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PRESIDENT MARTIN GIVES A FINE BANQUET

Proves Himself to be a Good Fellow and a Prince of Entertainers

ENTERTAINS BUSINESS MEN OF COUNTY

Speeches in Full by Judges Daly, Benson and Cornish

MARTIN TELLS OF PLANS

Will Have 30,000 Acres Under Water in 1910

The event that has created the most stir and comment the last week was the banquet at the Hotel Lakeview, given the business men and others of this town and county by R. J. Martin, President of the Oregon Valley Land Company, of Kansas City.

Light & Harrow did themselves proud in the spread provided. At the first sitting the facilities provided for only 70 plates, and after the speaking, upwards of 40 more people were served.

The banquet was given by Mr. Martin in order that he might enlighten the people of this town and county as to the work intended to be performed by his company in the way of improving and setting the Military grant lands.

Around the festive board, the Examiner man noticed such prominent men as Judge Daly, who was chairman of the occasion; Hon. H. C. Benson, of Klamath Falls; Rev. Hopkins; Judge Cornish, of Alturas, California; Hon. J. N. Watson, of the United States Land office, Banker Shirk, Mayor Bailey; County Clerk, Payne, Prof. Hanby, Hon. C. U. Snider, Sheriff Dant, Messrs. Bunting, Arner, Woodcock, Brattain, Butler, Conn, Snelling, Wallace, Cheney, Johnson, Cogburn, Venator, Batschelder, Florence, Moore, Powell, Col. Boone, Bieber, Rice, Faulkner, Hawkins, McKeudree, Ayers, Bernard, Drenkel, Paise; Ahlstrom, father and son; Shercock, Arthur, Reynolds, W. E. Snider, Tommingsen Trill, Thornton, and a lot of others whose names we do not now recall and some we did not know from Pine Creek, Paisley and other points of the county.

When the guests were seated, a blessing was pronounced by Rev. Hopkins.

Judge Daly
The introductory remarks, very appropriate and well chosen for the occasion, were made by Judge Daly, of the county court, who said:

"I am glad to welcome the distinguished gentleman from abroad, with us here tonight, and whose guests we are this evening. The gentleman is one of the largest land holders at present, in the county, which is almost an empire within itself, being 120 miles long and nearly as wide containing 1,600,000 acres of land.

The Bigness of Lake County
Mr. Martin now owns one twentieth of this vast domain. In order to give some realizing idea as to its magnitude I will state that Lake County is as large as New Hampshire and five times as large as Delaware, filled with overflowing with a diversity of resources. I feel that, instead of being his guests, we should be his hosts. His coming among us means more to this county than most of us realize. He comes to us as a private citizen of a distant state to do for us, what heretofore would be considered only within the means of the government to accomplish. In order to do this he is spending his own money freely, and has not asked a citizen of this county to provide a single cent of the great cost that will total up into the hundreds of thousands. Not only that but all the money of his own, and of the people who are taking contracts in his company, is brought here and spent freely, from which every man, woman and child now here will derive untold benefit. It is a certain thing, that if the great enterprise now inaugurated by Mr. Martin and which will be completed the coming year so as to open the flood gates of water onto waste places in the year 1910 were a government enterprise instead it would require 5 or 10 years to accomplish what Mr. Martin intends to complete in one year. It is an enterprise fraught with great things for Lakeview and Lake County. I take great pleasure in introducing our host, Mr. Martin."

Mr. Martin
As Mr. Martin arose he was greeted with a hearty ovation that gave an earnest, of the appreciation in which his efforts are held by the people of

this town and section. After the applause subsided Mr. Martin said:

"Thank you. I am sorry that the accommodations are not sufficient to have seated all I see here, but the best we could do was to provide seats for 70. However there is plenty for all to partake who care to do so after the speaking.

"I appreciate very much the question in the minds of all as to what the Company I represent purpose doing, who we are, and what is the status of our enterprise as to coming within the provisions of the law. Is it a lottery, a scheme, game of chance, or what?

One of the Best Valleys on Earth

"In the first place I wish to say that we have been engaged in similar enterprises elsewhere, which we have carried forward to a complete success. When the last one was finished in the San Luis valley in Colorado, we began looking about for a new field for our efforts. In doing so, we traveled in every part of the west from British Columbia to Mexico, and including those countries. After a thorough investigation of the claims of all, we finally decided that the Golden Goose Lake valley, was one of the best valleys on earth, and was best adapted to our use, and to the people whom we are prepared to secure. (applause). We found there were more opportunities here to make money than in any other part we investigated for ourselves and our clients. I desire to state right here that we have no business that we purpose introducing; we have no mercantile schemes to establish, and we have no favors to ask of the people now here. We ask for no commission, and only want you business men to treat us right as to prices, and if we don't pay, don't sell us goods.

