

OREGON GRANT LAND MEMORIAL IS PROPOSED

Albert Johnson, Washington Representative, Addresses Salem Conference.

VISITOR ASKED TO SPEAK

Importance of Presenting Strong Case to Congress and Necessity of Permanent Commission Is Emphasized.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Sept. 16.—(Special).—Regardless of the action that the present land grant conference takes, it will be necessary to send a strong delegation of representative Oregon people to Washington to present to Congress the plans and purposes of the state, as will be outlined at the meeting now in progress, according to Representative Albert Johnson of Hogue, Wash., who arrived at the Capitol this morning.

To Mr. Johnson, by unanimous vote, the courtesies of the floor were extended this afternoon, and he briefly addressed the delegates. "I come," said Mr. Johnson, "as your friend and neighbor, and from an earnest desire, when the time comes, to help prevent any of those lands becoming a part of the forest reserve. I am not here to speak or take part in any way. More than two years ago I introduced a bill designed to cut off further peddling of rights to alleged first claims on sections of the Oregon & California lands. The introduction of that bill brought to me several thousand letters from people who had paid for so-called 'priority rights,' and who claimed they desired to settle on the lands, if the Supreme Court decision should be favorable.

"My views in regard to the destructiveness of the general conservation system as now laid upon the Western states are, I think, well known. I predict right now that before the people of Oregon see through with the Oregon & California situation, any relief bills will play a merry game of battlerie and shuttlecock between the Agricultural Department and the Interior—a hydra-headed monstrosity which splits supervision of our public lands, our forests, our minerals and our water power.

Small Interest Predicted. "Finally, I believe the bill will be referred to the Chief Forester for a report, and his report will be about what the committee on public lands will recommend to the House of Representatives. Then there will be a debate, which will be about as slimly attended as were the debates at the late Secretary Lane was presenting his leasing bills into Congress last year. At that time it was impossible to keep 25 members of Congress in their seats except by repeatedly making points of no quorum, which I flatter myself I had nerve enough to do.

"You see, the more renewable area we have, and the more renewable 50-year leases of our resources, the less the likelihood of these parts of our states ever being sold to the hands of our Governors and Legislatures. In other words, the great commonwealths of the West become half state and half province, a condition which is bound to be intolerable, because the United States, and not the state, sets the revenues from the proceeds, while leaving the state's taxpayers to produce money even for roads through forest reserves and Indian reservations. The Oregon & California situation, in building the Olympic Highway had to do that very thing, my own county paying \$100,000 for a good road, then the state is asked to build 30 miles of road through an Indian reservation.

"Reverting to the conference being held here, I hope it will not be considered presumptuous if I make a small suggestion, and that is this: Let this delegate conference present its case in as strong a memorial to Congress as can be prepared, and then let the conference appoint a committee of strong Oregon citizens as a commission to go to Washington and work to keep these lands out of the reserves. There will be hearings, of course, probably before both Senate and House committees. Forest Reserve Bureau chiefs and special agents, as well as railroad attorneys, will be there to give testimony and answer questions.

Permanent Commission Needed. "Oregon's Senators and Representatives will be there, too, doing their best, but they should have help, men with a single purpose, who can stick on this one task every hour of every day. Remember, there are only 33 Congressmen from Oregon, and the Senate, while there are 435 members in all, and a majority is against us on general principles.

"Maps and suitable printed matter will be needed. Let this conference memorialize the State Legislature to appropriate a reasonable sum for the expenses of these men, who are doing their efforts to keep these lands on the state's tax roll, and I think the people will say they are well spent."

Mr. Johnson said that he was sorry he could not remain here until Saturday, but that he had to be in Washington, where a big Republican rally is to be held.

BOLD HOLDUP UNNOTICED

Theatrical Man Forced Along Street by Hidden Gun.

Spokane Ex-Councilman Watches Chance and Turns on Captor, Who Is Put Under Arrest.

