

IRRIGATION THE SLOGAN FOR A GREAT CONVENTION OF LEADING CITIZENS OF OREGON

(Continued from First Page.)

as nominated by the county delegates are as follows:

Resolutions—O. L. Miller, Baker; M. E. Beak, Crook; J. W. McCullough, Malheur; H. R. Kincaid, Lane; W. B. Sargent, Union; R. G. Gunn, Sherman; H. E. Ankeny, Jackson; G. A. Hartman, Umatilla; N. Whelan, Wasco; Charles Hilton, Wheeler; B. F. Jones, Lincoln; R. Scott, Clackamas; Dalton Briggs, Harney; H. H. Brooks, Douglas; E. C. Wiesen, Marion; George T. Baldwin, Klamath; Henry E. Reed, Multnomah.

Legislation—Sam White, Baker; T. H. LaFollette, Crook; F. M. Metcalfe, Malheur; E. J. Frasier, Lane; F. S. Bramwell, Union; W. H. Moore, Sherman; Milo P. Ward, Jackson; C. J. Smith, Umatilla; E. H. Johnston, Wasco; J. A. Johnson, Wheeler; B. F. Jones, Lincoln; R. Scott, Clackamas; M. Fitzgerald, Harney; A. C. Marsters, Douglas; Frank Davey, Multnomah; E. S. Phillips, Klamath; Seneca Smith, Multnomah.

WELCOME TO DELEGATES.

Mayor George H. Williams Extends the Freedom of the City.

In his address of welcome Mayor George H. Williams said:

"Gentlemen of the Convention: I need hardly say as the official representative of the people of the City of Portland that they extend to you a hearty welcome to this city. You have assembled to consider a subject that concerns the welfare of the whole country, and especially the growth and prosperity of the eastern part of our country. The demand, and the promotion of the prosperity of that part of Oregon, promotes the business interests of Portland. As naturally as the waters of the Columbia River flow to the sea, the trade of the country drained by this great river flows to this city. Water that irrigates the arid lands of Eastern Oregon flows through the products of its fertile soil into the storehouses of this city. Every quarter of an acre east of the Cascade Mountains redeemed from barrenness by irrigation and reduced to cultivation adds to the supply, and every new business enterprise in the City of Portland adds to the demand, and the consumer and producer are brought close to each other, to the mutual benefit of both.

"Sometimes a jealousy of the growing power and influence of Portland appears in the country, and apropos to this is a story of what happened at a political meeting in Missouri. While a candidate for office was telling the people how the tariff had robbed the poor laborer and the farmer had enriched the bloated millionaire, as he reached the climax of his speech and paused for breath, an old farmer in the audience spoke up and said: 'Well, I guess I can stand it so long as wheat is \$1 a bushel, and so I guess our friends in the country can stand the influence of Portland in public affairs so long as it affords a convenient and profitable market for what they produce and have to sell.'

"Water is a useful thing. Our friends east of the Cascade Mountains drink it sometimes, but generally use it for other purposes of irrigation, but they have not yet been able to save enough to water any considerable portion of their country. Private enterprise has gone far enough to prove the inestimable value of irrigation. It was in Idaho City at an early day, when there was little or nothing growing there but sagebrush out of a hard soil of gravel, but I have since been to see a flourishing city, with beautiful lawns and gardens, with luxuriant growth of vegetation, all produced by water upon an otherwise unproductive soil.

"Our good and gracious Government has taken hold of this matter with a paternal spirit, and two acts have been passed to provide for the reclamation of the arid lands of the country. I am reminded by these acts of the Irishman's definition of government. 'Government,' said he, answering his son who had asked what government was, 'is where a lot of people get together and think what is best for us.' I have not even the name called the National Irrigation act, but have heard it said that Oregon is entitled to \$1,000,000 under the provisions of that act. This is enough to incite the patriotic ardor of every man in the state. Immigration must catch up with the number of dams and reservoirs that \$1,000,000 will build. If we can obtain this amount of money and it is judiciously expended, we may hopefully look forward to the time when the lands now possessed by the coyotes and jackrabbits will be converted into green meadows and grain-producing fields.