Lakeview Best Advertised Town in West

"We ask for nothing but intend to spend our money here and will bring more money into this part of Oregon than ever was brought here in the same length of time. If we succeed, you will be the best advertised section on the Pacific coast. If we fail you still will be benefitted by the advertising, if not in success of our endeavors.

"The Oregon Valley Land Company is composed of men, who may be termed promoters. We are here for the purpose of making money for ourselves and also for our clients. We are going to vitalize this land. What we are doing is also to your benefit, as well as our own. If not, why drive us out and the quicker the better.

No Lottery Scheme About It

"We are not conducting a lottery, as some supposed. There is nothing like a game of chance about our enterprise. If there were we should be stopped by the U. S. officials. But there is none. We have taken this 300,000 acres of land and subdivided it into tracts ranging from 10 to 1000 acres, making nearly 12,000 tracts in all. They are in no sense prizes. We have aimed, in this matter, to make the contract for every tract so that one would be as good as any other, and no better. We have subdivided a portion of the grant nearest Lakeview into lots, and with the best of those lots we have placed what we considered the poorest tract of land, and no one will say that any of our tracts so placed will be worth less than the value placed thereon. But some one says, if we get no railroad, the lots would not be worth the taxes. But no man who knows anything about the resources of this valley, believes for a single moment that we will not get a railroad. But, again, some one says, if the railroad comes they will locate the town somewhere else and will build up a new town.

Railroads Must Come to Lakeview

"This company however, is in such a position that any railroad that attempts to pass through this valley must cross some of our land, and for that reason we will have something to say as to where that road will go and what it will do. We are friendly to Lakeview, and we know that instead of the 1500 people now here, so soon as our plans are carried out, and the railroad comes, you then will have a town of 10,000 to 15,000 people, with important industries and the center of a county of great resources and trade possibilities.

Plan of Sub-division of the Grant

"We took this tract of 300,000 acres and divided it into 12,000 tracts of

from 10 to 1000 acres. On each tract we sell a contract, or more as desired. The contract reads that we agree to sell one lot and one tract and other rights that go with them. After the lots are sold, we give free transportation from home, and \$25 traveling expenses to one of every 20 of the holders of these contracts to attend the distribution and look after his own contract and those of his friends or the group he represents, with each of these men, usually two or more, also attend the sale. Taking 20 as basis and multiplying by three, you will find that upwards of 6000 people will come out here next year, many of whom will come prepared to stay. Can you not see what that means for Lakeview and vicinity?

Contract Holders Appoint Trustees

"After these people have arrived on the ground they will elect three trustees who will put up those lots and tracts at auction to the contract holders. No one can bid unless a contract holder. If he wants a certain tract he must bid for it, providing some other man wants same tract. But, inasmuch as one tract is as good as any other there probably will not be any opposition.

Auction Money Goes to Contract Holders

"Should there be contests of this sort, I wish to state here, very positively, that all the money so secured will go into a general fund, from which every contract holder, will receive his pro-rata. Neither Company, nor its agents, will get a cent of it.

Settlement Assured

"That the settling of this tract is going to be assured, is had in the fact, that, with no special effort on our part, from May 1st up to the time of clearing up matters on the San Luis colony, we had sold less than 1200 contracts, while today I received a wire from the head office, stating that over 6,200 had been sold and judging from the correspondence received that the whole number would be cleared out inside of 30 days.

Rough Land Sold for 20 Cents an Acre

"We are charged with selling a lot of rough land. That is true. We are selling 6,000 acres at 20 cents an acre. But, you know and so do I that adjoining property holders will be glad to buy every acre of it at a price far above that which has been placed upon it. We are also selling 14,000 acres at 25 cents per acre. We are selling 80,000 acres at \$1 per acre, and we are selling 10 acres of rich valley land, one half of it to be irrigated, with a town lot in Lakeview thrown in, for \$20 an acre. It is estimated that every acre of land put under water by the U. S. government costs more than \$20 an acre. So in selling 10 acres of land in the rich Golden Goose Lake valley for \$10 an acre, and counting the lots worth \$100 more we are surely giving the people full value for their money. And there is no one here who would be willing to part with his holdings for any such price, either for his town or farm property.

