfeiting the lands or rather in the acts subsequent to their being so declared by the court, practically admitted the roads had an equity in the lands. If it has anything in the way of interest in those lands now, it is this equity. Then the question comes up: Is that equity, the extent of which has not yet been decided, taxable? It would seem to the lay mind, not.

Suppose a city lot valued say at \$1,000 here in Salem was assessed to John Doe, and at the same time Richard Roe had an equity in that lot in the sum of \$100, would the equity as well as the property be taxed? Or, to bring the matter still nearer the same conditions: Suppose the city of Salem sold a lot to John Doe, taking a mortgage for the larger part of the purchase money; and later through failure to pay the mortgage should be foreclosed but with a decree that a certain portion of the money paid should be returned; could the taxes on the property be collected from the city simply because it had taken over the property? And suppose the city refused to pay this sum decreed by the court as the purchaser's due, could he be assessed for it?

The railroad lands in question originally belonged to the government. Through failure of the party to whom it granted them to comply with the terms of the grant they are returned to and again become the property of the general government. If this is true, how can they be taxed, any more than the balance of the government lands within the state?

Passing the matter up to the people to decide is the veriest child's play. It is a question of law, not of fact that is to be decided, and if the people should order the lands placed on the assessment rolls what would the order amount to? Would it change the status of the lands? Would the decision of the people of this state have any weight with the supreme court in deciding a question of law? It looks as though representative Bean, and Senator Olson were simply making grand stand plays for the benefit of the dear people. The latter wanted to know in his argument before the senate: "Whether this state was a vassal, or whether it shall assert its rights to tax the land within her own borders." We will not deny that the state has the right to assess all government lands within the state, those of the land grant with them, but we fancy the paved roads projected for the state will all have been completed and worn out before a cent of the tax is ever collected. However it places the state in position to start a nice little law suit--and lose it.

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SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

"No pay no work," is Senator Brownell's idea of the senatorial job. When the 40 days for which the state pays its law makers expired Friday night the legislator remarked he had other things to attend to and packing his grip returned to his law practice at Oregon City, leaving the rest of the representatives to finish up business or leave it unfinished. It may be remarked though that all the measures in which Brownell was especially interested had been safely acted upon. However, he did no more than is generally done by all the legislators, who when the clock registers midnight of the fortieth day, after being turned back a few times, leave the unacted on bills to their fate and they, that is the bills, die in the committees' hands.

Portland is having a rather unique law suit, it being brought against a wealthy timber man whom the plaintiff accused of stealing his wife's affections. The peculiarity of the case is the defense set up, which alleges that the defendant did not steal said affections or any part thereof as alleged but declares the fact to be that another man stole them, and afterward paid the plaintiff what the latter considered their value. There is nothing in evidence to show the first thief ever returned the goods, so the supposition is he still has them and therefore the defendant could not steal them from plaintiff. It might be called an alibi--for the affections.

It was expected the legislature would adjourn Saturday night, but there were a number of bills not acted on, and during the afternoon it was agreed to hold over Monday. It is likely the session will end sometime today, though it may be well toward midnight. There is the road bonding bill that was allowed to go to second reading late Saturday that is up in the senate today and the county bridge bill is held up in the house pending action by the senate on the bonding bill. The latter seems too much of a local matter to be successfully used as a club, but it is probably the biggest stick the house has left.

The Earl of Derby, England's Secretary of State for War, warns his countrymen against thinking Germany is conquered. He affirms his faith in eventual victory, but asserts that the very fiercest contest is yet to come. He points out that while Germany is suffering from food shortage that she still has vast resources and will be able to continue the struggle for a long time. He asserts that the critical period of the war will come within the next few months, and advises that good and bad news be received with the same gameness and determination, and that there is but one thing to do and that is "stick it out."

It is a hopeful sign that of the appropriations made two years ago some \$200,000 remain unexpended. This is a rather remarkable thing for it has been the practice not in Oregon alone by any means, for departments to use up all the money appropriated for them lest a precedent should be established and future appropriations be cut down.

An open season for beavers in Benton and Marion counties was declared by the legislators principally by the efforts of Representative Lafferty. The clams on the other hand will get a rest over in the Yaquina bay section, a closed season being declared for them.

The "God given ducks," owing to Senator Gill's love for the wild ducks being alienated by someone, will continue to be slaughtered by what Senator Dimick calls "Portland game hogs," at the rate of 35 a day from behind the blinds on Sturgeon lake, in Sauvies island.

The Ways and Means committee shaved pretty close to the limit allowed by the six per cent imitation law, leaving less than \$10,000 as a margin. However there is a snug little sum left in the treasury remaining over from unexpended appropriations.

Anyway the cranberry boxes were standardized and the bee inspectors were placed on the state's pay roll.



