MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1917. 14 **BEAN BILL LIKELY TO** LAND COST GRANT **COUNTIES \$1,400,000**

Southern Pacific's Fight Against Paying Any Amount Will Be For-

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 parity with other and aljacent lands, On this basis the taxes and accrued interest and penalties for the three years would be approximately \$300,-000, instead of the \$1,716,018.62 esti-

Railroad Filed Protest.

the district court, forfeiting the lands to the government, the railroad company filed a protest with the government under date of June 30, 1916 taking the position that it should pay no taxes during the period between the date of Judge Wolverton's decree and the date of the decision of the United States supreme court modi-

fying 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. In other words, the company announced to the government that it would resist the Jeduction of any sums paid for taxes from any amount which the govern-ment might secure from the entry or sale of the lands under the Chamberlain-Ferris act

Notice Is Served.

the company also filed notice with the state authorities that the lands should they were that they should not be assessed against the company on the basis of a \$2.50 per acre valuation.



the Chamberlain-Ferris act became ef-fective, immediately began the work of checking up the amount of taxes and interest due. The amounts due have been ascertained and the funds for their payment are available, but

for their payment are available, but because of the protest of the South-

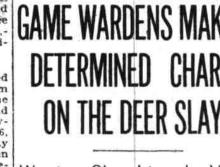
ern Pacific company, it has been announced by Clay Tallman, commis-sioner of the general land office, that payment will not be made pending the decision of thee United States su-

ready for payment, as of March 1

fight against the payment of any divested of title from the date of Judge Wolverton's decision on July 1, 1913. It is also equally to be pre-

sumed 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 ascase of adjacent lands.

proximately \$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 \$1.65 an acre, using the ame proportionate ratio, which would fix the total amount due, in tax, interest and penalty on March 1, at approximately \$300,000.



woods so near its boundaries as Port-

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