Will at Once Irrigate 30,000 Acres

"Another thing we are asked is: Can you get the water? We say, yes. But in doing so we do not purpose disturbing anyone of their previous rights. It is our intention to develop water from two projects. One from Cottonwood Creek, and the other from Drews Creek. In the Cottonwood project we will build a reservoir to store 20,000 to 30,000 acre feet, which means one foot deep of water on every acre.

"The drainage area of these two projects, is greater than one would suppose. We can also store float water in the other canyon, so I am informed by two of our engineers and by engineer Jacobs of the U. S. reclamation service, to store sufficient water to irrigate from 100,000 to 125,000 acres if we build our dam high enough. But we shall at first only provide storage capacity for 50,000 acres. This will be more than ample for needs of all our contract holders, and will also provide water for others who may desire it, at a cost not to exceed \$25 per acre, and will give all 10 years time in which to pay the same.

Asks for Fair Treatment

"In carrying out this great project, all we ask of you business men and people of Lakeview is to tell all enquirers the absolute truth. The truth is good enough. So far we have had 60 or 70 men who have come here from different states and places to investigate, and all have gone back to say good words for the town, people and country. Don't say to these newcomers or enquirers: It is no good; for, if it was no good you would not have stayed here all these years.

"Now is a good time to put any questions to me, and I will be pleased to answer them.

Judge Daly required when the work for irrigation was to be done.

Preliminary Work Now in Hand

"The preliminary work on the reservoirs will be done this fall. It will be slow, as we shall have to spend at least six weeks to find the best foundation site for the dam. We must be assured first of a stable foundation. Then the rest is easy. We will spend all next year in building the dams, and in constructing the irrigation ditches and laterals. The water will be turned into the latter in the spring of 1910. The opening of the lands to the contract holders so that they can take immediate possession of their lands, will be done some time next year. All that is necessary for them to do is to pay \$10 per month on each contract. We will put the deed in the bank, and when payments are complete, the deed will be turned over to the contract holder. He is at liberty at any time after his land is turned over to him to go on and make any and all improvements he desires.

Will Cost Thousands of Dollars

"Meanwhile, the company will go on and spend from \$200,000 to \$350,000 in making these improvements. This sum, in connection with what 5,000 or 6,000 new people will also bring into the county, will make this region one of the most prosperous communities in the whole United States. Any one who stops to consider will realize the full force of these conditions.

"I thank you, gentlemen for your attention.

Judge Benson

Judge Daly then introduced Hon. H. C. Benson, of Klamath Falls, who spoke as follows:

"When I came over here I never had any idea of becoming interested in any land. I never had money enough to own a piece of real estate. It has always been my ambition to be owner of a few acres on which I could build a shed to live in, and which I could call my own. But it only seemed a dream without hope of realization.

Likes Lakeview and Its People

"When Mr. Martin proposed that I act as attorney for his company, I was more or less doubtful. I did not understand the proposition. I handed over the fact that for 17 years I had made regular trips to the Golden Goose Lake Valley, where I had ridden as a cow boy in early years. I knew the country and the people, and liked both. The people had been good to me. Had never asked for my religious opinions; had never wanted to know if I was a 16 to 1 man, or whether I had supported woman suffrage, or any of the things a voter usually wants to know, but had gone to the polls and voted for me without any question.

Wanted to be Shown First

"This Kansas City man wanted to know whether I wanted a good safe thing. I did not know whether I did or not. I wanted to know all about him. I wanted to know whether he would skin the people or give them a square deal. As Judge, and prosecuting attorney, for a number of years, I had had some experience with men of that class. I was not from Missouri, and he was, so he had to show me. So I subjected him to as severe an examination as I ever subjected man before, and he showed me that he was all right, and so was his proposition.