"Eastern people who have traveled in California and have been told there that it rains 12 months of the year in Oregon will be surprised to hear that \$1,000,000 can be properly expended in this state in artificial irrigation; but they do not know that Oregon is a state distinguished for its variety of scenery, climate and soil. We have plenty of rain in the Willamette Valley, and at times some to spare, but it is a warm, refreshing rain and falls alike upon the just and the unjust, as you will find out perhaps before this convention adjourns. I am glad to see, gentlemen, that you have brought with you your umbrellas, overcoats and rubber shoes, for sometimes the irrigation business is a little overdone in this city at this season of the year.

"I wish here to express my unqualified approval of the policy of the Government in making reserves of our mountainous districts. Our mountains are our fountains. Were reckless woodsmen allowed to denude the mountains of their forests there would be no streams to dam up for reservoirs, and the country dependent upon the mountain streams for a supply of water would not be worth a sum.

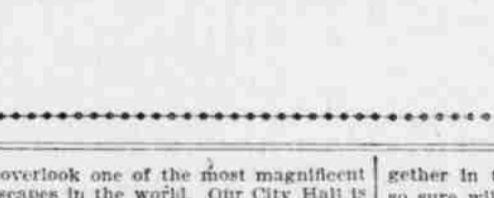
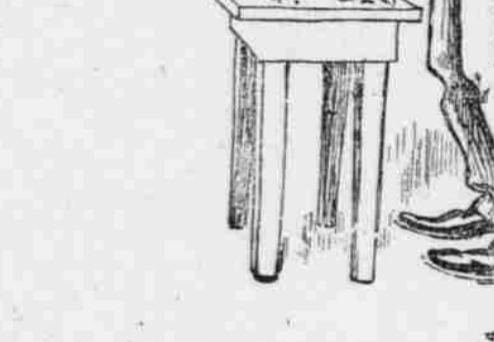
"We wish you to understand, gentlemen, that our welcome has more of substance than mere words. Our citizens have raised \$100, and they are determined that you shall have \$150 worth of enjoyment while you stay in this city. Though the 'melancholy days, the saddest of the year' are upon us, and our city is not as beautiful as it was in the Summer time, when the trees were clothed in their livery of green, and the flowers were in bloom, yet we hope that you will see and

hear much here that will contribute to the pleasure of your visit. Preparations have been made for your entertainment in various ways, as you can see from the programme which has been published. We have plenty of good things to eat and to drink, and I invite your attention to our Bull Run water, which comes bounding to our city from the 'icy hills of cold sublimity,' and is so plentiful and so palatable that one of you need not make the remark to another that the Governor of North Carolina is said to have made to the Governor of South Carolina.

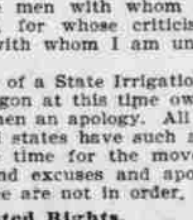
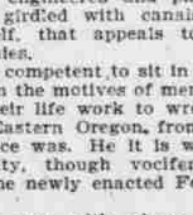
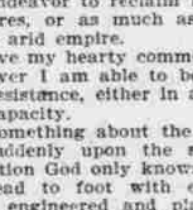
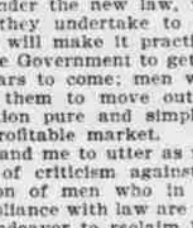
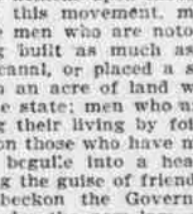
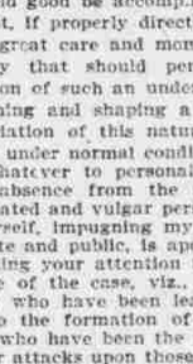
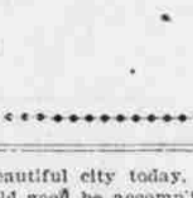
"Street-cars, if you desire to go, will take you to Portland Heights, where you

