

COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

COTTAGE GROVE OREGON

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1907

Oregon's Land Monopoly.

Oregon, these forty years, has been "held up" by grabbers of land grants, who possess some 5,000,000 acres of the total unreserved 52,000,000 acres in the state. Their land monopoly, created by acts of Congress between 1862 and 1870, making free gift of vast areas of the public domain, for so-called military roads and for railroads, has barred settlement and development from its tracts and from important water courses and fertile valleys, by means of its possession of alternate sections, checkerboard the state in zigzag lines.

These grants were allowed by Congress and the lands were accepted by greedy grabbers, like franchises nowadays, under pretense that the free gift would cause the recipients to render a public service. They never have fulfilled the trust imposed on them in a single instance; they have secured the land by rendering the least possible service, for the most part no service at all; they have shut out home builders and now stand in the way of National irrigation works; their whole record is one, if not of infamy, then of flagrant breach of trust.

This greedy land monopoly, constituted of half a dozen or more corporations, presents a serious problem to the people of Oregon. There is well-founded sentiment that the holders of this free-gift land should be compelled to cut up their holdings, sell in small tracts stand out of the way of home-builders, admit lumbermen for logging, fluming and booming and let in miners and irrigators. Wide ribbons of lands, granted in alternate sections from six to forty miles in breadth, run across the state from one side to another. They have always been a blight on the state and are worse now than ever.

These lands should be reached by the tax power of the state, to compel their possessors to pay a return to the public for the immensely valuable privileges they possess and indirectly to cause the lands to be sold. This seems the only authority that can reach them, since it is not possible to compel their sale by direct legislation nor to control the disposition that the monopoly may make of them, nor to invalidate the title in which they are held.

The two constitutional amendments offered by the State Tax Commission, as a basis for its proposed new tax code, might permit the levying of a specific graduated tax, on the monopolized lands, in addition to general state, county

and school tax. The plan suggested by R. G. Smith of Grants Pass, is a worthy one. The people of Oregon have been barred out long enough and the possessors of the lands have enjoyed their fat privileges long enough at the expense of the state.

Sale of the 5,000,000 acres of land would bring the monopoly owners a vast sum of money—far greater than it was thought their value ever would reach when they were granted as a bounty by the United States. It is not right that the present owners should sit down and wait for the growth of the state further to enhance the value of the lands.

The grants should never have been made. They have been held by non-resident landlords these many years, at the cost of the people of Oregon. The landlores have done little or nothing in return for the vast tracts they have held for profit. Their "vested rights" cannot be nullified, as justice and the superior rights of the public call for in this case. But the vested liberties of the people should be untethered of these bonds. The men who can devise means of accomplishing the task will render a most valuable public service.

Eight land grants were made in Oregon, between 1864 and 1870, three of them to railroads, that of the Oregon & California from Portland to the southern state boundary being the equivalent of a strip 362 miles long by 20 miles wide (ten alternate sections on each side of the road, with a 10-mile indemnity strip outside that limit); the Oregon central, from Portland to McMinnville, 40 miles, having the same breadth; and the Northern Pacific, from Portland to Goble, 40 miles long and of that width also. Not all the lands in these limits could be secured by the railroads, because either occupied by settlers or because the three grants overlapped each other, but 10-mile indemnity strips were granted and between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 acres were obtained.

The railroads were built, but the lands were not devoted to the purpose for which Congress intended them. They were to be sold only to actual settlers, in tracts of not more than 160 acres to one purchaser and for not more \$2.50 an acre, but these restrictions have been evaded and probably at last successfully nullified by the companies. Meanwhile the great bulk of the lands is retained and the Southern Pacific has refused in the last three years to sell lands of the Oregon & California and the Oregon Central.

More flagrant still has been the record of the five wagon road grants which extend east and west over the state. The roads were not built as agreed; in fact for the most part they were not built at all. These grants were: one from Albany to the Eastern boundary of the state; another from Eugene, and a third from the Dalles to that line; one from Roseburg to Coos Bay and another from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay. The theoretical area within all the wagon road tracts was about 1,800,000 acres made up of alternate sections within three and six mile limits.

The damage of Oregon has been done and cannot be repaired. The problem now is to manage the monopolized areas, through future legislation for the interest of the state. This is a live question.—Oregonian.

DR. FRANC LUCILE HARD
OPTICIAN AND REFRACTIONIST
Room 1-4 New Christian Bk., Eugene, Or.

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Jones Celebrate Their Fifteenth Wedding Anniversary.

Probably the most pleasant and enjoyable function of the social season was the celebration of their Crystal wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Jones at their home in this city Saturday evening.

A large number of invited guests assembled to join in the celebration and partake of the generous hospitality of the host and hostess, a number of Eugene relatives and friends of the family being numbered among the guests.

The parlor decorations, while simple, were appropriate and artistic, ivy, ferns and mistletoe predominating. The hostess was assisted in receiving by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. VanDenburg and the spacious parlors of the Jones home presented a very animated scene as every one seemed to cast aside all formality and enter into the true social spirit of the occasion.

