

WICKERSHAM RAPS SPASMODIC REFORM

Princeton, N. J., May 2.—Attorney General Wickersham scored the real and the so-called progressive movement in an address last night before the Princeton class of 1911.

"We are in truth a law ridden people," he said, "and this tendency is encouraged and stimulated by those who seek popular favor by pointing to easy remedies for obvious ills. Not satisfied with the ever-swelling volume of statute laws, we are now urged to tinker with the Constitution."

"There is much clamorous advocacy of measures to limit the powers of those charged with the Administration of our highly complicated Government and to increase the direct intervention of the public with the conduct of its own operating. It is said that in the workings of representative government, representatives do not represent the people."

"Representatives being human, always will, from time to time, fail in their duties; but in the long run, our representative bodies must and do give expression to precisely what the matured thought of the majority of the people demands."

"As education continues to be wide spread, the people will continue to take an active, intelligent interest in public affairs. But the business of governing a highly complex modern civilization, to be conducted with the best results to the greatest number, will always require the absolute devotion and entire attention of an increasing number of men."

"The vision of truth and justice has never wholly failed before the eyes of the people of the United States. In the period of their greatest material progress, they have paused to consider whether their institutions were securing justice between man and man."

"The law of the state and Nation alike during this period of great industrial progress had been moulded to facilitate the conduct of business on a colossal scale. Here, and there occasional peaks of garnered riches rose high above the plain and like the robber barons, of the Rhineland, great masters of capital sat enthroned upon them. But their very height lifted them up where all men could see and begin to question how they came there."

"Temporary abuses may be corrected, but effective government can be

conducted through the spasmodic intervention of the popular uprisings.

"In a country whose government is based on manhood suffrage, any abuse can continue only until a majority of the people are convinced that it is wrong. Then there is bound to be a change."

"It is putting clearly before the people the nature of civic ills and the character and effect of proposed remedies that men who have had the benefit of systematic university training may best justify their advantages."

FISHER'S NEW JOB TO CHEAPEN COAL

Seattle, May 5.—How would the people of Portland, in common with other cities on the Pacific slope, like the best anthracite coal at \$5 per ton?

That condition in the fuel problem may come to pass if the plans of Walter L. Fisher, Secretary of the Interior, are carried out. Secretary Fisher, who is not a politician, welcomes the chance to solve a hard problem. It was he who settled the seemingly hopeless Chicago streetcar tangle after everyone else had given up in despair.

He also ran down the looters of the Illinois Central Railroad, who had obtained hundreds of thousands of fraudulent repair bills. He has accepted the Cabinet portfolio because it is a hard job and he likes the prospect.

He has no idea of a political future. His sole purpose in accepting the post is to settle the Alaska coal problem. He has been given a free hand by President Taft and already has removed from the Interior Department a number of officials who were connected with the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy and it is understood that he will effect other resignations among his subordinates with the intention of getting the General Land office shaped according to his policies.

In a way, Senator Fisher is a conservationist in line with Pinchot, but he is a thoroughly practical man and believes in putting the forests and coal mines and all other out-of-door resources at work yielding profit to the Government and the people. The recent decision at Portland in the Oregon and California case, and at Spokane in the Doughton case, will smooth the way to a settlement of the Alaska coal claims. Secretary Fisher wishes to hasten the court proceedings in the

SUPREME COURT SUSTAINS FOREST RESERVE LAW AND UPHOLDS RULES

Court Says Uncle Sam May Prohibit Grazing or Fix Terms for Allowing It, and Stockmen Must Keep Stock Off

Washington, May 1.—The legal battle against the forest reserves of the West in particular and Federal conservation of natural resources in general was lost to day in the Supreme Court of the United States.

That tribunal not only upheld the constitutionality of the establishment of the reserve for any National and public purpose, but it settled once for all that the Federal Government and not the states may say how the reserves shall be used.