PROMINENT SPEAKERS AND DELEGATES SKETCHED AT THE IRRIGATION CONVENTION

AN ADDRESS BY F. E. BEACH



Gov. Geer Looped Up

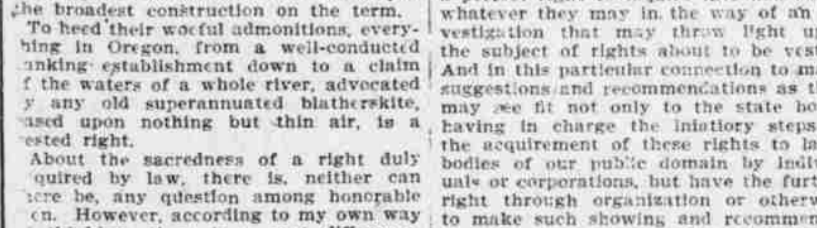
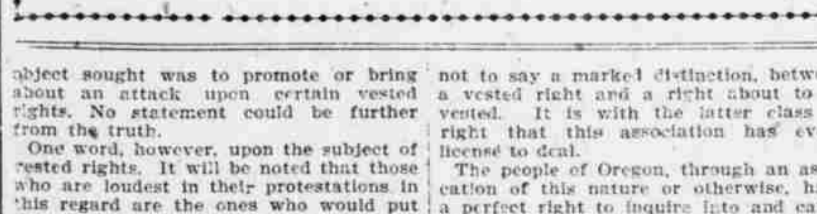
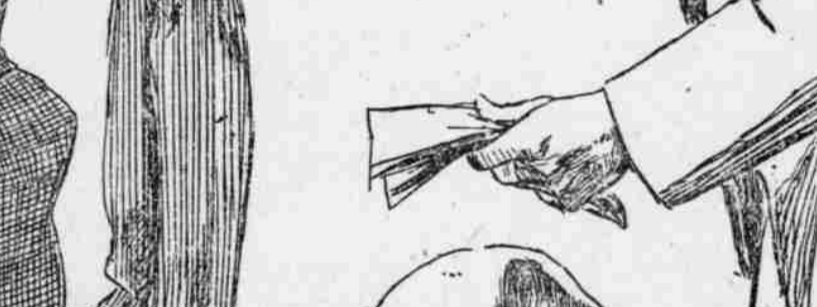
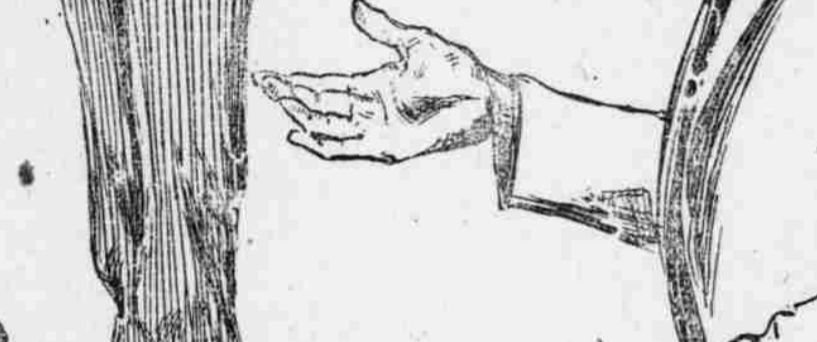


Secretary of the Portland Committee of Business Men.

Secretary J. M. Moore



A STRONG SPIEL BY CONGRESSMAN-ELECT WILLIAMSON



Mt. DeWers Presided



L. ROSENBLATT.

to believe such a malicious slander on the good name of these worthy people.

The Carey Act.

So much has been said through the press of the state by the opposition to the new Federal law in favor of the Carey theory of reclamation that I deem it proper to call attention both to our state law taking advantage of the Carey act and to the workings of similar laws in other states.

Wishing to benefit my soul by making an honest confession, as well as in response to a desire at all times to do as scrupulously fair when dealing in matters of great moment, I will state here now that I had as much, perhaps more, to do with the enactment of our present state arid-land law as any other members of the last Legislature.

It is with no feeling of pride that I make this statement. Gladly would I do it otherwise, it, however, was my duty to serve during that session of the Legislature as chairman of the committee on irrigation in the Senate. And I now serve

absolute master of the situation. "But the price of the water is fixed by the state board," say the opposition. Not one cent of it after the land is once reclaimed.

From that moment the owner of the canal places his own price upon the water and his tenants pay it or move on. The settler has no security whatever from excessive water rates. He owns none of the canal or irrigation works and has no voice whatever in its management.

Third—I would call your attention to the fact that there is no provision for a guarantee of the execution of the contract with the state by the party submitting such proposal.

The state is compelled by the law to send a competent engineer to examine the land and to expend their time in all preparations for the contract, and no provision for reimbursement is made in case the applicant refuses to sign the contract when the state has performed its part.

There are other defects in the law equally as glaring, but I have pointed out sufficient objection to convince any fair-minded business man that we have on our statutes a very dangerous law relative to the irrigation of public lands. It is a colossal failure. It has now been in operation more than eight years, and under its provisions but 11,000 acres in round numbers have been patented to all the states.

