

EXPLAINS BILL PERMITTING STATE TO AID IN RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION

"Railroads by the People and for the People" was the subject of an important address delivered by C. E. S. Wood at a meeting of the Oregon-Idaho Development League Tuesday at La Grande. It was a complete explanation of the plan of state railroad construction that was approved by the last state legislature and which may be placed in operation to secure badly needed railroad transportation for Oregon. The address follows:

There is a great deal of misinformation being cast abroad by people who ought to know better concerning the self-help movement for railroads. Why not examine the matter before ignorantly ranting about it? To begin with, there is nothing in the present state constitution prohibiting the state from building railroads. The state has built a railroad—the portage railroad; owns it and is operating it. The state can gridiron itself with railroads if it wants to. The state has the same power to build railroads that it has to build canals, roads or wagon roads. It is not necessary to alter the constitution to enable the state to build railroads. It has that power now.

What the state cannot do is to issue bonds to a greater amount than \$50,000. If the state built a railroad today, it would have to tax the people as money was needed. The amendment is designed, among other things, to permit the state to issue bonds to a greater amount than \$50,000. The purpose of railroad construction is to relieve the people from taxation. The objections urged are:

First—This is a departure from the wisdom of the fathers and opens the door to all the old-time scandals and railroads graft. Second—It embarks the state in the railroad business with all the evils of railroad business and politics. Third—It is a socialistic move. Fourth—It will "bankrupt the state." Fifth—The state cannot raise the money against the opposition of the Rockefeller-Harriman crowd. Sixth—It will drive private capital out of the railroad business in Oregon. Seventh—Mr. Harriman will parallel the state line and run it.

As to the wisdom of the fathers that is as it may be. To assume that the past held a greater wisdom than the present is to assume that the world progresses backward. Every generation is the best judge of its own particular needs. If by this objection it is meant that the state should not be expected to build a railroad, the old-time grafting railroad subsidies and state aid to private greed, this only shows the ignorance of the objector. The present restrictions in the constitution are not touched; on the contrary they are increased under this amendment. Not only can no aid be granted by the state directly or indirectly nor by a railroad district to any one, but a railroad built by a state or a district can never be sold to any private ownership, nor leased except upon a rental securing the state a fixed charge and a sinking fund, and as much other return as possible and on terms guaranteeing impartial service to the public.

Not State Railroads. In short it is not true that it is a return to state aided railroads. They are to be state or district owned railroads—owned by the people forever—and leased for operation or opened as common highways to all users on regular toll rates, or if completed to it, operated by the state. The vast benefit to the people in owning the roadbed is shown by the fact that the roadbeds built by the state of Georgia in 1836, the appreciation in value since the road was built being \$12,000,000. The Cincinnati has derived revenue from the lease of the Cincinnati Southern which it built and owns. A lease is the easiest way to regulate the road operators. The terms can be laid down in the lease and if not complied with faithfully the state can take over the state in political management of railroads. In the first place the modern method of building a road is to build toward business in all things and there is no more reason a commission can be constituted to regulate the road operators than there is to regulate the state railroad interests than that one cannot be created to handle city water or gas or public libraries, but it is necessary that anything of the kind be done. If a road through central Oregon or to Coos Bay is built, the state will not be very glad to lease it. If he doesn't want it, Mr. Hill will be delighted, or if neither of them here will be, why not let the road operators only too glad to lease a road already built. But fancy Mr. Harriman leaving it to Mr. Hill.

Could Collect Tolls. Or the state could simply take tolls from all comers, just as the Northern Pacific charges the Astoria road for use of its tracks from Goble to Portland. It is as easy to dispatch 20 trains owned by 20 roads as of one road. But at the worst it is not to build a road in a political or state railroad way, it is to have railroads in the state politics.