### NEW THOUGHT

A headache most ungainly my skull with anguish fills, while sadly and profanely I swallow dope and pills. My kindly New Thought neighbor, who finds this life a smile, comes over here to labor and talk with me a while. "Your head's not really aching," he says to me, "old hoss; your dome of thought is faking, and putting bunk across. There's no such thing as anguish, there's no such graft as pain, and invalids who languish are never safe and sane. Forget your wild and woolly belief



in pain, today; just swear you're feeling bully, and you will feel that way." When nothing is the matter, and I am hale and sound, I like that kind of chatter--I eat it by the pound. But when my head is aching, until you hear it creak, and some one says I'm faking, I raise an angry shriek, a loud, blood-curdling holler, that makes his life blood freeze; and then around his collar I tie his feet and knees.

### A SUCCESSFUL SQUAB FARM

R. M. Rader who purchased the Caleb Saker 10 acre orchard some time ago has just completed a one hundred foot squab house. He now has over two hundred pairs of pigeons which produce from six to ten pair of squabs per year. Mr. Rader marketed the first dozen six weeks old squabs at five dollars per dozen at Portland, and they were pronounced equal to any ever on that market. This is about 41 2/3 cents per bird, and basing the crop of each pair per year at sixteen birds would make a gross income from each pair of pigeons about \$6.56. This beats a pair of chickens, even at the present price of eggs and poultry. In addition, the orchard produced about two hundred boxes of apples, orchard run, this season. Mr. Rader expects to add a blooded pair of White Wyandottes to the ranch and to have 1000 pairs of breeding pigeons during this year.--Donald Record.

### LATE HOP NOTES

Geo. W. Yergen has sold 250 bales of hops to A. J. Kay & Son at \$1.2 cents. This was one of the best large lots left.

A. Christen and Henry Boje have taken up their hop yards and will plant spuds, corn beans, and onions. Part of the Lembecke yards west of town has been taken up.--Hubbard Interprise.

Mayor Morrison, of Springfield, last week contracted 30,000 pounds of hops for delivery to Falk, Wornser & Co., each year--1917, 1918, 1919, at 11 cents per pound.

Faber and Hofer, of St. Paul, have contracted to deliver to the Johnson Hop company, each 10,000 pounds, at 10 cents. Nick Cook has agreed to deliver to the same firm 15,000 pounds, at 10 1/2 cents. The latter is a two year deal.

Recent hop sales have been reported as follows: L. P. Gooding, 20 bales at 7 1/2 cents; H. Waltz, 35 bales; S. McDonald, 16 bales; Joe Miller, 17 bales; Geo. Faber, 9 bales, all at the same price, 7 1/2 cents at St. Paul, to the Johnson Hop company. A. J. Miesler bought 41 bales from J. H. Miley and 28 bales from Gray & Miley at 7 cents. Van Damme, of St. Paul, has sold 31 bales at 7 1/2 cents.--Aurora Observer.

### DEAD ON HIS FEET

GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules will bring new life and quickly relieve that stopped up congested feeling. They will thoroughly cleanse and wash out the kidneys and bladder and gently carry off the ill effects of excesses of all kinds. The healing, soothing oil works right into the walls and lining of the kidneys and expels the poisons in your system. Keep your kidneys in good shape by daily use of GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules and you will have good health. Go to your druggist at once and secure a package of this time honored world wide remedy. It is not a "patent medicine." It is passed upon by U. S. government chemists and declared pure before coming into this country. GOLD MEDAL is the pure, original Haarlem Oil, imported direct from the ancient laboratories in Holland, where it is the National Household Remedy of the sturdy Dutch. Look for the name GOLD MEDAL on every box. Accept no substitute. Your druggist will gladly refund your money if not as represented.

### OPPORTUNITIES IN BUSINESS

During this season's course the public library is touching the interests many classes of people. On next Friday evening the business men and the younger prospective business men will have opportunity to hear a discussion that is sure to be of interest. Dean D. Walter Morton is head of the school of commerce at the University of Oregon and is known somewhat to Oregon audiences as a lecturer along his line. The lecture takes place Friday evening, February 23, at 8 p. m. in the library auditorium. All who are interested are cordially invited to hear what the dean has to say on this subject.



## "Across Lots to Riches."

Most financial failures are caused by trying to go too fast.

Those who go "across lots," or the get-rich-quick route, encounter many pitfalls.

The main-traveled road to success is the one which leads to the savings bank.

It may seem slow to some, but proof abounds that those who keep on it succeed in accumulating money and learn to handle it wisely.

Suggestion: Make an "every-pay-day" deposit at this bank and you will "arrive" sooner than those who take the route "across lots to riches."

UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK  
Salem, Oregon  
Member Federal Reserve Bank

### OREGON NEWS

During the month of January 27 vessels loaded with lumber at the mills in the lower Columbia river district and their combined cargoes amounted to 24,463,678 feet of lumber. In the same period nine vessels carried 7,101,391 feet from up river mills, making a grand total of 31,565,069 feet of lumber that left the Columbia river in cargoes during the month of January.

The box factory, dry kilns and boiler rooms of the Clatsop mill at Astoria, one of the largest lumbering concerns in the lower Columbia river district, was destroyed by fire with a loss approximating \$150,000. Pere Silvola, a young Russian Finn, started the fire. Loss is covered by insurance. Seven thousand doors were burned in the factory devoted to their manufacture, and hundreds of thousands of feet of valuable lumber in the kiln was lost.

Practically \$1,000,000 will be spent during the coming season in building roads in Oregon, under the terms of the federal good road law, of the state legislature will put up dollar for dollar to match the allotments that have been made from the federal appropriation. Four distinct allotments have been made for road building in Oregon, the total amount allotted being \$491,966. Before this federal money becomes available the state must enter into a satisfactory agreement with the secretary of agriculture, to maintain the roads after they are finished.

The senate has passed Senator Lane's bill repealing sections 2588, 2589 and 2590, of the revised statutes, so that vessels bound in the Columbia river for Portland need no longer stop at Astoria to exhibit their papers, nor need vessels bound outward from Portland stop at Astoria to file copies of their manifests.

The secretary of war has decided definitely to purchase a tract of land in the vicinity of Linnton for a rifle range for the use of troops stationed

at Vancouver barracks.

The directors of the Mount Angel bank have offered \$5000 to the farmers of the surrounding country with which to build silos. The board has announced that this sum will be loaned for this purpose at 5 per cent. Union county's jail, from which several prisoners have made their escape in recent years, was declared by the grand jury to be unsafe, and extensive repairs and improvements are urged.

### HOW TO GET THE BRIDGE

(Aurora Observer.)  
With Polk county officials holding out for a concrete bridge at Salem, when everybody knows that county has no money and no prospects of any with which to construct it, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that those county officials want NO BRIDGE. If Salem or Marion county want a steel bridge (or any bridge at all) it appears the only way to get it is to build it.

### It Works! Try It

Tells how to loosen a sore, tender corn so it lifts out without pain.

Good news spreads rapidly and druggists here are kept busy dispensing freezone, the other discovery of a Cincinnati man, which is said to loosen any corn so it lifts out with the fingers.

Ask at any pharmacy for a quarter ounce of freezone, which will cost very little, but is said to be sufficient to rid one's feet of every hard or soft corn or callus.

You apply just a few drops on the tender, aching corn and instantly the soreness is relieved, and soon the corn is so shriveled that it lifts out without pain. It is a sticky substance which dries when applied and never inflames or even irritates the adjoining tissue.

This discovery will prevent thousands of deaths annually from lockjaw and infection heretofore resulting from the suicidal habit of cutting corns.



### WEDDING BELLS

"Happy is the bride the sun shines on!" Elsie quoted, as Zona came down to breakfast. It was to be a noon wedding, so the morning was a full one.

Zona was married in the little church we all had attended and the same pastor who had baptized all of us married her. On account of father's death the wedding was a very quiet one, only near relatives and young friends of both families being present. She was a lovely bride, and Curtin looked so manly and proud. I felt sure they would always be happy together.

"A couple of children," mother said with tears in her eyes, "but I am not afraid to trust her with Curtin. He is a noble boy."

Clifford had given her away, and as usual a thrill of pride in his appearance made me think for a few moments that perhaps after all I MIGHT sometime be happy with him.

RICE AND OLD SHOES.  
After a gay wedding breakfast the "newly weds" left for the north on their wedding trip. Such a lark as Zona's young friends made of it. It made me feel so old, yet I was only six years older than Zona. But six years is a long time when they are unhappy years.

The boys and girls had armed themselves with several pounds of rice and all the old shoes they could find. They had tied up the trunk with white ribbon, and also decorated the harness. All the servants from both the house and the quarter were lined up each side of the carriage drive, their hands full of wild flowers they had gathered early that morning. Such a shower of rice, such a fusillade of old shoes, as were thrown after the young bride and groom as Zona's favorite pair of horses drew them along over the roadway of wild flowers I have never seen. Once again a feeling of pity for myself that I had missed all such demonstrations at my wedding, brought a mist to my eyes through which I watched the receding carriage.

We were typical southerners in our love for horses. Father had steadfastly refused to buy a motor car, and mother had felt just as he did. They were good enough for heavy work; but for pleasure there was nothing like a horse.

The horse party broke up immediately, and mother, Elsie and I were alone. Clifford had gone about an hour after Zona left, pleading urgent business.

(Tomorrow--An Unforeseen Illness.)