

**PRISON FLAX PLANT
HIVE OF INDUSTRY**

100 Men Are Employed in the Work of Milling

With the flax plant and the prison school running at full blast the empty echoes of the penitentiary shops have given way to the hum of industry, and commercial flax and elementary education are being turned out under the supervision of Superintendent Cady and Principal Frank Davey, respectively.

The three principal operations of preparing the flax for use is being carried out by about a hundred men in the flax mill. The flax is broken, scutched and hackled, then bound into bundles. The breakers consist of serrated rollers that break the woody covering from the flax as it is fed into the machines by one man to each machine; another breaks the bundles and separates them for the feeder. Another man takes the flax as it comes from the breaker and piles it up on a table where it can be reached by the men working at the scutching machines.

The scutching machines consist of four dull knives shaped like a cavalry

sabre which revolve on a shaft. The bunches of broken flax are held against these knives which scrape the woody parts from the fibre which is then twisted and turned over to the hacklers. The hackles consist of huge steel spiked combs nailed to a table. The bunches of flax are then combed out much the same as millady combs out her hair switch.

The hackles leave the fibres of the flax free from tangles and in suitable bunches for handling. They are then assembled in bunches about 12 inches in diameter and the full length of the fibre and in this shape is ready for sale to the flax mills and other factories that make linen products. The flax that is separated by each operation from the first quality fibre has its uses as tow, twine, and the short tangled refuse is baled for upholstering furniture.

It will be noted in looking over the samples of flax now ready for sale, that the most even colored and best cured flax is the so-called "rotten" flax that aroused widespread comment last winter when the flax was undergoing the rotting process.

About 100 men are employed in the flax plant and not one of them ever worked in a flax plant before, and as a result Mr. Cady is not able

to put out the quantity of finished flax that would result from experienced free labor. However, the men are being taught their new duties and next year when the acreage is increased to 600 acres the plant will provide labor for over 100 men during the entire year and promises to return a handsome profit to the state, once the industry is in good working order, as well as opening up a new endeavor for the farmers of the Willamette valley.

The state of Oregon Saturday reaped the first profit from its flax-growing experiment when it contracted with the California Cotton Mills of Oakland, Cal., to deliver two carloads of flax fiber and flax tow to that company for a sum not less than \$6400.

Under the terms of the contract, the California mills agree to pay a greater price if the market advances in the near future. The state will ship the product by May 11. The California mills have agreed to take the state's entire crop of fibre and tow if the Board of Control will consent.

Dr. Stone's Heave Drops cures heaves. Price \$1; for sale by all druggists.

LIST OF TRANSFERS.

Reported by Columbia County Abstract Company.

March 11—Milton Smith to C. G. Thayer; land in S. 22 and 27, T. 7 N., R. 2 W., \$1600.00.

Herman Kamma et ux to Edward G. E. Wist, Jr.; land in S. 1, T. 3 N., S. 6, T. 3 N., R. 1 W.; S. 21, T. 4 N., R. 1 W.; S. 36, T. 4 N., R. 2 W., \$1.00.

March 13—Johan Olaf Olsen to John H. Johnson; land in S. 3 and 4, T. 7 N., R. 5 W., \$500.00.

Ole Jensen to John Johnson; und. 1/2 int. lot 75, Midland Drainage District, \$10.00.

March 14—Jane W. Muir to C. A. Burekhardt; shooting right in lands in S. 27, 28, 31 and 32, T. 4 N., R. 1 W., \$1.00.

Edith B. Merrill et ux to M. W. Markham; lot 6, block 2, Merrill's Addn. to Clatskanie, \$250.00.

Ella J. Clinton to Virgil L. Powell; lots 9, 10, 11 and 12, in block 1, First Addn. to Vernonia, \$20.00.

March 17—Clinton W. Parsons et ux to Charles Johnson; lots 19 and 11, block 72, St. Helens, \$10.00.

Columbia County Real Estate Co. to Peter J. Hansen et ux; lots 21, 22, and part of lot 20, block 95, St. Helens, \$532.00.

Fritz Fallinat to W. A. Cannon; SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 S. 30, T. 5 N., R. 5 W., \$1.00.

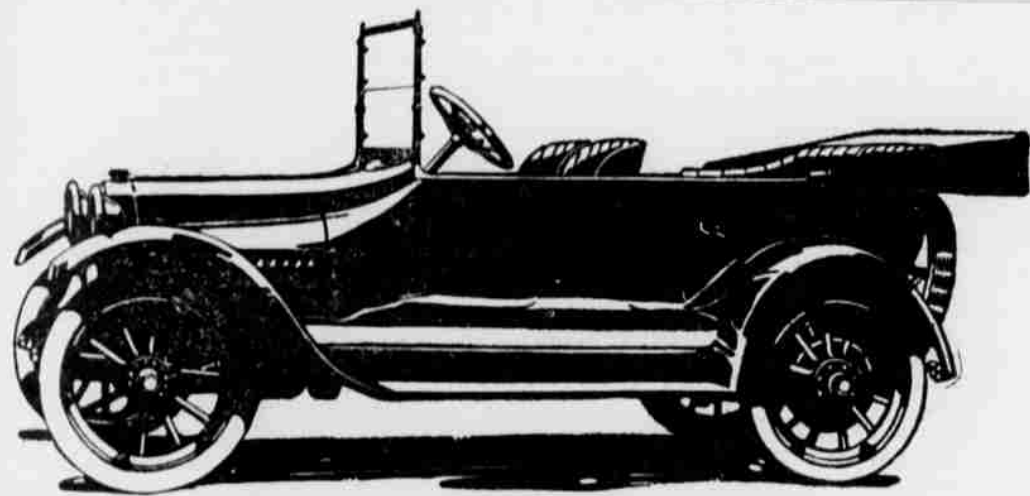
March 18—Mary Larson et ux to Nels Mattson; part of lot 4, S. 31, T. 7 N., R. 3 W., \$1.00.