SPOKANE, Wash., Sept. 16.—(Special).—While scores of persons brushed elbows with them, as they walked side by side from the Empress Theater at Bernard and Riverside, to Howard and Riverside, shortly after 11 o'clock today, none knew that L. C. Brown, ex-Councilman of this city, and now manager of the Empress Theater, was being aided along the street, at the point of a gun, held in the hands and under the coat of A. B. Cook, a book-keeper formerly in the employ of a railroad here.

about 11 o'clock this morning. As I came in Cook arose from a chair and poked a revolver in my stomach," said Brown shortly after the arrest of Cook.

"You owe me money and you are going to come through with it right now, or I will blow you all to pieces," Cook said to me.

"I will not get you money to kill a man," I said.

"Have you any money in your pockets?" he asked.

"A few dollars and a check for \$150," I answered.

"All right. Now we will go to the bank and cash that check," he answered.

"With that he placed the gun under his coat with the barrel toward me, and we started down the street. I was when I saw the officer that it came in my mind what I was going to do."

Mr. Tallman registered at the Multnomah.

Funeral of Mrs. Rinehart Set.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Sept. 16.—(Special).—The funeral of Mrs. Ella A. Rinehart, wife of A. C. Rinehart, who died at the family home, 706 West Tenth street, this morning, will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from the Lumber undertaking parlors.

Recent experiments have shown that it is possible for the X-ray to find the metal that appears on the surface to be sound.

DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE ON GRANT LANDS AIM

Delegates to Salem Conference Opposed to Withdrawing Area From Entry

ALL INTERESTS GIVE VIEWS

Southern Pacific Attorney Asserts Arbitrary Price Is Only in Case of Sales and Company May Exploit Resources Itself.

(Continued From First Page.)

ference will be, there is one point upon which there seems to be unanimous agreement, and that is that none of the 2,500,000 acres in the railroad grant shall be withdrawn from entry or placed in the forest reserves of other governmental trusts.

Mr. Lafferty's Fears Unfounded. Subsequently the convention altered the program so that Mr. Lafferty, who had come here expressing fear that he would not be allowed to speak, was enabled to deliver an address.

Mr. Dunne gave a clear, frank and businesslike presentation of the railroad company's attitude in exercising its ownership of the land. He emphasized the statement that the Supreme Court decision confirming the railroad's equity in the property to the extent of \$2.50 an acre does not direct the railroad to sell the land at a fair price, but it merely restricts it from selling at a higher price.

Mr. Johnson, representative in Congress from Hogue, Wash., added that the Federal or the state government in its rapid-fire presentation of the public land situation in the 11 Western states. He pointed to Senator Day's map of those states, showing the immense areas of land held by the Federal Government, hanging conspicuously in the front of the room. He joked humor with logic, and when he had concluded the delegates were more firmly convinced than ever that the grant lands had been called for, the already excessive area in Federal control.

Ex-Governor Oswald West gave a carefully prepared explanation of the land-grant case and held forward prominently the suggestion that either the state or the Federal Government should acquire ownership of the property. He pointed out that the company, for many years after it was granted the land, did not pay taxes on it and ridiculed the idea that most of the land is of great value. He offered the suggestion that the state acquire the land from the railroad at \$2.50 an acre, classify the property and dispose of it to settlers.

The Federal government, he said, might lend the state money to pay for the property pending its final disposition by the state. To carry out this transaction he called for a holding company to be formed, consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney-General and representatives of the farmers' organizations, the labor unions and the commercial bodies. The proceeds in excess of the actual cost to the state, he said, should go into the school and other state funds.

Clay Tallman, member of the General Land Office, was the last speaker of the afternoon. He agreed with the others that the land should be settled, but declared that, "if all the land in the grant is to be a great misfortune for the state."

The letter of H. S. Graves, Chief Forester of the United States, outlining the policies of that department toward the land in question, was read and aroused much discussion. Mr. Graves suggested that all the property be classified, and implied that the timbered land be added to the forestry reserves.