Some Pretty Plain Talk to Knockers

"He showed me how they were moving forward with a work that would irrigate at first 50,000 acres of the finest of orchard land in this Great Inland Empire, with more to follow so soon as needed or desired. When I considered that fact I could not see how a man could be skinned in such a deal. When I saw that his plan included 10 acres of rich valley land and half of it watered free, with its proved capabilities in either grain, grass, fruits, or vegetables, I could say that it was worth \$200. And any man who gets five acres of it in full bearing apples or other fruits will be assured of a good living. So sure am I of this that I am going to take one or more of those contracts myself. I feel that any one who would kick at such a chance would kick if he was going to be hanged. Of course most men walk up to the rope with smiles, countenances and firm tread, sure of the future. But some are said to 'beef' about it very strenuously. But I never heard any do so. Since I came here, a few days ago, I have heard more bad things of this country than I ever knew or heard in all my 20 years of experience in this country. That frosts always kill off everything that any one who lives here is a fool, and that this year Jim Barry had to pay thousands of dollars for feed to keep his sheep from starving! (Great Laughter). I began to feel,

when I heard this, that the people of Lake County had been supporting a chuckle-headed ass for circuit judge, one who had lived here all these years and had not learned these dreadful things about this country until these home-seekers began to come in, and these fellows from Missouri began to arrive to show us! But I know, and so does every man here, that a man who tells you such stuff is a damned liar, and only makes use of it for some ulterior purpose, or else he is a simple-pure knocker from habit and predilection.

Lake County Apples Finest on Earth

"I know, and so do you, that the finest of cereals, vegetables, and fruit are grown here every year. For the last 10 years or more I have been getting my supply of apples from the Golden Goose Lake valley, and paying for the same from \$4 to \$5 a box for choice, when I could get them elsewhere at less cost. Why do I do that? Because the apples I get from this valley are as far superior to the Rogue river apples as any thing you can imagine! (Applause). But in spite of this fact, I have seen the finest of fruits of all kinds lying rotting on the ground, for the very simple reason that the local demand being supplied there was no way of transporting it to other markets at a profit. But the coming of the railroad will make Lake County Apples more famous and more sought after than either the Rogue or Hood river apples, because Lake County produces the finest apples on earth! (Great Applause).

What He Was Shown

"I was shown that this 300,000 acre grant has been subdivided into 11992 tracts, with a town lot for each tract. Each contract holder gets one of the tracts and lots. He may be absolutely sure of that. He may not get the particular tract he sets his eye on, for some chuckle-headed fool who always wants the best end of everything may out-bid him. But, if he does, he will have to pay for the privilege, and the extra cost goes into a common fund, to be divided pro-rata, thereby reducing the \$200 each has to pay for his contract.

None of the Big Things Out Here

"The average easterner has no idea of the immensity of this Great Inland Empire, or of Lake County. I was in Washington a year, or so ago, and when I attempted to tell them that I was a circuit judge of three counties with county seats 100 or more miles to the east and west of Klamath Falls, my home, they would look at one another out of the corner of their eyes—well you know how people talk in that way! So I quit telling them about it. Neither did I tell them of the big XL ranch of 25,000 acres and of others still larger. They wouldn't have believed me anyhow. Neither did I tell them of our 'small big farms, such, for instance, as that owned by my friend, Applegate, at Klamath Falls. He had been working for years for soul-less corporations, or what amounts to the same thing a soul-less unfeeling government. He lost his job, and was all at sea in consequence. Finally he bought 5 acres of land two miles out of Klamath Falls. It was all covered with sage brush. He cleared one-half of the tract, and planted it to potatoes. He sold potatoes enough off that tract to buy another 5 acres and pay spot cash for it, and now has 10 acres all paid for. He told me about it the other day, and said: 'I am now independent. I can live without depending on a salary.'

Every Acre Is Valuable

"In view of this one fact a one, I am convinced that a man can take any one of these 5,000 tracts in this valley and make a living from it, especially when one half of it is irrigated free, as is the purpose of this company. The land at Klamath is no better and some say not as good, as this land in Golden Goose Lake valley for all purposes. Some of you are just gradually awakening to the valuable quality of these lands. I confess that I am a recent convert, from the fact that I had given the matter no thought nor attention. For that reason I want to invite you to tell me if there is a tract of land from the summit of these high mountains to the lowest depths of the hot springs in all these subdivisions that is not worth \$200? Is there a 10 acre tract, 40, 80, 160, 320 acres, a section, or a 1000 acre tract, with a town lot in this beautiful little city of Lakeview that is not worth \$200? Why take the Devil's Garden, on the stage road between here and Klamath, so rocky that the bump-the-bumps in the circus is easy in comparison, and which I have traversed all these 20 years or more to my unutterable anguish, is considered so valuable by stockmen for pasturage, with the big tall bunch-grass growing up between each rock that the Oregon Valley Land Company has a standing offer of \$2.50 an acre for it, and I know for an absolute fact that if the same were put up at auction in the town of Bly that it would bring \$5, if not \$10 an acre, for grazing purposes! The fact of the matter is that the poorest, rockiest and most mountainous tract in this Grant has a value far beyond the price

fixed for it, and can easily be sold by the fortunate drawer of the same to adjacent owners at an advance over the cost of his contract.