At this rate of reclamation, worked by simple proportion, it would require to reclaim the 7,000,000 acres of irrigable land in the arid section of the United States in 100 years. And yet there are people who savagely criticize those of us who object to waiting so long.

Conditions in Wyoming.

In the state of Wyoming, the home of the Carey act, the state that took advantage of its provisions immediately after it was enacted, and a state that, through the able efforts of Mr. Elwood Mead, now irrigation expert at the Interior Department at Washington, has a most excellent state law taking advantage of the Carey act, the law falls far short of giving entire satisfaction.

Notice the apologetic tone of the various reports of the state engineers of that state. I quote from an able report of Mr. Elwood Mead, State Engineer of Wyoming, in 1902, in the Carey act.

Referring to the workings of the Carey act to that date in Wyoming, Mr. Mead said in his report: "Under the present system, there must be a long delay between the beginning of the surveys and the time when money can be expended in construction. It is a system which invites the promoter rather than the investor. It was framed with the idea of lessening expense. Experience has shown that it fails to do this."

In another part of the same report in speaking of the same subject this eminent authority says:

"Its operation is limited to 10 years. This is too brief a period." In the same paragraph Mr. Mead says: "In another year of this law will require amendment or its usefulness will be at an end because of the inadequate time." And it afterward was amended allowing an extension of five years more time, or a period of 15 years for completion of the works.

Wyoming is the home of the Carey act and the successes made by virtue of the law in that state are constantly referred to by the opposition to Government aid. Such being the case, we may be pardoned for quoting still further from the records and reports of the engineer's office of that state.

I read again from the same report quoted above: "The experience of every irrigated country has shown that it is not for state aid in building large works. Ditches and canals of reasonable cost can be profitably built by unaided private enterprise. The larger, costlier canals cannot. Sooner or later there comes a time when the state lends its aid or development stops." Then he cites three eminent illustrations, the Ganges Canal in India, the Boulton "Wier" in Australia, and the Coubour Canal in Italy, all of which are Government works.

I will make one more quotation from the official report of the present State Engineer of Wyoming, Mr. Fred Bond. In Mr. Bond's last official report covering the last year, on page 40, speaking of the length of time required to reclaim lands under the Carey act, he says: "Mr. Bond says: 'The operation of the Carey act should be extended 20 years beyond the present limit, as it is believed that such an extension would be necessary, but on the other hand will be a much needed encouragement to reclamation on a scale soon to be found necessary.' Note the statement following this, taken from the only state in the Union where the Carey law is claimed to be a success. And bear in mind, the Carey act is administered in Wyoming under a well worked state law which attaches a share in the canal and irrigation works to each water right, and many other advantages far in advance of Oregon's poor first effort. The statement I refer to is made by the State Engineer in Wyoming after eight years of experience: 'That the Carey law has not as yet been productive of large reclamations of lands in this state may be admitted without in any way reflecting on that law as an incentive and encouragement to those who would build canals.'

Both a condemnation and an apology in one sentence.

Having heard the successful operation of the Carey law in Wyoming so persistently and continuously advocated, I became possessed of a desire to run the case down in person. Consequently Thursday of last week I put in the day at Cheyenne, the capital of Wyoming, and sought a personal interview with the State Engineer and Governor of that state. The Governor being absent I questioned his private secretary and State Engineer Bond on all points that occurred to my mind appertaining to irrigation in Wyoming.

While claiming a partial success for the Carey law in that state, both these officials agreed that the Maxwell law must take precedence in that state and that the Carey law should be used as an adjunct to it.

I have not interviewed our own state board upon the subject of the Carey law

notice on those who so savagely attack my action in this, as well as other matters, that whatever of good there is in that law, whose praises they continuously sing, is, perhaps, more directly attributable to my action than any other man in Oregon.

I would rejoice that it might end here. But I cannot. This course of the protection must also be true. Whatever of evil is traceable to that law is equally attributable to my action.

The right of the rapid transition in conditions in respect to the great subject of irrigation throughout the West, and the consequent light of an education born of such experience exposes to view not only the inefficiency of the law, but imparts into disagreeable prominence a number of defects which amount to but little short of gross negligence on the part of myself and others of the last Oregon Legislature.

I would call your attention first to that feature of the law which attaches a perpetual water right to every tract of land by the tenant on the land paying for the water forever that runs through the water right. It is as follows:

"The right to the use of water for irrigation of any tract or subdivisions of land reclaimed under the provisions of this act shall become and perpetually remain a part of the land, but that the right shall be subject to the provisions of the actual maintenance charges and to proper and reasonable rules and regulations adopted for the irrigation system under and by which the land has been reclaimed."

