

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1915.

THE LAND GRANT CASE

Public discussion of the Oregon & California land grant case now pending in the United States seems to be divided. On the one hand is satisfaction expressed that the state has, by the act of the supreme court in accepting the Oregon brief, secured an opportunity to save for itself a vast amount in taxes that would be lost if the lands revert to the federal government. On the other hand there are charges that the railroad interests rushed a resolution through the legislature and are using the people of Oregon to haul their chestnuts out of the fire.

The question is not one lying between just two parties—the railroads and the people. It is one in which a large number of interests are concerned. One, of course, is the railroads. Then there are the interests of the present inhabitants of Oregon, upon whom, if the lands are forfeited to the government, will fall the burden of paying the taxes assessed to the railroad and not paid since the lower courts declared the grant forfeited. A third set of interested parties are those who wish to acquire land within the scope of the present railroad holdings. Should the grant be returned to the national forest, a long space of time would be required to secure the legislation and the rulings that would open the way for settlement. Still another class are the future generations, for whom provisions should be made by the preservation of such forest lands as can not be profitably worked at this time. The question, then, is not a simple proposition between two litigants, but is a complex problem, and one on which the supreme court will probably spend considerable time.

Reviewing the case in this week's issue, the Cottage Grove Sentinel says:

"Between a desire to punish a guilty railroad corporation and the desire to keep the government from bottling up another large part of the state and at the same time having doubts as to whether we would be punishing those who deserve it, the people of Oregon are in a quandary as to where to place their sympathies in the suit to forfeit the Oregon & California land grant.

"When the O. & C. railway received these lands it made certain agreements about disposing of them at certain prices to actual settlers. It did not carry out these agreements but has continued to hold part of them. The lands have increased in value and have become one of the valuable assets of the railroad (now the Southern Pacific), being worth at the present moment something like fifty millions of dollars.

"Contracts made with the government in the days of this land grant was made were not considered very seriously. Many of Oregon's leading and wealthiest and most honored citizens got their money in ways none the less reprehensible than the way the Southern Pacific acquired this large amount of wealth. Things that are criminal now were recognized only a few years ago as honorable business.

"The Southern Pacific did as others did. It acted as many shrewd business men of the time were acting—and nothing was thought of it. But the sins of the fathers are being visited upon the third and fourth generations.

"These lands have been used as a basis for loans to secure money for construction work and their forfeiture will take away the collateral upon which the loans were made and cause the railway financial stress at a time when business conditions are already upset.

"If the lands are declared forfeited to the government they will undoubtedly be converted into the forest reserve. Oregon already has a large part of its area bottled up.

"If these lands are declared forfeited and are converted into the forest reserve, the state of Oregon will lose \$466,000 a year in taxes. Lane County will lose \$80,000. This amount will increase annually.

"Under these circumstances we are likely to be fully as much hurt as the railroad.

"Do we wish to cut off our nose to spite our face?"

"The wise plan seems to be the one already suggested to leave the title to the lands in the railroad and compel it now to offer the lands for sale at a price that will be perfectly fair to it and will at the same time be fair to the people.

"We should not be vindictive in punishing sins allowed to go unpunished by former generations. We do not feel particularly inclined to unmercifully inflict punishment upon ourselves because of the neglect of former generations. Besides, in attempting to punish railroad magnates we must bear in mind that a large part of the stock is held by the common people personally or for them in trust.

"Another thing, railroads are acting much differently than they did a few years ago."

The latest business-aid service instituted by the government is a wood-waste exchange conducted by the Forest Service in Washington, D. C. It aims to assist lumbermen and manufacturers of wood to use each other's waste to mutual advantage, thus effecting a large saving not only in forest material but in money as well. More than 40 manufacturers of wooden articles have asked to be put on the exchange list.

