

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, SEPT. 16, 1915.

THE LAND GRANT CONFERENCE.

The land grant conference which will begin its deliberations at Salem today will apparently have no complaint as to the number or variety of the policies that will be proposed for its endorsement. They will range from the simple to the complex, but are those, it is presumed, who advocate Government control and reservation; there are those who propose state control and reservation, and there are still others who want the lands opened up for highways, for unrestricted terms and do not care whether Government or state or railroad has administration so long as the land is made available to the first applicants at a nominal price.

These are the more simple proposals. There are others which provide certain restrictions in detail. Ex-Governor West advocates an appeal to Congress to permit the state to purchase the grant from the railroad company, with the idea of gaining profits from its disposition for the benefit of the common school fund. Judge Cleeton proposes that the conference make a similar effort, but he would have the proceeds from the lands divided into three funds—one for loans to settlers, one for highways over the land and one for irrigation purposes. H. L. Ganoe, of Portland, has issued a pamphlet in which he suggests that the conference stand for a policy which would give the settler each tract of timbered land 50 per cent of the timber, and the railroad his tract, to be expended for clearing and improvements and that the other 50 per cent of the timber proceeds be divided equally between the public roads of the county where the tract is located and the common school lands within the state. Mr. H. H. Schwartz has offered the general outline of a plan which would aid settlers to improve the land by making profits from the timber sales available as loans. In one of the other mentioned proposals and in some of others offered, it is suggested that the Government surrender its rights to the state and that the state pay the railroad its \$2.50 per acre as the lands are sold.

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There is another suggestion for action by the conference which is aimed to overcome these apparent obstacles to the enactment of a detailed policy.

It is that the conference declare formally by resolution the interests of Oregon in the settlement and taxation of the grant and their interest in the State of Oregon and the railroad company. This plan is naturally predicated upon the assumption that Oregon's primary interests in the disposition of the grant are to be determined by those who understand Oregon conditions and are so strongly founded on justice that action favorable to Oregon would be recommended by the committee; furthermore, that if a just and reasonable bill were passed by the Legislature, it would imper the railroad company to accept its provisions without litigious contention.

As already stated The Oregonian entertains no prejudice other than that broadly outlined in the foregoing, except some of the complexities that confront the conference in the hope that the delegates will give them thought and come to some wise conclusion. To do this will require a trivial task. But let it not ignore the existence of a widespread opinion—in this state. In the public estimation, as we read it, Oregon needs more settlers; it wants more of its lands included in reservation; it disputes the right of Congress to withdraw from the tax rolls, except for necessary purposes to government, lands that have once been legally taxed; it contends for prompt settlement of the agricultural lands in the grant; it opposes private speculation in the timber and it opposes any public speculation therein that will interfere with the early use or development of the lands by cultivation or other industry.

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vent certain classes of the "unfit" from mating and propagating their kind. Surely nothing is to be gained by the multiplication of imbeciles, thieves and congenitally defective.

Of course we should still have plenty of these classes, even if all the unfit were sterilized. As long as social conditions produce defectives and criminals we shall have them with us. The forces which degrade and ruin human beings must be checked before the world will be clear of the unfit. But no doubt it would be helpful to prevent the propagation of undesirable specimens.

We question whether sterilization is the best way to reach this end. It is cruel in itself and it excites horror in the public imagination. Confinement is just as effective and less repulsive. The sterilization of criminals benefits nobody and harms almost everybody. It is particularly injurious to self-respecting working men, since it tends to stock the labor market with cheap and servile competitors. Wage earners would be more benefited than any other class by intelligent control of births.

OREGON REPUBLICANS' CHOICE.

The canvass of Republican local leaders in Oregon by the state committee shows the strongest desire of an individual to be the nomination of the party can unite. That is the explanation of the preference for Justice Hughes as first choice. He is recognized as a man who will calm the extreme fear of radicalism, while setting the program for the party forward. He is without doubt the strongest man in the estimation of Republicans holding all shades of opinion, not only in Oregon, but in many other states as well.

The preference for Senator Borah as second choice, is due to a variety of motives. One is the fact that, though he took a leading part in Colonel Roosevelt's fight for the Republican nomination in 1912, he did not bolt the ticket. He is therefore acceptable to the great body of Republicans who incline to neither extreme of policy. He is so unquestionably progressive that he commands the support of progressive men who stayed in and those who went out of the party. He is at the same time so reasonably progressive that conservatives can find no valid objection to him. Oregon Republicans would welcome his nomination also because he is a Western man who has made a valiant fight for Western rights and interests, and because they are confident that, if he were President, those rights and interests would receive the care which they sorely need. Oregon admires Mr. Borah's ability and judgment.

Either of these two men would receive the united Republican vote of Oregon for President and would carry the state by a majority of many thousands. The Republicans of this state, however, have not given their allegiance to any particular candidate. They are ready to give loyal support to any genuine Republican, free from taint of reaction, whom the National convention may nominate.

