

MUCH LAND EXEMPT

Railroad Grants Unsurveyed Total 12,000,000 Acres.

BALLINGER ASKS ACTION

Secretary Seeks \$500,000 Appropriation for Immediate Survey of Property, Railroads to Reimburse Government.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 15.—Approximately 12,000,000 acres of land granted to various railroad companies in times past is today unsurveyed, and therefore exempt from taxation. One-fourth of this area is included in forest reserves. Secretary Ballinger, early in the session, recommended the passage of a bill appropriating \$500,000 to defray the cost of immediately surveying this land, the money so expended to be returned to the Government by the railroad companies. That bill is now on the House calendar, having been favorably reported by the House committee on public lands.

Of the total area that will be affected by this bill, if it passes, 230,985 acres are included in the Oregon & California Railroad grant outside of forest reserves, and 211,780 acres of the same grant lie within the limits of forest reserves. The bill provides that under the bill, and become immediately subject to taxation, as well as to use or disposal by the railroad company. Title to none of this land passes to the railroad companies until after survey.

729,000 Acres Await Survey.

In the State of Washington, are 729,034 acres of Northern Pacific grant outside of forest reserves awaiting survey, and 609,320 acres inside the reserves, while in Idaho the Northern Pacific unsurveyed lands aggregate 671,520 acres outside of reserves and 627,500 in reserve. In explaining the desirability for the prompt survey of this land, a representative of the Interior Department advised the committee that it was deemed advisable to close up these grants, and pass title to the railroad companies, and that the grants considered only just and reasonable that these lands, many of them valuable timber lands, should bear their just share of taxation, the taxes, of course, going to the states or counties in which the lands are located.

Settlers flock to lands.

But there is another reason. So long as the lands are unsurveyed, settlers may go upon them, establish homes, and expect ultimately to get title from the Government. When the lands are surveyed, the railroad companies have it in their power to buy such settlers, or force them to buy the lands at a price which they may arbitrarily fix. The railroads, of course, have the option of relinquishing such lands and making lieu selections, but this is not incumbent upon them. The committee took the Department's view, and reported the bill, with a proviso that where the railroads fail to come forward with the cost of surveying, the Government may, through the Attorney-General, enter suit to compel the forfeiture of such part of the grant as has been surveyed at Government expense.

TORNADO DRIES UP CREEK

Kansas Twister Sweeps Away Barns, Gives Cattle Rife.

PARSONS, Kan., April 15.—A tornado, which yesterday swept away barns and outhouses in its 200-foot path, also sucked dry Batchelor Creek for a considerable distance. While the damage to property was great, no lives were lost. It traveled northwest. Telephone poles were twisted out of the ground and a cow and a calf were carried 200 feet.

GIRL WOULD JOIN MARINES

Applicant Flees. However, When Told of First Requirement.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., April 15.—(Special.)—With all the excitement of the stronger sex, and with a determination to enlist that would have won for her, had not tests prescribed by Uncle Sam included a "stripping down" requirement, a young lady entered the local office of the military branch of the Navy today and applied for admission in the marines.

T. R. WILL JUMP INTO FIGHT

Roosevelt Will Make Strenuous Efforts to Save New York.

NEW YORK, April 15.—Theodore Roosevelt will take the stump next Fall in behalf of the Republican candidate for Governor, according to a statement which will be published in the morning by The World and credited to Mr. Roosevelt's friends. His friends say he will make at least four speeches and the strongest efforts will be put forth to prevent the state from falling into the Democratic column.

VISIT TO PARIS BUSY WEEK

High Officials and Americans Would Entertain ex-President.

PARIS, April 15.—The arrangements for Mr. Roosevelt's visit to Paris, which are now nearly completed, indicate a week of continued activity. The city as well as the Government wishes to extend the best honors to the American ex-President for lack of time and has reiterated his wish to adhere as much as possible to the role of private citizen, and retain leisure to call on friends and visit points of interest.

At the reception on April 23 by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, Mr. Roosevelt will deliver his lecture at the Sorbonne. He will dine with M. Lalle, rector of the University of Paris, and later will accept a reception at which he will meet those high in the world of letters and science. Mrs. Roosevelt, who will join her husband

AUSTRIANS WELCOME VISITOR

Gather at Stations as He Passes. Roosevelt's Anticipations Glad.

ABOARD THE ROOSEVELT TRAIN ON THE WAY TO VIENNA, April 15.—The journey after leaving Venice was uneventful. There were knots of people at every station waiting to catch a glimpse of the great American.

Commander Long, who is the naval attaché at Vienna, as well as Rome, boarded the train at the Austrian frontier, which was crossed at dusk.

While in Vienna Mr. Roosevelt intends to visit the home of the old age pensioners, in which he is greatly interested.

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BILBO THROWN OUT

Mississippi State Senate Asks Resignation.

JACKSON, Miss., April 15.—Concluding their afternoon session with the adoption by a margin of one vote of a resolution sustaining State Senator Theodore Bilbo, the State Senate late last night adopted another resolution demanding that he tender his resignation and bitterly criticizing his actions in connection with his charge of irregularities in the recent Senatorial contest.

The resolution attacks the credibility and character of Senator Bilbo and condemns his charge and statement that he acted in the role of detective as untrue. Concluding, it declares him unfit to retain membership in the Legislature.

With the introduction of the resolution the storm broke. Senator Hebron, president pro tem of the Senate and an ardent supporter of Vardaman at the time he left the chair, surrendering the gavel to Senator McLaurin, and joined a group of adherents of Mr. Vardaman, who were forming to march on the speaker's platform. The entire number withdrew, and by a vote of 25 to 10 the resolution was adopted.

Another resolution declaring it the sense of the Senate that the Senatorial contest was without improper influence; that the conduct of Senator Bilbo was free from fraud or corruption and expressing confidence in the United States Senator was adopted unopposed.

Senator Bilbo would make no statement last night as to his intention in regard to the resolution.

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