

STRAHORN SAYS PROBLEM IS BIG

COMING CONFERENCE IS IMPORTANT

Irrigation and Drainage Questions are Most Important Ones Now Confronting State—Railroad Builder Named Member of Committee

(Oregon Journal.)

Oregon looks to the building of the Central Oregon railroad as a powerful aid to state development.

Robert E. Strahorn, who has undertaken to finance and build the new railway system in the central part of the state, says that without reclamation of the lands by irrigation neither the investment of millions of dollars nor construction of hundreds of miles of railroad would be justified.

In recognition of Mr. Strahorn's experience as a practical irrigation man and railroad builder Mr. Strahorn was named yesterday as one of the five men who will represent the Portland Chamber of Commerce at the state irrigation, drainage and rural credits conference next month. The others appointed are C. C. Colt, A. L. Mills, J. N. Teal and Franklin T. Griffith.

State Guarantee Advocated.

In an interview yesterday Mr. Strahorn vividly showed the great importance to all industrial and constructive enterprise that the state get back of and show faith in the reclamation of its semi-arid lands.

And the method that should be used, he is convinced, should be by state guaranty of irrigation and drainage district bonds.

He considers the conference to be held here during February of the utmost importance. At that time legislation will be drafted and a campaign organized to secure favorable action by the people at the next general state election.

In stating my opinion of the most important matter ahead of the convention of the Central Oregon Development league at Bend in November to insure railway development," said Mr. Strahorn, "I used these words: 'Immediate aggressive and continuous effort of all of you and your communities to work out all this irrigation, drainage, subdivision and colonization of lands without which the railroads would not pay if they were built.'

"Central Oregon in its present condition would not justify the large investment for this railway development. I would not have the courage to attempt anything of the sort but for my confidence in the early working of these matters.

Must Go Hand-in-Hand.

"But we cannot let it rest at this. As I have frequently stated, the solution of these irrigation and drainage problems must precede or go hand in hand with the railway development.

"Having had almost continuous opportunity for observation and with the matter on my mind much of the time ever since, I am more than ever convinced that this is the biggest development question we have before us in this state today.

"The serious complications and almost hopeless confusion into which our irrigation and drainage matters in Central Oregon have slumped, and the vast importance of the drainage problem in the Willamette valley, cry aloud for immediate and supreme effort on the part of our best men. That they should be unanimously and strongly backed by their constituents everywhere goes without saying.

"It is therefore my profound conviction that the state conference called here for February to lay a proper foundation for the working out of these great problems is the one big thing now immediately ahead of us. Nothing should be left undone to make it a success."

SURVEYORS NEAR PAISLEY

Strahorn Party Puts in Full Time Despite Bad Weather.

(Chewaucan Press.) J. C. McLeod, C. A. Peterson, M. H. Caldwell, Dave Fouts, A. Nelson, Fred Benefiel, Bill Storkman and Will Harvey comprise the Strahorn surveying party which is camped this week at the 70 ranch at the lower end of this valley.

In spite of the severe weather and deep snow the surveyors are putting in full time upon the establishment of the right of way. They are working in this direction from their present camp and should be in Paisley within a few days as the country over which they will pass from the 70 here is as level as a floor.

Patronize the Bend Flour Mill Co., and make Bend the milling center of Central Oregon.—Adv.

NEW HOMESTEAD LAW IS PRAISED

SHARP APPROVES THE MEASURE

General Land Office Official Says 640 Acre Bill Which Has Passed House Will Open Way For Many New Stock Ranches in the State.

(Oregon Journal.)

"One of the best pieces of land legislation attempted in recent years."

This is the characterization given by Louis L. Sharp, chief of the field division of the general land office, to the 640 acre homestead bill which recently passed the house of representatives.

Mr. Sharp pointed out that while the best of the public domain is gone, the 640 acre homestead bill, if it becomes a law, will open the way for the establishment of many stock ranches where a good living may be had.

In Oregon there are 15,442,178 acres of public land that is subject to entry. Of this acreage, all is surveyed at 1,827,445 acres. Most of the land is classified as grazing.

Lands are Listed.

It is located in the various land office districts as follows:

Burns	4,009,150
La Grande	622,410
Lakeview	3,805,274
Portland	42,211
Roseburg	229,453
The Dalles	1,166,240
Vale	5,597,440
Total	15,442,178

"In dry farming and grazing localities, such as will be found in eastern Oregon," said Mr. Sharp, "640 acres of grazing land is no greater in value, both from a monetary and productive standpoint, than 80 acres of agricultural land in the western part of the state. Entries of 640 acres should be permitted, and if this is done, it will be found in most instances that the homesteader will find sufficient dry farming lands, even in the most broken and arid localities, to enable him to raise feed to support during the winter the livestock that can be maintained during the balance of the year on the grazing portions of his homestead.

Would Provide Living.

"This would actually enable him to force the land to provide a home and living for himself and family from the start, which, in my opinion, should be the object of all our laws providing for the settlement and development of the public domain. If we have the right kind of a settler and provide him with land that will furnish him a living, and a future chance to accumulate some money, there will be no difficulty in enforcing the requirements of the law as to residence and cultivation.

"One of the greatest drawbacks to the state of Oregon at present is the

lack of development of its agricultural resources. This is due mainly to untailed laws, previous luxury in the enforcement of the same, the element of speculation that has entered into a percentage of agricultural entries, and the lack of encouragement and aid to the honest and bona fide settler."

WEATHER BUREAU TO AID OWNERS OF RANGE STOCK

Will Give Notice of Storms That Protection May Be Procured For Sheep and Cattle.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—A co-operative agreement has just been made between the Weather Bureau and the Forest Service Portland office, whereby the former will give the latter advance notice of storms in order that stockmen grazing sheep and cattle on the national forest range may be advised in time to protect the stock from the elements.

For some time the Forest supervisors have been gathering information in regard to lambing and shearing periods, and also in regard to the dates of the more severe of recent past storms. This information, together with a list of the grazing permittees on the national forests, has been forwarded to the Weather Bureau. The Weather Bureau, in turn, will send out a circular to all stockmen telling them of the plan. Forest supervisors will be notified by telegraph of the advent of a severe storm, and will pass this information on by telephone to national forest grazing permittees. It is further expected that permittees will keep in touch with the supervisor, especially at such times as they may have their stock in exposed situations; for at such times knowledge of a coming storm will enable them to place the stock under shelter and thus avoid the severe losses which have been caused during lambing and shearing periods.

SURVEYORS AT LAKEVIEW

Strahorn Party Runs Lines Through Surprise Valley.

(Lakeview Examiner.)

The Strahorn party of surveyors returned to Lakeview Sunday after completing the survey of the railroad to Cedarville in Surprise valley. The survey connects with the Western Pacific at Buffalo Hills. Those in the party are J. E. McLeod, chief of the party, C. A. Peterson, Dave Fouts, A. Nelson and Fred Benefiel.

N. H. Bogue, who was formerly with the party, passed through Lakeview about three weeks ago on his way to Portland.

Monday morning the party left for the Chandler station and will resume the survey of the road from there. They will probably continue with the work for the remainder of the winter.

The members of the party are confident that a road will be built but they state that it will be up to the citizens of the county to get busy if the railroad is to come.

Just why this party of surveyors should be in California, when Mr. Strahorn stated that the line would be entirely an Oregon system, was not stated by any of the men.

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