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Meeting at Albany

Continued from page one.)
Living in Oregon and helping to build our country.
Encourage Immigration.
State should do more to encourage immigration. You will find there is in Oregon a colony of Scandinavians, Germans, Danes, or other body of thrifty, industrious people from the northern and mid-portion of Europe, land is being populated is multiplying, and the schools and industries are established. A high fee for a license and a high fee for naturalization of foreign born citizens are both obstacles to development of a country. Any body of industrious foreign population are worth the cost to Oregon that the pleasure seekers of the east or west who swarm over southern Oregon at this season of the year. State should maintain one of the best and best equipped immigration offices, with literature in the various languages, and with close cooperation with the foreign steamship lines great results would be secured. We are paying too much for securing travelers for pleasure and not enough for securing immigrants who want homes and a chance to make our rough lands on any part of the state. I would rather have one hardy family who cannot speak a word of English settle in the Willamette valley than a whole trainload of night-shifters pass through on a special after dark, spending their money on the Pullman cars, the high hotels and railroads. The immigrant becomes a citizen, a taxpayer, a builder, and the first generation of our public schools are good loyal American citizens in the same manner that perhaps one of this convention became good citizens.

Flax and Alfalfa.

The department of the Harriman has taken up the problem of raising alfalfa culture in western Oregon since our last gathering at Albany where the subject was first discussed. Seed is to be distributed and encouragement and instruction in alfalfa culture are to be given to the people along the lines of the railroads in the valley. Enough has been accomplished with cultivation of flax for us to establish the fact that it can be raised successfully in the Willamette valley.

ette valley. Because a series of fires have wiped out the fruit of the experiments at Salem is not a good reason why all western Oregon should not take up flax culture for the fibre. Our rich soils, our moisture laden atmosphere, and mild climate are exactly the natural environment for this product. It can be grown as fine and finer than in any part of the world, and fabulous prices per ton have been realized from the samples taken out of western Oregon. These are all matters beyond peradventure, and what is needed is to arouse individuals to the possibility of this crop. Do not wait for others to show the way but let men arise in every county and take up the subject from a business standpoint, get the government bulletins, get the reports from other countries through our consuls and master the details and tap one of the greatest sources of wealth that lies dormant in western Oregon. Do not wait for one man like Mr. Bosse of Salem or for the Harriman system of the Woman's Flax Fibre association or anyone else to make this demonstration, but take hold of it yourself, talk it up with your neighbors, and let us show the world that our people are equal in productive energy to our wonderful soil and climate.

Oregon's Greatest Opportunity.

The industrial departments of the state, the development leagues and state board of agriculture and the press should take hold of this flax proposition in an earnest manner this year, because the flax industry of Europe is in a demoralized condition owing to the uncertainty of the supply of raw material. Flax manufactures of England, Scotland and Germany obtain about three-fourths of their raw material from Russia. The cultivation of flax in that country varies greatly from year to year on account of the severity of climate, poor roads and other causes. War and revolution among the peasantry of Russia the past year have left the supply of flax fibre for future delivery at a point that threatens paralysis of the manufacture. If the cost of labor is not too high, the Willamette valley could supply all Europe with the raw material. But as we can grow this finer and higher priced grades, labor should not be any serious obstacle. With our cheaper power and great supplies of pure water, we should be able to manufacture all the linen used in our own country and also supply some of the demand in Oriental countries. Owing to the lack of raw material linen is becoming a

luxury that only the affluent can afford to use, whereas it ought to be as cheap as the cotton fabrics. The time is ripe for concentrated action and as president of the Willamette Valley League I would suggest that concerted action be secured under the leadership of some such man as Edward A. Beals of the department of agriculture at Portland, to whom I am indebted for the foregoing suggestions.

Wagon Road and Land Companies.

I would recommend at this convention that a committee be appointed to investigate and formulate a report on what can be done to break up the large holdings of land by such corporations as the Southern Oregon company, and the various wagon road and military road land grant companies in this state which are one of the greatest, if not the very greatest, blocks to progress and development. These large aggregations of alien land ownerships will neither improve their holdings nor part with their title on any reasonable terms to permit of their improvement. To understand how these lands were acquired we shall have to go back to the time when the United States government, with the policy of developing the western states and particularly the state of Oregon, passed a law providing land grants for the construction of so called military wagon roads. Many of our citizens and gentlemen here present are familiar with the results as far as benefits to the state of Oregon are concerned. Those directly interested in what is known as the Coos Bay Military Wagon road, and those who have been so unfortunate as to travel over that road, know there is an apology due Webster for defining such a thing as a road, and it will take the present good roads movement years to reach the problem of transforming that parody of a highway into any semblance of a medium of modern transportation. Yet it has cost this state millions of acres of its choicest timber lands and in place of a help to its development has been one of the most formidable barriers to the settlement and opening up of one of the choicest regions that lies out of doors. So of the other wagon and military road grants.

Obstacles must be Removed.

The development of Oregon can only be accomplished by removing the greatest obstacles one by one and then adopting progressive policies instead. Never were public lands more clearly obtained by fraud than in the case of some of these wagon road grants. Lands worth millions upon millions were obtained without any just return to the state. The schemers cleared away a little brush, and enough stumps to haul a wagon through without upsetting more than twenty times in a mile and took every alternate section of land on either side for ten miles width. The stolen property was rapidly transferred from the original grantees in order to avoid suits to compel restitution to the government, those acquiring knowing full well they had never complied with the terms of the grant. As a result more than half the county of Coos is now in the hands of a Boston corporation of which Elijah Smith was president. The policy of this company has been for twenty years past to do absolutely nothing for the development of Oregon and pay as little as possible into the state or county treasury, with the seeming intention to retard the development of the country as much as possible.

Monopolists Oppose Progress.

While Elijah Smith has passed away, the policies of repression which he instituted still prevail. In this respect the southern Oregon country is not alone. Those in control of other military and wagon road land grants pursue the same policy. Their lands are not purchasable nor attainable in any manner, and they control hundreds of thousands of acres in many parts of the state, one grant beginning right here in Linn county. This policy of repression and inactivity is pursued by these large holders in hopes of reaping the reward of the energy and expenditure and development policy of

A Heavy Load to Carry.

Along with dyspepsia comes nervousness and general ill-health. Why? Because a disordered stomach does not permit the food to be properly digested, and its products assimilated by the system. The blood is charged with poisons which come from this disordered digestion, and in turn the nerves are not fed on good, red blood, and we see symptoms of nervousness, sleeplessness and general breakdown. It is not hard work, nor over physical exertion that does it, but poor stomach work. With poor, thin blood the body is not protected against the attack of germs of grip, bronchitis and consumption. Fortify the body at once with Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery—a rare combination of native medicinal roots without a particle of alcohol or dangerous habit-forming drugs.

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holders of adjoining lands without doing anything themselves. In some instances they have shown a tendency to resist progress by the state and development by the national government, as is evidenced by the attitude of one of the land companies toward the Malheur irrigation project, which the government has been trying to inaugurate, and thereby open up the vast inland empire of southeastern Oregon. There is no doubt in my mind but that something should be done to break up these blockades to progress and until this is done little can be hoped for in the way of rapid settlement or progress of the sections on which the blight of a government entrenched land monopoly rests. This organization can do a great work by merely applying relentlessly publicity and agitation to the solution of these problems, and a special committee should be appointed to formulate a report and if possible in time to make it an issue in the coming political campaign, as any weapon that we can lay hands on is justifiable against non-progressive alien land monopoly.

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