STATE OWNERSHIP ADVOCATED. Attorney-General Points to Inability to Tax Federal Holdings.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Sept. 16.—(Special).—While presenting a purely legal and largely technical explanation of the land grant to the state-wide conference here today, Attorney-General Brown offered an argument to the delegates for State instead of Federal control of the property based on the fact that the state is powerless to tax Federal property within its own borders. He made it plain that the fact of the lands in question having advanced in value since they were acquired by the railroad does not affect the railroad's ownership. His address, in brief, was as follows:

member on the resolutions committee from each of the 18 counties having land in the grant, in addition to five members to be appointed by the chairman from the delegates at large.

A. E. Clark, of Portland, offered an amendment providing for one additional delegate, one from the State Grange and Farmers' Union and one from the State Federation of Labor. This amendment was adopted; no more resolutions committee was appointed.

Benjamin Counts, W. P. Lafferty, Clackamas, W. A. Dimick, Clatsop County not represented; Columbia County, A. L. Clark; Coos County, Hugh McAlain; Curry County, S. P. Pierce; Douglas County, Robert E. Smith; Jackson County, V. C. Lefever; Josephine County, Guy Kuykendall; Lane County, L. E. Bean; Lincoln County, L. M. Davis; Linn County, Judge H. H. Hewitt; Marion County, C. L. McNary; Multnomah County, R. G. Callahan; Polk County, G. H. Hawley; Tillamook County, G. B. McLeod; Washington County, R. N. Barrett; Yamhill County, Jesse Edwards; Grants, Farmers' Union; C. E. Spence; Labor Federation, E. J. Stank; for troops and munitions, Mrs. J. E. Kiddle, Union County; I. N. Day, Multnomah County; W. W. Cardwell, Douglas County; E. V. Carter, Jackson County.

L. E. Bean, ex-State Senator from Lane County, spoke in place of R. A. Booth, who was unable to be present. He brought forth general applause by his eloquence and the logic of his address.

After stating the railroad's case he begged the hearers to approach the solution of the problem in a spirit of mutual friendship and with good will. He reminded the conference repeatedly, however, open at once if they were disposed to surrender their ownership in the lands for the payment of \$2.50 an acre. "The Supreme Court clearly recited," he said, "that the railroad is not to be in our grant was not directive, but merely restrictive. I want you to get that in your heads," he continued. He emphasized the fact that the railroad to the timber on the grant lands, and declared significantly: "If Congress should pass a statute to take the timber and munitions from us, that act clearly would be confiscation."

"But," he added, "it is not the purpose of the railroad to insist on its two business terms, but to insist on our interests are identical, largely, with yours. We don't want those lands tucked up in some overgrown forest reserve any more than you do."

"So let us meet, not in a spirit of hostility, but like true gentlemen, so that our rights can always be conserved."

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"The power of taxation is a sovereign right belonging to the state in its sovereign capacity.

"The value of the land for the purpose of assessment is independent of any incumbrance, as lien or liability attached to the title of the property, or covenant contained in the conveyance, or any other condition that impairs the use of the transfer of property.

"Value for taxation means the actual judgment of the public as expressed in the price which some one will pay for the land. It has also been stated as the highest price that a normal purchaser, not under peculiar compulsion, will pay at that time to get that thing.

"The fact that the lands subsequently acquired value in excess of the limitation imposed for sale would not change the character or legal effect of the conveyance.

LA GRANDE, Or., Sept. 16.—(Special).—La Grande-made flour has jumped 80 cents in ten days. Four cuts of 20 cents per barrel each have been announced in rapid succession, the fourth coming tonight.

The report of the first census is contained in an octavo volume of 56 pages. Sewall's, the census Bureau issues 100 or more quarto volumes, with more than 40,000 pages.

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WOMAN'S BURNS FATAL. Distillate Used in Stove Causes Death of Mrs. James Zink.

So terrible were the burns she received when distillate used to start a fire exploded at her home in Linnton Wednesday night, that Mrs. James Zink, aged 41 years, died at St. Vincent's Hospital yesterday morning. No inquest will be held.

Mrs. Zink is survived by her husband and six children, all of Linnton. The funeral probably will be held from her home at 424 Graham avenue.

The explosion occurred when Mrs. Zink filled the stove with wood and poured distillate over it, not knowing that live embers were glowing beneath the ashes.

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