

REPRESENTATIVE SAYS INCALCULABLE DAMAGE DONE OREGON BY TYING UP BIG AREA

"40-40" DIVISION IS RIGHT

Government Should Try to Make Some Slight Restitution for Retarding State's Development.

Washington, May 24.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—In commencing his plea before the house on the Oregon-California land grant bill, Representative Sinnott called attention to the statement made by the committee report that the division of the proceeds from the sale of the grant lands "may seem exceedingly liberal to the state of Oregon," and contended that if the most cursory reading of the bill so houndwinked any one pretending to be familiar with the subject, his knowledge was most superficial.

"This grant was tantamount to a grant of solid body of land 20 miles wide and 350 miles long, it lay across the most fertile part of Oregon, which was in gross of the grant was over 4,000,000 acres. An acre or two, third again as large as Connecticut, which is an area of 3,684,800 acres. The net grant which the railroad company was able to obtain was 3,297,000 acres, according to its own figures, an area still larger than the area of Connecticut.

"While similar lands in other public lands states were open to entry and settlement—were made productive, helped to add to the population, wealth and development of the states in which they were situated, Oregon's health, development and population were retarded by the railroad company's disregard and defiance of the administrative officers of the government were apathetic spectators of the violation of the terms of the act.

"The similar lands in the state of Connecticut withheld from settlement for a period of 50 years. Who can estimate the injury to the state? What monetary consideration can compensate us for the past mischief and injury to the state? The injury to the state by the loss of homes of schools and development is an injury that is irreparable. It has run on for 50 years; it can not be measured or be recompensed by any disposition of the land. The loss and injury to Oregon is irreparable. The granted lands were dedicated to the state for the purpose of health and development of Oregon,—this purpose was frustrated.

"Some of these withdrawn lands are within port districts, municipal corporations, organized under the laws of the state to improve ports and harbors, and to develop and improve the harbors on the Oregon coast in cooperation with the government. These port districts have put up \$2,000,000. They have bonded their lands to pay that sum. Their limit of indebtedness is 10 per cent of the assessed value of the property in the port district. Fifty per cent of the area of Situla and Impqua port districts are in the area to be reverted to the government and withdrawn from taxation.

"Had the government not permitted the settlement clause to be ignored for years with impunity the development of that section of the state would present a vastly different picture from the present. We in Oregon feel it is only equitable, that inasmuch as the government has parted with the title to the lands to effect the settlement and development of Oregon,—this object having been defeated,—the proceeds of the lands to be now be pursued and devoted to the original purpose of the granting acts, the progress and development of the state, to the remedying as far as mere money can remedy a loss that can not be recompensed.

"My state has borne the entire loss and burden of the violated grant, the adverse conditions thereby entailed. Our industrial loss easily amounts to more than the entire value of the land.

"Taxes Lost to State. On the passage of this bill \$450,000 of yearly tax will be lost. The time when we are to be recompensed for lost taxes alone is a matter of the greatest consequence. If the theories of the administrative officers are given full scope, it will be many decades before Oregon receives a proportion of the proceeds of the grant.

"In Oregon we believe that the original bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain providing 40 per cent for the counties and 40 per cent for the state for public purposes is not more equitable than the present bill. That the state is entitled to that it will inadequately repay the state for arrested development and lessened population. Such a division is only partly atone for past injustice to Oregon on account of the illicit administration of the land grant.

"Gift to Reclamation Fund. This bill puts 40 per cent of the proceeds of the land and timber into the general reclamation fund. Oregon with over 1,000,000 acres of arid land susceptible of reclamation according to the reconnaissance of the reclamation service, has up to June 30th, 1915, finished the reclamation fund over \$10,000,000 and has had returned but \$7,258,812.32.

"The report of the attorney general shows that the railroad company has received on account of the grant lands

\$2,500,000 in excess of what it is entitled to. If this claim of the attorney general is correct, Oregon is accounting suit provided for in section 7. This amount will be retained by the government when it settles with the railroad company under the provisions of section 10. This amount will be treated as money already had and received by the railroad company.

"This \$2,500,000 is equivalent to the payment for 1,400,000 acres at \$2.50 an acre. The railroad company will not again be paid this amount. This \$2,500,000 is retained in the treasury of the United States. It is not treated as a part of the fund to be divided. The payment for 1,400,000 acres to the railroad company will not have to be made again. Yet section 10 of the bill takes for account of this fact that it requires that before the proceeds of the sales are divided, there shall be deducted therefrom one acre for each acre of land revested.