Why Stock Alone is Grown

"Some tell me, if this is such a great wheat producing region why hasn't it been more largely produced by settlers, who instead raise stock? Well, I can answer that: When it costs 3 cents a pound for freight to the nearest railroad point, and with wheat at 60 or 70 cents a bushel, any one with ordinary horse sense would be a fool to attempt to grow wheat, be the country ever so well adapted for such crops. This is why the stock interest here has dominated every thing. It is easier to drive your product to market on its own feet than it is to haul it. That, too, is the reason why apples are not grown more in Lake County, even though the quality can not be excelled anywhere—not even by Hood river. But these conditions that have placed an embargo on grain and fruit growing are soon to be changed by the coming of railroads. Under existing circumstances and with prospects for the future I am anxious to be shown why a 10 acre, 40, 80, 160, 320, 640, or 1000 acre tract in Lake, Klamath, Harney, or Eastern Oregon is not worth \$200.

Coming 6,000 Strong Next Year

There are 6,000 people in the East who are of the same opinion as I am regarding these tracts, of whom no less than 3000 will come here to make their homes. I say there will be at least 6,000. I can not see how there can be less, and even 25 per cent of the contract holders would mean 3000 people. But, even with this number of new settlers, can you not see what this means for Lakeview and Lake County? It means that there will grow up here the leading and largest city in Southeastern Oregon. It will bring this most isolated town in the U. S., into prominence, now the very jumping-off place, and will make it one of the best towns in the whole of Oregon, and inside of three years you will realize what Mr. Martin is now doing to further the interests of every person here. A man who can and will put 50,000 acres of the richest land under irrigation and establish homes for thousands is certainly a benefactor to his race; is worthy of highest commendation, and should, at the least, have words of encouragement from the people now here, and who will derive great benefit from the money he most spend in carrying forward his great work."

Judge Cornish

Judge Daly next introduced Judge Cornish, of Alturas, California, a member of the legislature for that state from Modoc county, who said:

"I thought there was some ulterior purpose in getting me here. But, if I was as full of the subjects as I am from the rianas before me, I might say something interesting. It seems to be a proposition of real estate, and irrigation. But, in view of what has been said by the speakers before me I do not know as I can say any thing in addition. Judge Benson said all I was going to say, and more, too. And, though he is an attorney, I know he has been telling the truth. That is a most surprising thing, and I do not know as it is also, either professional or did he ever do that and be able to practice law and sit so long on the bench? Now, I happen to know he told the truth, for I have had some experience in the lines he talked about. When I first came to Alturas, there were no gardens, no lawns, no shade or fruit trees. Coming from Missouri, or some other part out beyond the Rockies, I naturally was of an inquisitive turn of mind. I wanted to be shown why those things would not grow. I had been told even white beans would not grow in Alturas, and when I asked, why? I was calmly and authoritatively told, because the soil was not right.

Makes Things Grow

Had any one ever tried it. No. Well, I was only a lawyer and had nothing to do, so I got a tract of land, and plowed it, and planted it, and cultivated it, with the surprising result to all old-timers of growing the finest vegetables of every kind possible to grow anywhere. I then planted fruit trees amidst the jeers of all, and got what I expected—the finest of fruits of all kinds. Then some of the old-timers got busy and began to grow gardens, orchards, and lawns. We had a fair there, after a while, and I expected to get the first prize for potatoes. But I didn't! A lady who came to Alturas after I did, named Mrs. Mulky, who didn't need to be shown, brought in potatoes that beat mine, and carried off that prize. So I was left that time, as I am now by Judge Benson getting in ahead and telling his story first. That is the way it is with all of us old-timers.

Not Awake to Opportunities Here

Here are opportunities of every sort lying around loose, and we do not see them. We want to be shown. And we are! Some tender foot arrives, scoops around a few days, and he freezes on to something that we had not seen or thought of and makes a fortune in a hurry. They take all the cream of everything. The old-timers will tell you the country is no good. If you ask them why they have stayed all these years, they will answer because they wanted to make a stake before they leave. They have been having an easy time, making easy money from grass that used to grow all over these mountains knee-high. It was a stockman's paradise.

(Continued on Page Four)