

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

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WORK OF THE LEAGUE

THAT the work being attempted by the Rogue River Valley Development league is either not appreciated or misunderstood by many of the people of Jackson and Josephine counties is shown by the lack of interest manifested in the work of the league by the people at large in many sections of the two counties. Many seem to be of the opinion that the league has been organized for the special benefit of a few rather than for the general welfare of the Rogue river valley, but the scope of the work being attempted should convince any man that such is not the case.

One matter of general importance that has been taken up by the league is the withdrawal of its lands from market by the Southern Pacific Railway company and the absolute refusal of the company to sell such lands to settlers at any price, when it is known that the lands were ceded to the railroad by the government with the express understanding that they should be sold to bonafide settlers in parcels of not more than 160 acres to any purchaser at a price not to exceed \$2.50 per acre.

This matter was taken up by the league some time ago and the detriment being worked to the development of the valley by such a policy was pointed out by several prominent citizens of the county on that occasion. As a result, the secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Southern Pacific land agent asking if this policy was to be continued for an indefinite period and, if it is to be changed, what plan, price and terms will probably be adopted in disposing of these lands.

The letter was written and at the league meeting held at Grants Pass recently the reply from Charles W. Eberlein, acting land agent of the company, was read. Mr. Eberlein's reply did not answer any of the league's inquiries but simply referred to the sad havoc wrought by the earthquake at San Francisco last spring and stated that until his department recovered from the effects of the quake that he could give out no information relative to the sale of lands.

The matter was discussed at some length by the league members present, the discussion culminating in the introduction of the following resolution by E. D. Briggs, of Ashland, and its unanimous adoption by the executive board:

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the lands of Jackson and Josephine counties is owned by the Oregon and California railroad company and much of said holdings embrace mining lands that if prospected and developed would furnish profitable employment for a large number of laborers, and embrace timber lands that would furnish material for many commercial lumber mills and grazing, farm and fruit lands sufficient to support thousands of agriculturists, horticulturists and stock men, and

Whereas, for a number of years past under one pretext or another all such railroad lands have been withdrawn from sale and neither settlers nor miners could or can purchase the same at all, and

Whereas, the Rogue River Valley Development league believe the policy of said railroad company is detrimental to the interests of said counties and a healthy development of the same and contrary to the provisions and spirit of the statutes granting lands to said company and in derogation of the

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agreement between the government and said company.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the said railroad company is requested to take immediate steps to place its lands on the market, in conformity with the terms and agreements of its grants; that upon failure to do so that the attention of the governor and the attorney-general of the state of Oregon, the government department at Washington and our representatives in congress be called to the situation and that all reasonable and honorable efforts be made toward compelling said railroad company to comply with the terms and provisions of its railroad land grant.

Resolved, that the secretary of this league forward a copy of this resolution to the proper railroad officials as soon as practicable and,

Be it further resolved, that a committee of four be appointed to prepare and present to this league for adoption a proper memorial for presentation at Washington and to our members in congress, and to the governor and attorney-general and legislature of the state of Oregon.

The committee has been appointed and the league proposes to take vigorous steps to bring this important matter to a focus with a view to having these lands placed on the market and the spirit and letter of the statute by which they were ceded to the railroad carried out. Every citizen will admit that this plan of work, if carried out, will result in great benefit to the material development of the valley, but they should remember that such work cannot well be carried to a successful issue without the moral and financial support of the people generally.

The cost of membership in the league, if secured through a membership in the Central Point commercial club, is only 50 cents membership fee and fifty cents yearly dues. Persons not affiliated with any local body will be admitted to membership in the central organization by payment of \$2.50. Can we not all help out in this work of development in that small amount? Let's boost the membership, neighbors; it will help us all as the country is settled up and becomes prosperous.

A STRANGE DISEASE

LANDFRAUDICITIS is the latest disease to become epidemic in Oregon. The symptoms are extreme nervousness, aversion to the society of Francis J. Heney and Judge Hunt, great weakness when in sight of the federal court building in Portland and unusual agility and improved appetite when the victim believes there are no secret service men looking. Some victims of the strange malady indulge in horseback riding in the moments that they think they are alone out in the country, and in floods of tears when they are brought into court. Another strange feature of the disease is that reputable physicians diagnose it as mostly "possum." It attacks only persons who are under indictment for participating in land frauds.

BRYAN and McClellan are said to have met and loved in London and to have formed an alliance which is designed to land the nomination for presidency and vice-presidency in their respective laps. The statement is made that, with Mac for second place on the ticket, the Nebraskan is the unanimous choice of the Cleveland wing of the party. In such a case, of course, McClellan would be the tail of the ticket, but it is almost equally certain that if such a combination has been formed, Mr. Bryan has either changed his opinions on various questions of state or else it must be the opinion of the Cleveland wing that it will be a case of the tail wagging the dog.

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