"Why Take From Oregon? This deduction of \$2.50 an acre is obviously to the disadvantage of Oregon to settle with the railroad company. Why deduct \$2.50 an acre for the 1,400,000 acres, when the government will not have to pay this sum to the railroad company. The railroad company has already received this amount.

"It is \$2,500,000 in excess of legal proceeds that the railroad company has received. The government will not have to pay this amount to the railroad company when settlement is made,—so why take it out of the fund which is to be divided between the state of Oregon, the reclamation fund and the government?

"Kings Profit to Government. We find the same incongruity in the matter of taxes. Under section 7 the taxes which should in law have been received by the railroad company and which are to be advanced by the government, are to be treated as money had and received by the railroad company. The back taxes now amount to \$1,565,488.88 on March 1st, 1915.

"Under the provisions of section 10 when settlement is had with the railroad company, this sum of \$1,565,488.88 is found legally assessed. It is to be retained by the railroad company. Yet section 10 also requires the deduction of these taxes from the proceeds of the sale before any division is made with the state and counties. The amount of these taxes withheld before division is to become the property of the government. Thus the government will be making a profit of 10 per cent for all its advances for taxes.

"These two items, the excess of \$2,500,000 and the taxes amount to over \$5,000,000—nearly 10 per cent of the highest valuation ever suggested for the grant lands.

"Division a Delusion. This manipulation makes the 50 per cent division a delusion and a snare for instead of the state getting 50 per cent of the proceeds, the reclamation fund 40 per cent and the government 10 per cent, the state will receive a take-off of over \$5,000,000. The amount of the proceeds already received in the compromise suits.

"Oregon's loss in settlement and population is estimated at \$100,000,000. The gain to the tune of nearly \$5,000,000, with a further 50 per cent of the proceeds of the grant, the amount amounting to an additional 10 or 15,000,000 dollars.

"Some of these withdrawn lands are within port districts, municipal corporations, organized under the laws of the state to improve ports and harbors, and to develop and improve the harbors on the Oregon coast in cooperation with the government. These port districts have put up \$2,000,000. They have bonded their lands to pay that sum. Their limit of indebtedness is 10 per cent of the assessed value of the property in the port district. Fifty per cent of the area of Situla and Impqua port districts are in the area to be reverted to the government and withdrawn from taxation.

"Situation of the Settler. Many settlers settled on these lands thinking that the actual settlers' title would be what was intended. A technicality, the lack of definition of an actual settler in the granting act, the failure to put proper regulations in the granting act, excludes these settlers from any rights, although the supreme court says their claims are supported by appearing considerations.

"The delay and delay have not driven these settlers from the land since December 1, 1912, they may hold their lands if they do not contain more than 1-200,000—set of timber to the one-quarter section. If more, then they can only hold the 40 acre tract upon which their house or improvements are located. There was no timber restriction when they settled on the land, there should be none now if they are found to be settlers in good faith.

"Good Lands May Be Tied Up. In homesteading these lands the bill ties 300,000 feet of timber to 40 acres as the line of demarcation between agricultural and timber lands. This would be fatal to the settlement of some of the best agricultural land in southern Oregon.

"When we meditate upon the trials and sufferings of the Oregon pioneers, their virtues and achievements, we must conclude that the pioneers who won and conquered the Oregon country deserve to have their names in the roll of the state's heroes. The children of the children's children, not as mendicants asking alms, but as rightful heirs, demand their heritage be administered to uphold their state and public schools.

"The decision is not determining what the total interest of the railroad is in the grant; it confirms the interest of \$1 per acre for the land, but whether that is to be the interest is not stated; and in its reference to the matter to congress it enjoins that 'all the value the granting acts conferred upon the railroads' be secured to them. A more inclusive phrase than 'all the value' could hardly have been chosen.

"Lands to Be Improved. There is no doubt but that congress intended that these lands should pass into private ownership for purposes of development and improvement. The institutions of the state and its municipal subdivisions are the reason now for changing the destination of the lands. We believe we are entitled to the full value of the grant

MRS. KNOTT WAS PIONEER OF STATE



Mary Elizabeth Knott

Newport, Or., May 24.—Mary Elizabeth (Savery) Knott, who died here May 21 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Stuart, after an illness of many months, was a pioneer settler of Oregon. She crossed the plains in 1853. Mrs. Knott had made her home with her daughter here for the last three years.

Mrs. Knott had lived in Portland for 64 years prior to coming here, and was the widow of Captain Levi Knott, who for a number of years owned and operated the Stark street ferry. Knott street, in Portland, is named after her late husband.