Nels Mattson et ux to Benson Timber Co.; part of lot 4, S. 31, T. 7 N., R. 3 W., \$10.00.

Nels Mattson et ux to Clatskanie & Neahlem R. R. Co.; right of way over lot 4, S. 31, T. 7 N., R. 3 W., \$10.00.

Charles A. Burekhardt et ux to John H. Burgard; shooting right on lands in S. 27, 28, 33 and 34, T. 4 N., R. 1 W., \$1.00.

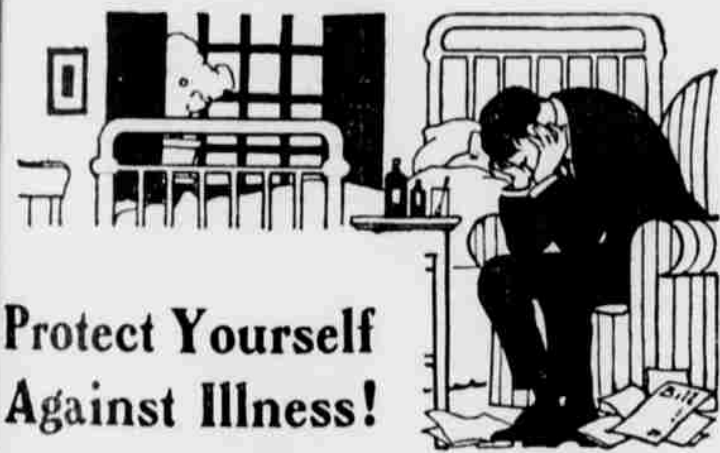
Clinton W. Parsons to Mrs. Marie Cram; lot 13, block 92, St. Helens, \$10.00.



Studebaker 40-Horsepower 4-Cylinder 7-Passenger, \$985.00
50-Horsepower 6-Cylinder, \$1185.00

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HENRY McCOY, AGENT

**HOW ABOUT THE
STRAND? IS QUERY**

What is the new council going to do about the Strand that the Supreme Court in its usual practice of giving away the public property, put outside the city limits?

Are they going to annex it to the city or leave it to receive all the benefits of the city and still be outside of any control of its buildings or sidewalks, which already are a disgrace? According to the court decision they don't even need to pay the city taxes, as they decided it never was included in the city grant.

That the property has never paid a cent on the street improvement which has already been done on that street. The part that they ought to have paid being taken out of the general fund. It is high time for the council to get awake on that problem.

Our city also proves the truth of the old adage, that the shoemaker's wife and the blacksmith's mare have always the worst shoes.

We send the best paving material to Portland and have the worst streets at home. There is no other city of the size of St. Helens where you could find such a street as there is on Columbia street from the mill to Willamette street. Crossing Columbia bar in a storm is nothing to the ups and downs you will find there. Why not pave 20 or 24 feet wide in the center with our native stone blocks and have concrete or bitulthic pavement on the sides. Such a street will last a lifetime, as heavy traffic would always prefer the stone and light traffic would go on the sides in dry weather, and on the center when the sides were slippery with wet.

The council might start by paving the center of the street from the Muckle building to the M. E. church and the sides from the Muckle building to the postoffice, and the two corners at the school house and the Laws corner with blocks.

The first thing the council would need to do is to frame an ordinance to assess the area benefited, as such an improvement should not be confined to adjacent lots only. But at least a block on each side should be assessed pro rata to benefits the property derives from the improvement. Now, I don't write this in the spirit of the chronic kicker. But great things are looked for from the present council and if they don't come, we will sure use our prerogative and kick hard.

CITIZEN.

NOTICE

All outstanding county warrants are called, and interest stops on same on and after April 29, 1916.
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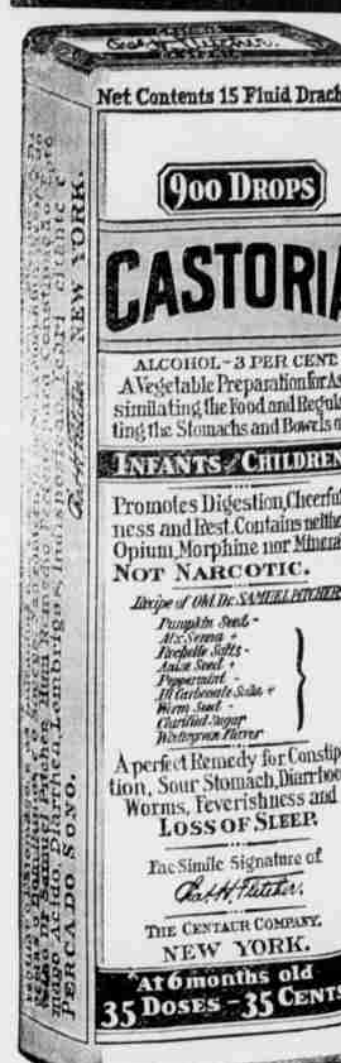
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