The people are more and more alert to watch their interests. The time is past to frighten ignorance with Socialism. Public schools and city water works have been called Socialistic. Every effort of the people to correct the tyranny of private capital by assuming the ownership of the street, which belongs to the people is branded Socialism by the well over the carcass, who, by his smart, would frighten disturbers away. People are no longer to be so easily frightened from their rights. If the movement for Socialism, then the Interstate Commerce Act, the state road commission, the regulation of rates, the state construction and ownership of the Erie canal, state universities, state control of animals and orchards to prevent disease, state board of health, insane asylums, etc., are all Socialistic. If by Socialism be meant a state taken by the people to free themselves from plutocratic tyranny or to unite in an object of public welfare, and what is the objection to it? No. The cry of "Socialism" is not argument. It is an appeal to prejudice and ignorance. It is the advice of the robber to the robbed: "Stand still and let me rob."

There comes to every generation a practical question to be answered in a practical way. Oregon is without railroad development. Eastern Oregon is the greatest undeveloped tract in the United States. Oregon is the state most neglected by railroads. It is strangled by one monopolistic system which would not build nor let others build. It takes Oregon profits to further the interests of the state, and Washington, already well supplied—and does this to punish a rival for entering Portland. Oregon is in the position of a seat waiting for the iron wheels of its own fetters. If Coos Bay and eastern Oregon were deserts there might be some excuse, but there are no deserts in Oregon. It is no answer to this situation to talk vaguely of a road, and say and nothing, but sit and wait till the overlord in his good pleasure chooses to come to your relief. That is the logic of the position—wait, wait, and still wait. And while one waits Washington forges ahead and backed by the Skunk and the Snake and the cattle grow. While we wait, the Harriman system (which through the Southern Pacific has 10 interests in San Francisco) is building a road from the south. What building it does is ever from the south, and Portland will wake up from its paralyzing sleep and dream and the south will be the great savior, to find its own development from the south and pouring into the coffers of San Francisco.

Word in Conclusion. In conclusion, the state can build railroads now; no change in the constitution is necessary. The state can build a road state aid to private persons or corporations. The plan is for the state or railroad districts to be created like the portage railroad, to build and own the railroads necessary for the development of the state and lease or operate as may seem best. These roads cannot be sold to private corporations. The amendment is to permit bonds to be issued for the road just as Mr. Harriman does, or just as the Port of Portland does, instead of taxing the taxpayer. The plan, will the Oregonian or some one else, please construct one? What is wanted is relief from a humiliating and intolerable situation. What is wanted is a remedy not words, and what is not wanted is the disgraceful advice humiliating to an independent nation, to rely on the helplessness until Mr. Harriman chooses to grant them highways in their own state. The greater development of a greater Portland, the overtaking of Washington and California, the blossoming of the greater Oregon, is at hand. Which is it to be? Help ourselves or roll our eyes like a sacrificial calf at the altar of the Rockefeller-Harriman system, wanted, not carping criticism. We are the children of today. The future belongs to us and let the dead past be buried by us.

Not Personal Matter. Mr. Harriman's name has been used for convenience, but this is not a matter for personalities. Mr. Harriman represents only a policy and the policy is not, as we conceive it, favorable to the development of this state. Indeed, we suggest that the Rockefeller-Harriman people of a state and the private capitalists who furnish transportation are radically opposed. The people want as much highway as they can get, and a private owner wants the highest possible rates. These conflicts have already forced the state and the nation to take a hand in the matter. Let the people fall to help themselves? That is the question. What is the remedy? That is the question.

Peninsula's Best Citizens Gather at St. Johns Commercial Club.

"Peninsula, Peninsula. Here we go, watch us grow—Peninsula." Forty business men whose interests center on that one spot, the peninsula, sat down to a banquet at the St. Johns Commercial club last night, at which but one subject was talked of, and that, the peninsula.

Some disappointment was felt because the two most prominent invited guests, Mayor Harry Lane of Portland and Mayor J. J. Hendrickson of St. Johns, were not able to attend. Lloyd B. Wickens of the United Railways, who had been looked for from the "railroads," was also unable to attend. A letter was read from Mayor Lane, telling of his enforced absence, while Mayor Hendrickson's absence was explained by George J. Perkins.