Twice a month the exchange sends out a circular headed "Opportunities to Buy Waste," containing the names and addresses of factories having waste wood for sale, with exact information as to species, sizes, forms and quantities. Similarly, another circular headed "Opportunities to Sell Waste," gives the specific requirements of wood-using plants which desire to buy waste material.

To illustrate: A furniture maker in Michigan wrote to the Forest Service asking how to dispose of sugar maple blocks and sticks which were cut off in the process of furniture making and which he had to sell merely as fuel. Samples were obtained from him and the Service then located a scrubbing brush manufacturer who used small maple blocks for brush backs. The result was that the furniture maker was enabled to sell his waste at a much higher price than it brought as fuel, while the brush maker was enabled to buy brush-back material at a much lower figure than it had been costing him to buy maple lumber and cut it up.

Clean-up days of last week were very successful as far as they went, but the job isn't anywhere near done until the weeds, and especially the great thistles that are growing on vacant lots and parkings are eliminated.

One still has to discover how much wiser, wittier and more winsome a realized white hope can be than was the recent dark complexioned champion.

"Fads of Financiers," is the title of an interesting article in a recent magazine. Most of them were enthusiastic coin collectors.

Summons.

In the Justice Court for Eugene Justice District, Lane County, Oregon, W. H. Lynch, plaintiff, vs. M. E. Edwards, Defendant.

To M. E. Edwards, the above-named defendant:
In the name of the State of Oregon; You are hereby summoned and required to appear and answer the complaint in the above entitled cause within six weeks from the date of first publication of the summons herein, and you are hereby notified that if you fail so to appear and answer said complaint as hereby required, the plaintiff will take judgment against you as prayed for in said complaint now on file in the said court, to-wit: judgment in the sum of \$77.55 with interest thereon from July 1, 1914, and the further sum of Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars attorney's fees, and for the costs and disbursements in the above entitled action.

This summons is published by order of the Honorable Jesse G. Wells, Judge of the above entitled court, duly made on the 24th day of March, 1915, requiring publication thereof once each week for six successive weeks and requiring that you appear and answer said complaint on or before six weeks from the 15th day of April, the date of the first publication hereof.

JESSE G. WELLS,
E. O. IMMEL, Justice of the Peace,
Attorney for Plaintiff. thM27*

Advertised Letters

Springfield, Ore.
April 26, 1915.

Mrs. E. H. Stewart.
Mr. Euclid Reece.
D. J. Daily.
One cent due on all advertised letters.

HARRY M. STEWART
Postmaster.

Call for Warrants.

Notice is hereby given that I will pay all outstanding Street Improvement warrants against the Town of Springfield up to and including number 6640. Interest will cease after April 15, 1915.
By order of Town Council.
LILLIAN GORRIE,
Treasurer.

EIGHTH GRADE EXAMINATION

Eighth grade final examinations will be held in school districts where there are pupils to take them, on Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7, 1915, as per the following schedule:
Thursday, Arithmetic, Writing, Language, Agriculture, and Spelling.
Friday—Physiology, History, Geography, Civil Government, and Reading.
E. J. MOORE,
County School Supt.

Classified Ads

For Sale, Rent, Wanted, Etc.

WANTED—Boarders and roomers at the Elite Hotel.

R. O. A. hall for rent. Well ventilated and lighted, clean and warm. Kitchen and dining room attached. Rates reasonable. Apply to Fred Watke, Gilbert Davis or W. A. Hall.

FOR SALE—17-ft. new boat. Call at Springfield Planning Mill or Phone 130W3. 91f.

5-ROOM HOUSE and lot for sale or rent. Modern conveniences. Easy terms. Call at News office.

9-ROOM rooming house for rent furniture for sale. Fifth and A. Phone 122-M. 21

SINGLE MAN (Scandinavian) with agricultural education and able to do land-clearing, ditching, plowing, tree-planting and milking, wishes appointment. Can take small contract. Send reflection marked Box 73, Matsqui, B. C. Canada. 24-25



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