Mrs. Knott was born October 14, 1836, in Memphis, Tenn., being at the time of her death 80 years old. Senator Harry Lane was a near friend of the Knott family, he having been raised in the same neighborhood in Portland.

As congress intended, to the same extent, for instance, as in grants of lands for school purposes.

"It makes no difference whether that value is of one kind or another, congress granted to us whatever it contained to promote our settlement and development, after the railroad claim had been satisfied.

"The taxable status of these lands should not be changed to an untaxable status for any period whatever. In other words, by appropriate legislation, enforce the terms of the grant.

"Taxes to Be Advanced. The bill proposes that there shall be advanced from the treasury of the United States a sum sufficient to pay the taxes levied by the taxing powers in the counties in which the grant lands are situated and which have now accrued as a lien upon the lands. For the years 1913, 1914 and 1915, such taxes are reported to aggregate over \$1,300,000. These taxes are to be paid in order that the United States may obtain and so be able to give to purchasers an unencumbered title to the land and timber thereon.

"It was the intention of congress when making the grant that the lands should pass as soon as possible into the possession of actual settlers. Sinnott has held the public lands in trust for the people, and has made the lands available for settlement and development.

"The bill does not provide for settlers who went on the lands in good faith

and, after having spent considerable sums and time in making improvements, temporarily left them to earn more money for their improvement. Their absence is due to the refusal of the railroad to sell and the long continuance of litigation.

"The date of settlement of those now the lands should be fixed at a later date than the one given in the bill. Preference rights should be given to both these classes.

"From the methods of disposing of this grant, the committee on public lands has chosen that of vesting title to the lands in the government. This will operate to abrogate the exclusive right of Oregon and her people. It provides for their sale, in part, and the division of the proceeds by others—strangers to the original grant. It risks prolonged litigation. The supreme court totally denied forfeiture as a judicial remedy. Whether it will uphold the relief asked for by the pending bill, of a related nature, is a very grave question.

"Under the theory of this bill the grant lands become public property and the exclusive claim of Oregon is obliterated. Under no circumstances whatever should any of these lands be increased in value. There is held up before us a parade of certain sums that we may receive at some time in the future.

"But there will be an annual loss of taxes that to some of the counties at least will be very oppressive and for a period that will seem very long. Such loss of taxes will amount to millions under the most favorable view that can be taken of the working out of the method proposed in this bill.

"Taxes a Long Way Off. The amount of the taxes will remain off the tax rolls for six years at least and probably for eight years if they were to be all taken at once. No one can tell how long the timber will remain unsoiled.

"The division proposed originally by the department of justice was that the counties should receive 40 per cent of the proceeds. This is a fairer division, and considering the great burdens placed upon the counties by this bill, a juster compensation. The 40 per cent for the common school fund will increase the school fund of the county to contribute by grants of lands and which increase a greatly needed.

"Mr. Hawley quoted in full the statement by President Spruille that the Chamberlain bill plays into the hands of the railroad, that valuable lands have already been sold, and that the government is now buying a pig in a poke.

"Puter has been busy the last few days visiting congressmen at their offices, generally meeting cool receptions. He started to denounce Representative Hawley to Minority Leader Mann, who afterward said he spoke to Puter as he never spoke to a man before and was surprised that Puter 'took it.'

"Puter figures early in today's debate, most of the members having read his advertisement. Cooper of Wisconsin wanted to know about him, and Ferris referred briefly to Puter's land fraud record and the story of the operations of locators who duped 15,000 applicants.

"M'ARTHUR DECLARES BILL SAFEGUARDS PUBLIC'S INTEREST. Washington, May 24.—Representative C. N. McArthur in a speech on the land grant bill said in part:

"Demagogues and self-seekers have told the people of Oregon they are being robbed of their birth-right by the passage of this bill and that the land and timber will go to trusts and big corporations. These charges have been made solely for political effect and are thoroughly dishonest. The bill provides that the timber be sold by competitive bid and the secretary of the interior shall have the right to reject any and all bids where he has reason to be-

lieve the price is inadequate. It is inconceivable that the secretary of the interior would connive at the sale of lands for less than their value, and any suggestion to that effect is the product of a dishonest intellect.

"The bill makes provision for protecting the water supply of Portland and other cities by providing that certain lands on the watersheds of streams be withheld from entry for two years. This arrangement will give congress ample opportunity to legislate for further protection of the water supply.