NO TIME FOR PARTISAN FEELING.

Governor Withycombe is responsible for the land-grant conference at Salem today. It is his creation. It is an effort by him as the state's chief executive to clarify the discussion over the profitable disposition of the railroads, to look at the matter from the movement for solution and to prevent. He does not shirk his duty to the state or to the conference. He feels undoubtedly that the policy it adopts, or the recommendations it makes, ought to be the product of untrammelled and uncoerced deliberation; and he feels, too, a sense of obligation to accept the results and in good faith to use the power and prestige of his office to make them effective.

These are the reasons, no doubt, why Governor Withycombe has said that after he shall have made a brief address in opening the conference he does not intend to participate actively in the inquiry. He is treated to the Oregonian as to why Senator Chamberlain is not free to keep away from Salem during the conference if that privilege is to be granted to Governor Withycombe. "Upon whom," it is asked, "more than the Governor of the state rests the duty of explaining and helping shape a policy that will bring about the greatest welfare to the people of the state?"

Upon the Congressional delegation, we should say. The disposition of the railroads is placed in the hands of the Supreme Court decision directly with Congress. It will be the duty of the Oregon delegation at Washington to procure legislation that will benefit the state and its citizens. If the Salem conference is to have any effect, or validity, it is clear that a rational and practicable policy must be adopted and that it must be acceptable to Congress. What policy will be acceptable to Congress?

From the far-off shores of Coos Bay, which has been the favored seat of his latest junketing sojourn, the voice of Senator Chamberlain is heard saying that he will approve the plan of the conference, if it is made as the result of a free and open discussion, and if it is such a policy as he can accept. A trifle delphic, but nevertheless clearly indicative of the Senator's non-receptive frame of mind.

The proceedings of the conference will be futile, of course, if it shall not adopt a course approved by Oregon's Senators and Representatives. It will be unfortunate, then, if all the Congressmen shall not be on hand at Salem, at least for purposes of consultation and information. The Governor will be available, and the entire state may well wish that the Senators and Representatives will be. It is no time for quibblings or recriminations, or quibbling about the propriety of faire posterns of real and pressing duty. It is a time for sober realization of the fact that the larger interest of a great state is involved in the opening of the land grant to settlement.

It will be regarded as a strange and unpardonable avoidance of duty if the Senators and Representatives shall not solicit and procure, if possible, the presence of the entire delegation for the effort they must make before Congress to procure beneficial railroad land-grant legislation. It is no time for partisanship.

GOING OUT AGAINST SPOILSMEN.

If a statement of the Boston Transcript is correct, President Wilson is preparing trouble for himself in his programme of National defense. His plan is said to be the increase of our forces without increased expenses by stopping the present waste in Army and Navy expenditures. As evidence of this waste it is stated that Germany spends 55 per cent of her revenue on

account of war, Japan 45 per cent, Great Britain 37 per cent, France 35 per cent, while the United States, with a smaller Army than any of these nations, spends 68 per cent.

The voluntary system is necessarily more expensive than compulsory service and thus may account partly for our higher ratio. But many expenses of civil government are charged to the central government in Europe, which are borne by the states under our Federal system. Thus our ratio of military expense is artificially raised.

The most obvious measure of economy which Congress could adopt would be the abolition of many Army posts and concentration of the troops at a few large posts. Ex-Secretary Stimson estimated that by this means more than \$5,000,000 a year would be saved, and certainly efficiency would be vastly enhanced. But the proposal would no sooner be made than the pork-barrel statesmen would form in solid phalanx. She same is true of Navy yards.

There is no one who would carry any such plans through Congress, President Wilson would need to align all his forces for a determined fight with combined opposition, which would struggle with the desperation of rapacity.

Somersetshire is a great English apple district. The orchards are not cultivated as in Oregon, but grow up to grass, which is tall and rank at the season when the fruit is ripe. There is so much rain in the English Summer that drouth does not trouble the orchards as it does in Oregon when the ground remains untilled. Nor are the apples picked so carefully as in the Hood River section. They are shaken off into the grass and gathered there by the pigs. The result is that the British like their apples best in liquid form.

Jackson, Miss., has some confidence in the boys of that region. The Board of Trade offers to sell any boy a good pig for \$10 and take his unsecured note in payment on two years' time. The expectation is that a smart boy can double his money by fattening the pig. If he sells the increase only he can clear \$100 in a single year. With that kind of drouth does not trouble the pig. If he sells the increase only he can clear \$100 in a single year. With that kind of drouth does not trouble the pig. If he sells the increase only he can clear \$100 in a single year. With that kind of drouth does not trouble the pig.

Nine of twelve members of the Chamber of Commerce who were suddenly asked who was Vice-President of the United States hid their blushing faces and confessed that they couldn't tell. Probably ninety men out of a hundred are in the same boat. There is so little occasion to remember the Vice-President's name that it slips out of the memory and when one does remember him it seems hardly worth while.