The immediate results of the decision are that Fred Light, a Colorado cattle man, will remain enjoined from allowing his cattle to graze on the Holy Cross forest reservation in Colorado, and that Pierre Grimaud, K. P. Carajous and Antonio Inda, California sheepmen, must answer to the indictment charging them with grazing sheep upon the Sierra forest reserve without a permit.

The subject was dealt with in two opinions delivered by Justice Lamar. The entire court concurred. The basic principle upon which he proceeded was that "the Nation is an owner and has made Congress the principal agent to dispose of its property."

The United States can prohibit grazing or fix the terms on which its property may be used," said the Justice in the Colorado case. "As it can withhold or reserve the land, it can do so indefinitely. It is true the United States do not and cannot hold property as a monarch may for private and personal means. But that does not lead to the conclusion that it is without the rights incident to ownership, for the Constitution declares that "Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory of property be-

Alaska cases, but can do nothing effective until the Supreme Court has heard the Government's appeal in the Stracy cases, of which the hearing, in spite of

longing to the United States.

"All the public land is held by the United States in trust for the whole people and it is not for the court to say how that trust shall be administered—that is for Congress to say."

Among the defenses made by Light was the one that the formation of the Holy Cross reserve, without the consent of the State of Colorado, was unconstitutional.

Throughout the contest, the Federal Government claimed that when Light turned his cattle onto his ranch, adjoining the forest reserve, they followed the well-defined cattle trails, in order to obtain grass and water, directly to the reserve, where there existed superior grass and water supply. Such a practice, the Government contended, was tantamount in law to Light driving the cattle onto the reserve.

The defense pointed out that the reserve had not been fenced by the Government, and a Colorado law provided that no person should recover damages for trespass unless the lands were fenced.

The Government retorted that the fence law applied only to individuals, and not to the State of Colorado or to the United States. If it were meant to apply to the United States, the law was unconstitutional.

So widespread was the interest in the case and so vital was the question involved that the State of Colorado threw itself into the contest, Attorney General Barnett assisting in fighting the Federal Government. In the sheepmen's case the court held that regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture requiring permits to graze stock on forest reserves was not an unconstitutional exercise of executive power.

every effort to the contrary, has been delayed until the October term.

The issues are so clean cut that a speedy decision of the court is expect-

ed and there seems to be no question that the ruling, whatever it may be, will be followed by the opening of the Alaskan coal lands for such use as Congress may direct.

It is expected that the present session of Congress will pass a law providing for the leasing of coal land for their operation on a royalty basis. While waiting for the court's decision, Secretary Fisher is preparing for a thorough survey of the great coal fields of Alaska—something which has never been undertaken. The geological survey has made some estimates and experts have guessed at what the coal areas amount to; but up to the present time there has not been a real scientific expedition to learn the value of the measures that are said to be the most extensive and the most valuable in the world. Information hitherto gathered as to the coal deposits has been merely incidental work of the Forestry Service or of the Geological Survey.

FIGHT NOW ON FOR NEW LAND OFFICE

Washington, D. C., May 3.—Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern, favors Madras as the site of the proposed new land office in central Oregon. He writes:

"Madras is the present terminus of the Oregon Trunk railroad, which probably will be extended south. Settlers are going in in numbers of from 50 to 57 daily. I think Madras will serve all the interests best."

The contest between Madras, Bend, Redmond and Prineville grows quite interesting. Telegrams and letters are pouring in upon the Oregon Congressional delegation with ardent pleas for recognition of each town for the new office.

Some argue that Prineville is too far away from the railroad to be suitable. Others believe Madras is too far south. It seems likely in the opinion of some that the fifth standard parallel running east and west will be the southern boundary of the new land district, all north of that so far as necessary to accommodate central Oregonians, to be included. Senator Chamberlain will introduce a bill providing for the new district, but has not decided what boundaries to name.

La Vogue garments never disappoint. Many of the smartest effects originated in Paris. Lakeview Mercantile Co.