I have seen it claimed in print by the opposition that the water right under the law once paid for became not only perpetual to the land, but that the right entitled the owner thereof to a proportionate interest in the canal and irrigation works. But if any man can point out such a statement in the law I will drop the whole contention and agree with him that the Government should keep its money and stay out of the irrigating business.

The section I have quoted is the only light state law throws upon that important feature of the case. Under its provisions a permanent water right attaches to the land by paying full price for it, and paying for the water that runs through the right for all time to come. The second feature of the law to which I desire to call your attention is the fact that there is nothing whatever in the law that would compel the owner of the canal—the landholder—for such a law establishes firmly the two classes, the landlord on the one hand and the tenant on the other—to continue the flow of water in the canal a moment longer than the land is reclaimed, except the value of the water obtained from its sale. The moment he discovers a more valuable purpose for the water, or the moment the state board refuses to allow him what he may consider a fair price for the water, down goes the headgate, and the water, which the community is quickly starved into either submission or rebellion. There is absolutely no provision, neither do I know that there can be under our constitution, to compel the owner of the canal and of the water it contains to furnish water for irrigation to the community dependent upon it for one moment after it is reclaimed and he gets his money out of the land. He is

not to say a marked distinction, between a vested right and a right about to be vested. It is with the latter class of right that this association has every license to deal.

The people of Oregon, through an association of this nature or otherwise, have a perfect right to inquire into and cause whatever they may in the way of an investigation that may throw light upon the subject of rights about to be vested. And in this particular connection to make suggestions and recommendations as they may see fit not only to the state board having in charge the industry steps to the acquisition of these rights to large bodies of our public domain by individuals or corporations, but have the further right through organization or otherwise to make such showing and recommendations as they may see fit to the department at Washington, where final action is had.

Such action on the part of the people of the state is both invited and welcomed by the state board and by the department people at Washington. And, considering the fact that nearly 500,000 acres of the public lands in Oregon are in the initial stages of appropriation under our state law, which takes advantage of the Carey act, I submit that it is high time that the people of the state, through an association of this nature, were taking an active interest in the proceeding.

Particularly is this true in view of the vast amount of money that is now provisionally come to Oregon by virtue of the recent Federal law, and which is about to be barred out of the state for years to come by a series of these so-called vested rights.

Not Opposed to Irrigation.

The silly charge that citizens of the sparsely settled regions are opposed to irrigation is scarcely worth refuting, and I shall waste no time upon such an unwarranted statement, further than to call attention to the large delegations here today from the remote districts of the state. Let any man who has honestly entertained such a doctrine take the pains before the sun goes down today to converse with some of these people. Let him take into consideration the long distances traveled, the inconveniences endured and the expense of making the journey to be present here today, and then ask himself why for one moment he allowed himself

subject sought was to promote or bring about an attack upon certain vested rights. No statement could be further from the truth.

One word, however, upon the subject of vested rights. It will be noted that those who are loudest in their protestations in this regard are the ones who would put the broadest construction on the term.

To heed their wailing admonitions, everything in Oregon, from a well-conducted mining establishment down to a claim in the waters of a whole river, advocated any old superannuated blather, used upon nothing but thin air, is a vested right.

About the sacredness of a right duly acquired by law, there is, neither can there be, any question among honorable men. However, according to my own way of thinking, there is a vast difference.

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can overlook one of the most magnificent landscapes in the world. Our City Hall is worth your attention, in which you will find the home of our State Historical Society, and where also you can find a free museum, in which you can see zoological curiosities of all kinds, from the skull of a whale to the stuffed body of a humming-bird. Our City Park has many nature attractions, and we have on exhibition there elk, deer, bear, monkeys and other animals, and those of you who believe in Darwin's "Descent of Man" will no doubt be much interested in the monkeys.

"Let us hope, gentlemen, that your work here may inaugurate a system of irrigation that will make the sandy plains of Eastern Oregon as fair and as green as the lands of the Willamette Valley, so that every Oregonian, as he surveys our widely extended fields and magnificent scenery, may proudly say of his state:

"Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river,
Where mountains rear us high to mock
The storm's career and lightning's shock,
My own green land forever."

MR. WILLIAMSON'S ADDRESS.