An Iowa association of good roads enthusiasts has undertaken to build 1900 miles within the next five years. They talk of engaging General Goethals to look after the work. If the General should undertake to fill all the offices for which he has been nominated lately he would have a busy time of it. But about the good roads—why cannot Oregon have an association like that one in Iowa?

The positive statement is made that nearly 3,000,000 have enlisted in Great Britain. If they had equipment there would be something doing; but Great Britain, like English-speaking countries in general, was not prepared.

Where are the young people of Aberdeen to spoon on cool evenings if barred from the free reading-room and how is civic improvement to be promoted if the mating instinct is checked?

Horsehoers in convention say hard-surface pavements wear out horsehoes four times as fast as before; yet no one notices the horsehoer getting independently rich.

The city purchasing department is said to have saved \$1900 by calling for new bids for feed, but has it saved the \$100,000 a year promised when it was established?

There is no conclusive evidence in the Hearsting affair, but there is a whole lot in affairs in Northern Mexico, if this Administration wants to do something.

The submarine M-1 could almost cross the Atlantic and return. If we had a hundred such vessels, our Navy would be equipped with one arm of defense.

What the Governor of North Carolina will say to the Governor of South Carolina when visiting after New Year's remains to be heard.

If the Germans can find a way to carry American goods home, they are free to borrow American money with which to pay for them.

There is nothing the matter with Echo, where the taxpayers have just spent \$100,000 for a City Hall and \$3000 for a city park.

The Controller of the Currency will note that deposits in Portland banks show a gain of a few millions every time he "hollers."

Averse as the United States is to intervention in Mexico, we are now facing Mexican intervention in Texas.

Japan wants a whack at the allies' money and will mobilize industrial resources rather than send fighting men.

Germans are within 400 miles of Petrograd, but Winter is due very soon to check advance.

Secretary Lansing wishes to have no misunderstanding about the fact that Mr. Dumba is "fired."

Candy stores, of course, must be closed on Sunday, according to Justice Burnett's decision.

When James Peablers' auto truck hit the streetcar, the second bump was for safety first.

Great weather for a ride to Gresham and a great little shop when you get there.

The Oregon boy envies the boy in the East, where it is too hot to keep school.

European War Primer

By National Geographical Society.

Hundreds of thousands of Germans were living under the scepter of the Czar when the world war broke out. The Teutonic subjects of Russia being greater many times in number than the combined German-adjourners of the allied nations, the Russian Empire are borne by the states under our Federal system. Thus our ratio of military expense is artificially raised.

The most obvious measure of economy which Congress could adopt would be the abolition of many Army posts and concentration of the troops at a few large posts. Ex-Secretary Stimson estimated that by this means more than \$5,000,000 a year would be saved, and certainly efficiency would be vastly enhanced. But the proposal would no sooner be made than the pork-barrel statesmen would form in solid phalanx. She same is true of Navy yards.

There is no one who would carry any such plans through Congress, President Wilson would need to align all his forces for a determined fight with combined opposition, which would struggle with the desperation of rapacity.

Somersetshire is a great English apple district. The orchards are not cultivated as in Oregon, but grow up to grass, which is tall and rank at the season when the fruit is ripe. There is so much rain in the English Summer that drouth does not trouble the orchards as it does in Oregon when the ground remains untilled. Nor are the apples picked so carefully as in the Hood River section. They are shaken off into the grass and gathered there by the pigs. The result is that the British like their apples best in liquid form.

Jackson, Miss., has some confidence in the boys of that region. The Board of Trade offers to sell any boy a good pig for \$10 and take his unsecured note in payment on two years' time. The expectation is that a smart boy can double his money by fattening the pig. If he sells the increase only he can clear \$100 in a single year. With that kind of drouth does not trouble the pig. If he sells the increase only he can clear \$100 in a single year. With that kind of drouth does not trouble the pig.

Nine of twelve members of the Chamber of Commerce who were suddenly asked who was Vice-President of the United States hid their blushing faces and confessed that they couldn't tell. Probably ninety men out of a hundred are in the same boat. There is so little occasion to remember the Vice-President's name that it slips out of the memory and when one does remember him it seems hardly worth while.

An Iowa association of good roads enthusiasts has undertaken to build 1900 miles within the next five years. They talk of engaging General Goethals to look after the work. If the General should undertake to fill all the offices for which he has been nominated lately he would have a busy time of it. But about the good roads—why cannot Oregon have an association like that one in Iowa?

The positive statement is made that nearly 3,000,000 have enlisted in Great Britain. If they had equipment there would be something doing; but Great Britain, like English-speaking countries in general, was not prepared.

Where are the young people of Aberdeen to spoon on cool evenings if barred from the free reading-room and how is civic improvement to be promoted if the mating instinct is checked?

Horsehoers in convention say hard-surface pavements wear out horsehoes four times as fast as before; yet no one notices the horsehoer getting independently rich.

The city purchasing department is said to have saved \$1900 by calling for new bids for feed, but has it saved the \$100,000 a year promised when it was established?