WANT LAND GRANT IN SCHOOL FUND

Salem, May 5.—An effort will be made to place the Oregon & California land grants into the state school land holdings if it is eventually determined that the railroad company must surrender ownership of these properties.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Alderman has written to Representative Willis C. Hawley asking if it might not be possible to have these lands placed in the hands of the school land board, providing the government is finally successful in contesting its claims.

He calls Mr. Hawley's attention to the fact that in the state school fund at the present time there is the sum of \$6,038,000, while the state of Washington boasts of a similar fund amounting to \$34,000,000. He states in writing that the fund would probably do away with the county school tax entirely, even if the state is required to pay \$2.50 an acre for the lands to the government.

"Oregon being settled early it failed to keep its hold on the lands and the policy of tying up our lands as practiced by our government has kept out settlers. Should it be possible for the school land board to secure these lands it would place the system of the state on a practically self-sustaining basis. The lands could be sold and the money placed as a portion of the principal in the irreducible school fund which would result in doing away with the necessity of the county school tax entirely."

Oregon Not In It

Seven hundred and fifty-three bills passed at the last session of the California Legislature have become laws. The last of them was signed and turned over by Governor Johnson to the Secretary of State last week, bringing the total for the last day to more than 250.

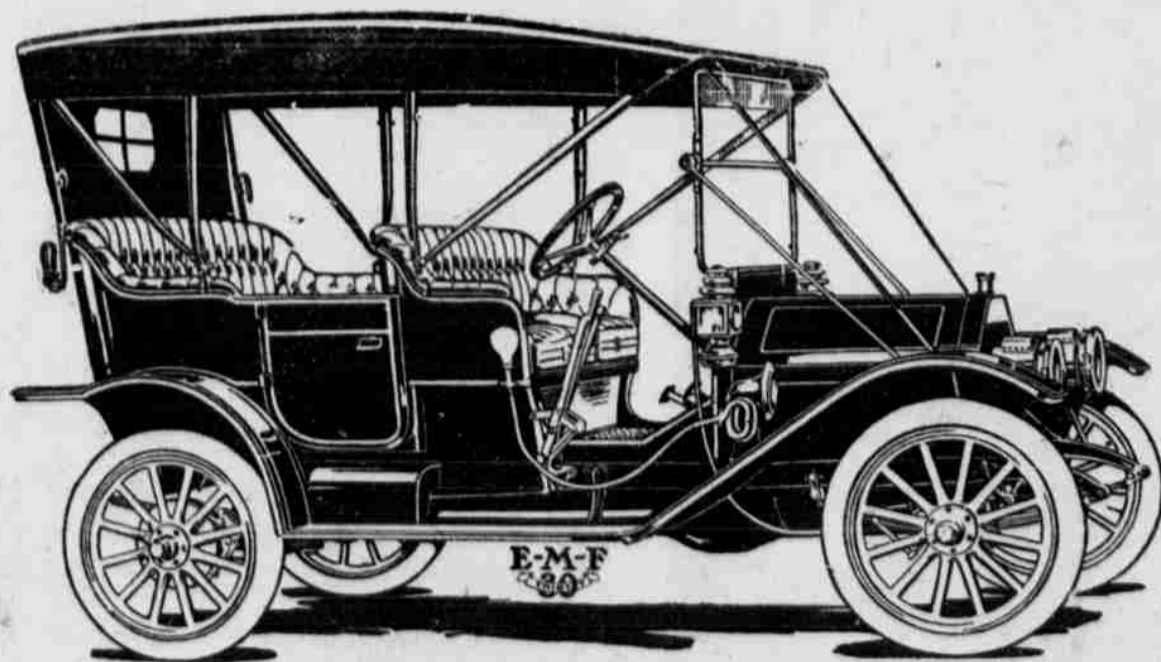
Important among the bills that were carried were the industrial education bill, the Hamilton net container bill, the teacher's pension bill, the automobile monthly tax bill, by which it was planned to increase the annual revenue of the state \$300,000, and the various claims of the legislators, including that of Senator Wolf, of San Francisco, for \$4500 for investigation of the high cost of living, and that of Senator Curtain for \$6600 for work on the new tax laws.

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