

BEAN BILL LIKELY TO COST LAND GRANT COUNTIES \$1,400,000

Possibility Railroad's Interest Be Assessed at \$2.50 Per Acre Instead of Real Value.

THREE YEARS INVOLVED

Southern Pacific's Fight Against Paying Any Amount Will Be Fortified, Is Contention.

The land grant counties of the state face a possible loss of approximately \$1,400,000 in taxes due from the Southern Pacific Railroad company for the years 1913, 1914 and 1915, should the railroad company succeed in overturning the Chamberlain-Ferris act, the fate of which is now pending before the United States supreme court.

In other words, should the railroad win, and the court hold, according to the theory of the Bean bill enacted by the last legislature and advocated by Bean before that body, that the Chamberlain-Ferris act is simply an "administrative act," and the railroad's interest in the lands be fixed at \$2.50 an acre, they would have to be assessed on that basis, instead of on a parity with other and adjacent lands.

When Judge Wolverton handed down his decision July 1, 1913, from the district court, forfeiting the lands to the government, the railroad company filed a protest with the government under date of June 30, 1915, taking the position that it should pay no taxes during the period between the date of Judge Wolverton's decision and the date of the decision of the United States supreme court modifying it.

In accordance with the position assumed under this protest the company not only refused to pay taxes for 1913, 1914 and 1915, but it warned the government that any taxes paid for those years under the direction of the Chamberlain-Ferris act would be resisted by the company as a voluntary payment made by an outside party and not recoverable from or binding upon the company.

After this protest had been entered the company also filed notice with the state authorities that the lands should not be placed on the tax roll, or if they were that they should not be assessed against the company on the basis of a \$2.50 per acre valuation.

The federal government, as soon as

the Chamberlain-Ferris act became effective, immediately began the work of checking up the amount of taxes due the different land grant counties preparatory to paying the back taxes and interest due. The amounts due have been ascertained and the funds for their payment are available, because of the protest of the Southern Pacific company, it has been announced by Clay Tallman, commissioner of the general land office, that payment will not be made pending the decision of the United States supreme court, in the appeal now pending before it. The aggregate amount ready for payment, as of March 1, was \$1,716,018.62, upon which interest and penalties are accumulating at the rate of approximately \$15,000 per month.

It is apparent from the position of the company that it will protest and fight against the payment of any of this amount, should the supreme court sustain the government's contention, on the theory that it was divested of title from the date of Judge Wolverton's decision on July 1, 1913. It is also to be presumed that the company will contend, should the act be declared to be "an administrative act" and the company's interest be limited to \$2.50 an acre, that taxes for these three and subsequent years should be assessed on the basis of \$2.50 and not on the basis of the full value, as in the case of adjacent lands.

It is estimated that the average value used in the past as a basis for taxation throughout the grant was approximately \$10 per acre, from which the aggregate sum of \$1,716,018.62 was computed. Under a valuation of \$2.50 an acre the assessed value for the basis of taxation would be approximately \$65 an acre, using the same proportionate ratio, which would fix the total amount due, in tax, interest and penalty on March 1, at approximately \$300,000.

GAME WARDENS MAKE DETERMINED CHARGE ON THE DEER SLAYERS

Wanton Slaughter, in Violation of Law, in Multnomah and Columbia Counties.

Determined efforts are being made by State Game Warden Carl D. Shoemaker and his deputies to break up the deer slaughtering ring that has been operating within 15 miles of Portland in Multnomah and Columbia counties. Until recently it has been difficult to secure convictions of violators of the game law, especially since it appeared that some Portland sportsmen were encouraging them.

With the conviction in district court Friday of two of these deer slayers from the vicinity of St. Helens, State Game Warden H. H. Clark and H. E. Mead believe they have accomplished a decided step. One of these men was fined \$150 and the other \$75. "Probably no other large city in the country has wild deer roaming the woods so near its boundaries as Portland," said Deputy Clark. "If the full protection of the law is extended to them, there is no reason why these deer cannot be seen hereabouts for an indefinite number of years. If they are to be ruthlessly slaughtered, however, they will disappear entirely, driven back to the mountain fastness."