"I am in favor of this bill because it authorizes the sale of timber to the highest bidder under compact terms, because it permits acquisition of agricultural lands at \$20 per acre by actual settlers; because it protects the actual settlers who are on land in good faith; because it provides for the early payment of back taxes due counties in which grants are located; because it does not contemplate the inclusion of land in any national forest reserve; because it does equity to the railroad company by providing that the company shall receive \$2.50 per acre, the amount specified in the grant; because it will safeguard the public interest against speculation and fraud; because it will put several millions of dollars into the irrevocable common school fund of the state and, in effect, because it will protect the common interests of the great body of people against the selfish interests of the few hundred land and timber grabbers and professional locators.

"I confess my dislike for some features of the bill, but I believe that these objections to overcome my approval of the general plan of the bill and the public interests conserved by its passage.

"Experiments in the Philippines in passing native tobacco with a Connecticut variety have produced a tobacco selling for more than twice the price of the native.

"PUTER PRINTS AN AD; CALLED DOWN BY MANN, LEADER OF MINORITY. Washington, May 24.—S. A. D. Puter made his last stand today by publishing a full-page advertisement in the Washington Post, appealing for delay in the hearing of the Oregon & California land-grant bill.

"He says congressional committees should be appointed to investigate, that the Chamberlain bill plays into the hands of the railroad, that valuable lands have already been sold, and that the government is now buying a pig in a poke.

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PORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOOSTERS NOW AT GOLDENDALE

Members Are Entertained and Will Attend Business Session This Afternoon. Goldendale, Wash., May 24.—The Portland Chamber of Commerce committee came up from Maryhill last night to attend today's meeting at

Goldendale of the committee of the Yakima and Goldendale Commercial clubs, working for a direct rail connection between Portland and the Yakima valley by an extension of the Goldendale branch of the S. P. & S. railway.

"This morning the Yakima committee came overland by automobile. A luncheon will be given for the visiting committees by the Goldendale Commercial club, followed by a business meeting at the court house.

"Members of the Portland committee do not seem to be at all perturbed over the statement of President I. C. Gillman of the North Bank road that the proposed cutoff will not be built.

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Graves Music Co. HAS INAUGURATED THE GREATEST Player Piano Sale TO TAKE PLACE AT ONCE—TO RUN 3 DAYS. Your great opportunity to secure a high-grade Player Piano at almost cost but you must act quickly. Many of these instruments are nearly new. Every instrument that has been used for demonstration purposes, or that has been rented, is included in this sale. Every player has been overhauled in our shops and cannot be told from new. Most of these players are the latest design 88-note players and will play the world's most delightful music. Sold on easy payments from \$5 per month and up.

Portland's Greatest Sale Men's and Women's Clothing Sacrificed as The COLUMBIA OUTFITTING CO. QUOTE BUSINESS. Hundreds of the season's smartest SUITS, COATS, WAISTS, OVERCOATS, RAINCOATS, SKIRTS, DRESSES, MILLINERY, Etc., now selling at only a fraction of their real value—meaning many dollars saved on every purchase. Our ENTIRE STOCK AND FIXTURES MUST BE SOLD OUT BY JUNE 1ST—regardless of our loss. If you need anything in clothing for now or next season, COME at ONCE—it is a chance of a lifetime, and you can't afford to wait until the merchandise has been picked over. SALE TOMORROW AT 10 A. M. Ladies' Suits 1 Lot, values to \$18, \$ 4.98 1 Lot, values to \$25, \$ 7.95 1 Lot, values to \$35, \$12.85 Ladies' Dresses Up to \$15 Vals. \$3.98 Ladies' Coats 1 Lot, all styles, at. . \$ 3.98 1 Lot, serviceable fabrics, go at \$ 6.98 1 Lot, best styles, at \$11.98 Men's Suits \$18.50 Suits, now \$ 7.95 \$20.00 Suits, now \$ 9.95 \$22.50 Suits, now \$11.95 \$25.00 Suits, now \$13.95 \$27.50 Suits, now \$14.95 \$30.00 Suits, now \$16.95 \$35.00 to \$40 Suits, hand-tailored, now \$19.95 Men's Overcoats Made of finest wool, German dyed, with unbreakable fronts —A-1 linings and tailored to appeal to the most fastidious dressers, \$8.98, \$10.98 \$14.98 Formerly Sold Up to \$35 Fixtures For Sale Show Cases, Mirrors, Tables, Chairs, etc., etc. For above inquire of Mr. J. Shapiro. HUNDREDS OF OTHER BARGAINS—SEE THEM for YOURSELF Opposite Meier & Frank's on Fifth Street, Take Elevator Columbia Outfitting Co. 148 FIFTH STREET, SECOND FLOOR

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