A seven course banquet was served the world live today. Gentlemen, let us sit down till the time that the affair was a big success. There was only one topic really, although all the speakers looked for from the "railroads," was also unable to attend. A letter was read from Mayor Lane, telling of his enforced absence, while Mayor Hendrickson's absence was explained by George J. Perkins.

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Some critics point to the portage railroad and say that it is a loss. So they are not to be expected to pay even a fraction on its cost, but the mind that cannot see the value of a link in transportation taken in connection with the whole or the mind which cannot see the difference between the portage railroad and a great Oregonian highway, is not to be considered. This is a mind really not worth considering. That this great artery of traffic will bankrupt the state is one of those large sounding assertions which cannot be demonstrated. Indeed every analogy is to the contrary, the roadbeds of Oregon, the development of Washington as compared with Oregon prove the contrary.

We are told: "Get a corporation of Oregon capitalists and build your own road as Harriman builds his, and the same broad policy and the state cannot get the money in opposition to the Rockefeller-Harriman group of men."

Well, if the state cannot sell bonds against such opposition, what could an Oregon corporation do? State Has Whip Hand. The fact is the power of the state is the only power which can successfully combat the Rockefeller-Harriman power. The state can take over the roadbeds, the passes; a private corporation could be held up for years. The state can simply demand that the Rockefeller-Harriman make believe occupation of strategic points. The bonds of the private corporation seeking to invade Mr. Harriman's territory would be black-balled in the money market. The bonds of the state of Oregon or of a railroad district would sell readily in any market of the world because back of them would be a political power stronger than Mr. Harriman's and bigger than Mr. Harriman markets his bonds for new railroads not on his personal credit but on the credit of the new enterprise.

Five babies were saved and two were killed when their mother, Mrs. Brossner, from upper story windows into the arms of Officer Brossner, a former baseball player. Discovering a frantic mother, who had been in the arms about to jump from a third story window, Officer Brossner shouted to her to throw the child to him. She obeyed and he caught the little one. Seeing the success of the attempt, six other mothers followed the example of the first and the children caught in the air in rapid succession. Two of them were killed by the fall, one slipping through the officer's arms and striking his helmet and bouncing to the pavement. The skulls of both children were fractured.

After catching the babies, Brossner joined Officer White in a dash through the flames and smoke which filled the narrow corridors. If not for the captain's command, the officers would have succeeded in passing all of the occupants of the room down to policemen and firemen below.

Search of the ruins revealed the body of a man, about 25 years of age. There appears to have been the fire was of incendiary origin. Jacob Bruk and Adolph Wells, who conducted a grocery store on the street floor of the building, received a threatening letter which demanded \$1000. Monday a second letter was received by the grocery store, threatening to kill the man if he did not pay the \$1000. Both letters have been turned over to the police and it is hoped the handwriting expert will identify the perpetrator of the outrage.

A kerossene can found in the ruins of the building leads the police to believe that the stairways were saturated with oil by the incendiary. The fire burned most fiercely in the stairways and halls and it was this fact that presented many from escaping.

Important Question Settled. From the Philadelphia Inquirer. The government has just made public an announcement which is of unusual local importance because it is due to the diplomatic labors of our own minister in Berlin. He proved conclusively to the German government that Impersonal Salata, Convulsus Salata, and Salata Salata are not identical but wholly different species. This discovery will remove a great deal of the confusion which has existed in the diplomatic situation in not wholly satisfactory.

BASEBALL PLAYER CATCHES AND SAVES FIVE BABIES FLUNG FROM WINDOWS.

New York, April 29.—A person was killed, six are missing, whose fate will not be known until the debris is cleared away, and 14 are in hospitals, as results of a fire that destroyed a tenement at 27 Spring street, in the heart of the Italian quarter early today.

But for the fact that the tenement was situated near a police station the death list would have been three times as large. The fire was discovered by Police Sergeant O'Riordan and Officer Kirklind and they promptly went to building new lines of inmates, after turning in an alarm.

