

W.H. Gore Father of Move Which Provided Fund for Structure

COURTHOUSE FUND AVAILABLE FROM LAND GRANT BILL

Measure in 1866 Gives Railroads Large Tracts — Land Eliminated From Tax Roll — Gore Gets Fund

As funds for the new Jackson county courthouse were made available through the Oregon-California land grant refund, Gus Newbury, local attorney, has compiled a brief tabulation of events leading up to the manner in which the money was obtained.

About 1866 the Congress of the United States passed what was known as the Railroad Land Grant Bill, provided that the government would grant to any railroad company constructing a railroad through Oregon and California every odd section not occupied, for a distance of 20 miles on each side of the proposed line of road, and after that time this was increased another ten miles, making a 30-mile grant on each side of the center of the road, as constructed. This measure was known as the Oregon-California Land Grant Bill. The road was completed to Ashland in 1884, and the connecting link was made from Ashland along to Redding about 1888, and when these connections were made, the full title to these lands accrued to the Oregon-California Railroad company.

Required to Sell Lands. One of the provisions of the land grant bill was that the railroad company would be required to sell these lands to settlers at not to exceed \$2.50 per acre, and many acres of this land were sold at that figure to actual settlers. These lands, whether they were sold to actual settlers, or whether they were still retained by the company, found their way on the tax rolls, and were assessed at not less than \$2.50 per acre, and large sums of money came into the various county treasuries of the state of Oregon.

These lands were afterwards mortgaged by the Oregon-California Railroad company to the Union Trust company of New York, and the railroad company in the latter 90's, perhaps in council with the trust company, concluded that these lands, notwithstanding the land grant provision that they should be sold at \$2.50 per acre, might be sold for a greater sum of money, and the company advanced the price of these lands in proportion to what they considered they were worth, some of the land selling as high as \$10 or \$15 per acre.

This action upon the part of the company was a violation of the land grant act, and though it was brought to the attention of the company, the company refused to recede from its position that it had the right to increase the price of these lands beyond \$2.50 per acre.

Suit Requested. A resolution was introduced in the legislature of Oregon memorializing congress to authorize the attorney-general of the United States to institute a suit in the United States district court of Oregon, for the forfeiture of this land grant, because the railroad company was violating its terms in its refusal to sell the lands at \$2.50 per acre.

This suit was instituted and tried before Judge Wolverton of the United States district court, and along about 1908 a decree was rendered by Judge Wolverton cancelling the grant and forfeiting these lands to the government of the United States, and this decree was later sustained by the United States supreme court.

All of these lands were thereupon taken off the tax rolls in the state of Oregon, and this greatly reduced the volume of property on the tax rolls in the various counties, as most of these lands were thereafter included in forest reserves and national parks, so that they never again on their way again on the tax rolls of the various counties. This was a great injustice to the taxpayers of the state, and resulted in a very material interference with the development of the state of Oregon, as these lands could not be acquired from the government for settlement.

Gore Fathered Idea. W. H. Gore, recognizing the great injustice that was done to the people of the state of Oregon by the forfeiture of this land grant, conceived the idea that the counties affected by the taking of these lands from the tax rolls, ought to be reimbursed by the government of the United States for these tax losses, and that the amount of the taxes that the state of Oregon had lost by reason of the lands being taken from the tax rolls should be paid to the various counties which this land grant covered, and that this payment should be made in one lump sum, and that there should be a continuing payment made each year to these various counties, based upon the annual tax losses which these various counties sustained.

This scheme of Mr. Gore's was considered by most people to whom he submitted it, as being nothing but a "pipe dream," but Mr. Gore persisted in it, and worked at the plan for several years, and finally had the matter formulated and arranged for presentation at a psychological time. Mr. Gore went to the expense of many thousands of dollars in cultivating sentiment in nearly all of the states in the union in favor of this scheme of his, and establishing the justness of the claim.

They Guard County's Peace And Handle Tax Collection



—Kennell Ellis Photo.

Necktie Tribute To Air Industry

Even the neckwear manufacturer has paid tribute to the airplane by designing a handsome necktie called "The Aviator." The Toggler, in order to have a shipment of these Hollyvogue cravats in Medford this week, had them sent by air mail. Ordered Monday evening, they arrived by plane from Los Angeles, Cal., early this morning.

"The Aviator" will go to all the centers of population throughout the world, and its all-over design of miniature planes will carry a boost for airplane travel. A display of these novel ties has been arranged at The Toggler.

MRS. WILLIAMSON TO OPEN KINDERGARTEN

Margaret Williamson will open her private kindergarten on September 19 at her home at 109 South Orange street. Children from the age of three to six years are eligible for enrollment. Special work will be offered in musical education as well as regular kindergarten work. Transportation may be arranged and the hours will be 9 to 12.

In connection with the kindergarten special lessons in dancing may be arranged with an accredited teacher. For further information or enrollment call 1326.

Lions Contest Will Close 12:00 Tonight

Medford's most popular girl will be determined tonight with the closing of the Lions club popularity contest at the Fox Craterian. A temporary screen will be erected outside the theater and the returns will be announced at intervals, both outside and inside the theater, until midnight.

The first prize winner will get a trip to Hollywood over the United Air Lines route; second, a beautiful Green wristwatch, donated by Brophy's jewelry store, and third, a cabin for a week at Lake o' the Woods.

The screen attraction for tonight will be "Man About Town," starring that popular star, Warner Baxter. Others included in the cast of this thrilling romance are Karen Morley, Conway Tearle and Lillian Bond.

Lebanon.—E. B. Etes started erection of new building adjoining his nut packing plant here.

Brookings.—The local community church renovated.

GLENDALE.—New road proposed from here to Reuben.

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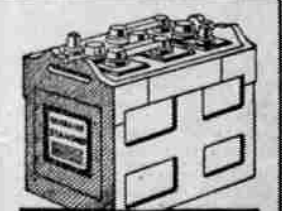


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