"Some of the depredations among the deer we found in Columbia county were so appalling as to be a disgrace. We found a dead deer in a canyon near the county line that had been shot and left to die. We cut off its horns to bring back. One party of hunters in a single day killed at least one deer out of season in Multnomah county and three across the line in Columbia. Public sentiment is so overwhelming in favor of conserving these wild animals that a stop must be made to the slaughter."

Aberdeen Hears Bishop Hughes. Aberdeen, Wash., March 5.—Declaring the individual "the ultimate social unit," and insisting that the aim of reform must fall unless the individual be reached, Bishop Matthew S. Hughes of Portland held the attention of 200 members of the Chamber of Commerce in an address Thursday night, in which he emphasized the value of the church in a community.

SERMON TOPICS

White Temple's New Pastor Will Lead, Not Dictate.

Dr. Waller's Initial Sermon.—Rev. Calvin B. Waller, formerly of Asheville, N. C., took up his new duties as pastor of the White Temple Sunday and delivered his first sermon in the church in the morning. In his talk Dr. Waller said that he would try to be the leader of the church, and not a dictator, and that he would welcome suggestions from all, but dictation from none. Dr. Waller urged that he be called upon to render help and give advice whenever necessary, asking that he be treated as the family physician. "Say encouraging things," he admonished. "Don't put to me places in the church life—that is disheartening. Tell me all the good things about each other; I'll find out the bad, if there are any. The church, to me, he continued, "is the preeminent organization of earth, commissioned by Jesus to evangelize the world. There is no sphere of human need that should not be met by the church. The ministry of Jesus was three-fold—healing, teaching, preaching—meeting the three-fold need of mankind—body, mind and soul. No church has come to its best that is not fulfilling this three-fold mission. My heart's desire and prayers have long been to be pastor of a church keyed to this broader ministry." His subject at the morning service was "The Race Set Before Us," and in the evening he spoke on "The Lepers of the City." The church members are to meet Dr. Waller and his family at a large prayer meeting service to be held Thursday night.

Must Learn Self-Expression.—Rev. Edward Pence, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church, spoke on self-expression in his sermon Sunday. "The first desire of children," he said, "is for everything that they see. But the child must learn self-expression and the joy of sharing its toys with its little friends. Beware of the man who lets a thousand opportunities go by just to qualify in one of his choices for he will learn to rule in that one."

terian church, Sunday. Satan is as real as Jesus Christ, he said, and the prevalent idea that he is pent up in hell was propagated by Milton and not in the scriptures.

Dr. Minson to New Charge.—Rev. Walter B. Hinson, former pastor of

the White Temple, gave his first sermon as pastor of the East Side Baptist church Sunday night. In his talk he touched on the work that lies before him as pastor of the East Side church. "This is to be a church of the people," he said, "for the people and

by the people. We are not going to ask how much you have or what is your station in life. This is to be the people's church, and as such all will be welcome."

Must Manifest Holiness.—Rev. E. Olin Eldridge, pastor of the Mount Ta-

bor Methodist Episcopal church, in his sermon Sunday, declared that it will not do merely to talk holiness and heaven; it must manifest itself in our lives, for religion is not a skeleton but a living creature. The gospel, he said, is glad tidings, a message of di-

vine love, and yet our manner of presenting it in our lives makes it appear as sackcloth and ashes.

Rev. C. C. Rarick, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal church, Sunday morning. "Let us, then," he said, "not underestimate the value of our souls lest in our lack of appreciation and carelessness we lose them."

HEMSTITCHING AND PICOTING QUICKLY AND NEATLY DONE, YARD 10c—SECOND FLOOR, FIFTH STREET

"Why Worry With Art?"—H. Granville Barker's Lecture Tickets Here. The celebrated English playwright and producer, H. Granville Barker, will lecture at the Eleventh-Street Playhouse on Monday evening, March 12, auspices Portland Center of the Drama League. Tickets \$1 and 50c. Exchange tickets now on sale. —Book Shop, Fifth Floor

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