Congressman-Elect Discusses "Irrigation Movement in Oregon."

The full text of Congressman-elect Williamson's address was:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: From frequent expressions of anxious solicitude a wholesome fear is entertained by certain of our citizens lest, through the beginning of an organized movement in this state for the promotion of the cause of irrigation, a mistake has been made. The spirit of development of the vast agricultural resources of the state, through application of the principle of irrigation by individual effort, seems to have so completely possessed the minds of certain of our citizens that the mere suggestion of an organized effort to advance our interests in this line, on the part of the people really and vitally interested, appears to have about the same effect upon them as the act of flaunting a red flag immediately in front of an infuriated bull.

Without stopping for a moment for considerations of either honesty or truth, some of these self-alleged and self-titled irrigators have taken it upon themselves to rush into print with columns of attack, and then, again, without stopping to cast about at the damage done, or even offering to gather up as much as a single piece of the wreckage wrought, have fired again in whatever direction their blunderbus happened to be pointed, in the hope, apparently, to bag at least one of the instigators of this movement.

From the size and character of this audience, it is evident that such expectations have not thus far been realized. Vain hope is the reward of their effort to date.

If a mistake was made on the part of a single one of those who instigated a movement that has resulted in bringing together this magnificent body of our representative citizens for the purpose of devising ways and means for exploring one or more of the unexplored resources of this wonderful state, such was a just and righteous mistake, and is clearly pardonable on the ground of public utility. For so sure as we are to

gether in this beautiful city today, just so sure will untold good be accomplished by this movement, if properly directed.

The feeling of great care and momentous responsibility that should pervade every consideration of such an undertaking as the outlining and shaping a policy for an association of this nature in Oregon precludes under normal conditions any reference whatever to personalities.

However, my absence from the state during these repeated and vulgar personal attacks upon myself, impugning my motives, both private and public, is apology sufficient for calling your attention to at least one feature of the case, viz., that those individuals who have been leading the opposition to the formation of this association, and who have been the most vindictive in their attacks upon those who saw fit to begin this movement, myself in particular, are men who are notorious for never having built as much as one foot of ditch or canal, or placed a single drop of water on an acre of land within the borders of the state; men who are at this time making their living by foisting their schemes upon those who have means whom they can beguile into a hearing with one hand beckon the Government into the state under the new law, while with the other they undertake to erect such barriers as will make it practically impossible for the Government to get into the state for years to come, men whose calling requires them to move out and on when promotion pure and simple no longer finds a profitable market.

Do not understand me to utter as much as one syllable of criticism against the man or collection of men who in good faith and in compliance with law are making an honest endeavor to reclaim 100,000 acres, or 100 acres, or as much as one acre of Oregon's arid empire.

Such people have my hearty commendation, and whatever I am able to bestow in the way of assistance, either in a private or public capacity.

But there is something about the man who appears suddenly upon the scene from what direction God only knows, who is decked from head to foot with "empire titles," who has engineered and planned this earth and girded with canals a very moon himself, that appeals to a deeper sympathy.

He is who is competent to sit in judgment and impugn the motives of men who have devoted their life work to wrestle the plains of Eastern Oregon, from its wilderness it once was. He it is who in open hostility, though vociferous, denying it, to the newly enacted Federal irrigation law.

These are the men with whom I am proud to differ, for whose criticisms I care not, and with whom I am unalterably at war.

The formation of a State Irrigation Association in Oregon at this time owes its man or set of men an apology. All other of the semi-arid states have such an organization. The time for the movement is opportune, and excuses and apologies for its existence are not order.

Vested Rights.

So far the opposition—for by no other name can it be known—has both in season and out of season sought to misconstrue the object of this movement. It has been repeatedly alleged that the

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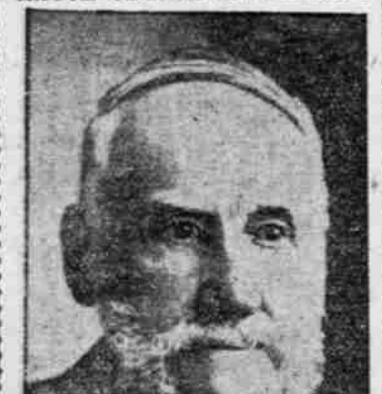
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L. ROSENBLATT.

Secretary of the Portland Committee of Business Men.

MAYOR GEORGE H. WILLIAMS



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