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HOLLAND REJOICES OVER ARRIVAL OF A WEE PRINCESS

(United Press Leased Wire.) The Hague, April 29.—A bulletin issued at noon today states that Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is feeling easy following the birth of her daughter and that no complications are expected. There is great rejoicing over the birth of the heir, as it prevents the possibility of the passage of the reigning dynasty to a German house, an event greatly feared by the Dutch.

Information Wanted. Major James Calvin Hemphill, editor of the News and Courier, Charleston, S. C., wishes to procure a recipe for making old fashioned eye honey. So many Yankee notions have invaded Charleston that the major is no longer able to secure his favorite tincture. Persons sending the desired information to Major Hemphill at the above address will be suitably rewarded with his sincere thanks. All other papers please copy and help the major out. He is hungry for honey.

Little Cabanne Boy Will Inherit \$200,000. (United Press Leased Wire.) San Francisco, April 29.—James Sheppard Cabanne III, who played so conspicuous a part in the mental fight of his stepfather, Broughton Brandenberg, is heir to a fortune of \$200,000, according to a statement made by Brandenberg today. It is the remainder of the great Chenier estate, left to him by his mother.

Beware Pneumonia. According to mortality statistics, pneumonia is one of the most frequent and fatal diseases to which humanity is subjected. It is so rapid that its victim is often in a precarious condition before realizing that anything more serious is the matter than a severe cold.

Why Overheat Yourself? Much of your summer pleasure depends upon having a cool and comfortable kitchen. Why not be prepared for hot days before they come.

New Perfection Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove. Has a spacious top shelf for holding dishes and for keeping food warm after it is cooked. Also has drop shelves for holding small utensils, and is fitted with racks for towels. No other stove approaches the "New Perfection" in convenience, comfort and simplicity.

Y & Y. CHINESE SPECIALISTS ON COMPLICATED DISEASES. Diseases of long standing permanently cured. No poisonous drugs used in our remedies. We use only herbs of the highest curative qualities known only to eminent Chinese medical men. We are successful where others fail.

Opening of "The North Bank Road" THE SPOKANE, PORTLAND & SEATTLE RAILWAY THROUGH TO SPOKANE MONDAY, MAY 3

TWO THROUGH DAILY TRAINS EACH WAY. SHORTEST ROUTE. QUICKEST TIME. NEW EQUIPMENT. NEW SCENERY.

Trains Leave Portland Eleventh Street Passenger Station. 9:15 A. M. 5:40 P. M.

First-Class Coaches. Parlor Observation Cars. Pullman Standard and Tourist Sleepers. Composite Compartment Observation Sleeping Cars.

Ticket Offices at Portland: 255 Morrison St., Corner Third 122 Third St., Near Washington Eleventh St. Passenger Station

REALLY DEVELOPS THE BUST, ARMS AND NECK

An increase of six inches is not unusual after a month's treatment. Go to any drugist and get separately two ounces of glycerine, three ounces of rosewater, one ounce of tincture calomel compound (not cardamon) and five cents' worth of borax. Mix the glycerine and tincture calomel, shake and let stand two hours. Then add rosewater and a teaspoonful of borax. Apply morning and night, rubbing until absorbed; then wash with hot water and soap; dry thoroughly. Continue a few weeks and beautiful development rewards the effort.

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Advertisement for Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove, featuring an illustration of the stove and text describing its features and benefits.

Advertisement for Y & Y Chinese Specialists, featuring portraits of the two practitioners and text describing their expertise in treating various ailments.

Advertisement for the opening of the North Bank Road, highlighting the new railway route between Spokane, Portland, and Seattle.

Advertisement for the Rayo Lamp, a standard oil lamp, with an illustration and text describing its features.

Advertisement for Dr. Taylor's medicine, featuring a portrait of the doctor and text describing his scientific treatment for various conditions.

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Advertisement for The Oregon Medical Institute, featuring a portrait of a doctor and text describing the institute's services.