About nine o'clock the piano pealed forth a beautiful wedding march which was admirably executed by Miss Ethel Evans of Eugene and the "Bridal party" preceded by Rev. J. L. Beatty, pastor of the M. E. Church took up their places before an improvised altar and solemnly renewed the marriage vows which they had assented to fifteen years previously. The ceremony, though brief, was very pretty and impressive, Rev. Beatty officiating in a most pleasing manner. The impressiveness and solemnity of the ceremony was broken by Mr. Frank Wheeler, who acted as best man and who created not a little merriment by whipping out a five dollar bill from his pocket and tendering it to the officiating clergyman almost before the final words of the ceremony had passed from his lips. Mrs. Jones was attended by Mrs. F. D. Wheeler and both were attired in very becoming gowns, while Mr. Jones and his groomsmen F. D. Wheeler appeared in full dress suits, in fact many were heard to remark that time had dealt very gently with Mr. and Mrs. Jones and that on this anniversary they appeared as youthful and happy as when they took upon themselves the solemn obligations of fifteen years ago.

At the conclusion of the ceremony hearty congratulations were showered upon the "bridal party" after which a very interesting musical program was rendered as follows: Piano solo, Miss Georgetta Berg; cornet solo, Chas. Cochran; piano solo, Miss Ethel Evans; vocal solo, J. M. Isham; vocal quartette, Messrs. Isham and Cochran and Mesdames Brund and Brehaut.

The musical program ended, splendid refreshments were served in several courses, three young ladies and three young men acting as waiters.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the recipients of many beautiful and valuable presents.

The invited guests were Messrs. and Mesdames F. B. Phillips, W. C. Conner, Frank Wheeler, Harry Wynne, James Benson, Nate Compton, J. M. Isham, C. E. Conner, Will Cunningham, Will Hogate, Harry Brehaut, Ernest Sears, Chas. VanDenburg, Andrew Brund, J. L. Beatty, Harry Metcalf, H. O. Thompson, Oscar Frohmader, John Medley, Herbert Eakin, Charles Cochran, Harry Hart, L. F. Orpurd, J. G. Lewis, John Cochran, Will Lundy, Albert Woods, W. H. Abrams, J. M. Fisher, L. H. Baker, Orland Blackmore, R. A. Booth, Frank J. Hard, L. N. Roney, Fred Lamb, J. W. Roberts, C. E. Roberts, Will Lundy, S. E. Mewinger, Charles Jones, Arthur Star, Harry Star, Charles Roberts, George Richmond, Clarence Roberts, Mrs. Jennie Richard, Mary Gray, Addie Star, Edith Evans, Misses Francis and Marion Beatty, Jessie and Georgetta Berg, Eunice VanDenburg, Rena Blair, Gertrude Palmer, Gertrude and Nettie Burdick, Ethel Evans, Vinnie Knapp, Florence and Cora Huff, Messrs. Herman Palmer, Fred Wachite, Ren Sanford, G. H. Roberts, C. H. Jones, L. Hard Star, Will Sherwood.

Eugene Streets to be Paved.

At a meeting of the city council of Eugene on the 2d, called by Mayor Wilkins to discuss the street paving question, a resolution was adopted favoring the movement and committees were instructed to ascertain necessary steps to be taken, also look into expense and material used in other cities. This movement seems to be satisfactory to the residence of the city and will add much to its title, a city of high standard.

R. C. Scotch Collie puppies for sale. Pedigreed and eligible to registration.
H. K. METCALF.

Cottage Grove Churches

METHODIST EPISCOPAL, Rev. J. L. Beatty, Pastor. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School, 10 a. m., Epworth League, 6:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be present.

First Presbyterian Church, Pastor R. C. Grace. Morning service, 11, evening 8, Y. P. S. C. E. 7 p. m. All strangers and sojourners welcome.

Morning subject "Distinctive words in the Christian religion." Evening subject "Hours of Darkness."

Episcopal Church. Services held the second Wednesday evening of each month at 7:30 in Masonic hall. There will be services every fifth Sunday of a month.

Catholic Church, Father Carroll. Services the second Sunday in each month.

Christian Science services held over Allison's Barber shop every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Christian Church, Rev. D. E. Olson Pastor. Services at 11 in the morning and 7:30 in the evening. Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 6:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 o'clock. Intermediate Endeavor Society at 2:30 and Choir practice every Saturday evening at 7:30.

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which at all times get the best attention, using only the purest of chemicals, having the largest stock in town it makes shopping easy in our place.

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Cottage Grove, Oregon

E. C. DeWitt & Co., of Chicago, whose laboratory Kodol is prepared, assured us that this remarkable digestant and corrective for the stomach conforms fully to all provisions of the National Pure Food and Drug Law. The Kodol laboratory is a very large one, but of all the sufferers from indigestion and stomach troubles could know the virtues of Kodol it would be impossible for the manufacturers to keep up with the demand. Kodol is sold here by Benson's Pharmacy.

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which is light, pliable, durable, convenient, and safe, and which is revolutionizing the art of shaving.

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Radiumite Stropps, 50c to \$2.50; Razors, \$1 to \$3. DANGER LURKS IN THE USE OF ANY STROP BUT A RADIUMITE! Improperly stropped razors that cut, irritate and open the skin, thus admitting the bacteria that lurk in the salivary pores of shaving soaps, into the shaving system, and in the air itself.

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Don't use the worthless, heavy, double, common cut stropp generally sold, and with which nine dealers out of ten will try to sell you. They are so much old junk, pure and simple. The word Radiumite stands for perfection in razor stropp making. Buy a Radiumite stropp and take no substitute—no matter how handsome it may appear. Danger lurks in the use of any stropp but a Radiumite.

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