Capital Journal Ptg. Co., Inc. La mixis


Just what the meeting now in progress between the state officials, members of the committee of the recent land grant conference and Southern Pacific representatives hopes to accomplish is past all finding out. It was stated that the railroad representatives attended the
meeting clothed with full authority to treat finally with meeting clothed with full authority to treat finally with
the committee relative to the final disposition of the 0 . the committee relative to the final disposition of the
$\&$ C. lands.
It would be well indeed if this could be done, but how It would be well indeed if this could be done, but how
can any agreement be reached that will have any effect in settling the matter, which is entirely within the hands of congress?
Neither the state officials nor the committee can make
any arrangement that is binding on any arrangement that is binding on anyone, other than that would satisfy both, but with this a remote possibility, even should it be done, what has been gained?

As the matter stands the supreme court has decided that the lands belong to the Southern Pacific in fee simple. That company under present not more than 160 acres to one person. It can do this or it can refuse to do it, if about selling. This being the case, the railroad can make its own terms so long as it is willing to pay taxes on the lands.

So far as congress paying any attention to what ar rangement is made, it might as well not be done; for
about all that can be done is to fix some terms on which the lands can be sold; and if these do not suit the railroad what can congress do about it? Congress is a pretty big
and powerful body but there are some things it cannot do and one of these is to take the lands in question away froin the railroad company without paying for them, and if it pays for them it will either place them in a forest re ent from what is now proposed.
It is suggested that congress compel the company sell the lands according to the terms of the grant, that is at $\$ 2.50$ an acre, but this is just what the supreme court
has said congress cannot do, for it has held the grant wa "In praesenti," and the title was absolute in the railroa company. We nearly all think out here that the railroad company has forfeited

It is conceded that the conference is well intended, but so perhaps is Henry Ford's peace movement, and it wil probably accomplish just about as definite results as the latter.

When the congressmen from east of the Mississippi get through with the business and the conservationists
have their inning, what Oregon needs or wants will not have their inning, what Oregon needs or
have cat any perceptible amount of ice.

About all it seems possible to do is to keep on levying taxes on the lands while we can, and when we can't, kis them'good-bye with a cheerful and kindly recollection of what they have done
bad them with us
It might be added that the proposition to cut the timber off the lands and then sell them for agricultural pur poses, while it looks nice in print and has a musical sound ber on a given tract of land would just about pay for clearing it, and while this would give the purchaser the purpose, it must be remembered that a poor man cannot undertake the job. He would starve to death a dozen times while getting enough land cleared to support him the snarl and conferences and agreements made by other will have little bearing on the final result.

It is estimated that every newspaper has five readers This being the case the Capital Journal's family of readfamily is steadily and rapidly growing.

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They are holding meetings to protest against Sunday closing laws, but what's the use. The people of Oregon
have so many laws, so many officials to execute them and are so hopelessly tangled in the maze of legislation and borne down with the burden of taxation that they are
rapidly drifting beyond the point of protest even. A few laws, more or less, fail to arouse any particular interest among the people, and if some county attorney should dig up an obsolete statute closing everything up for seven
days in the week it is doubtful if there would be any very strenuous protest registered. Business, capital and industry is just about on the point of capitulating to the reformers who are the only people who have an occupation worth while left in Oregon.
Evidently many people have but little confidence i land speace movement. Rev. Frank L. Loveland of Port acts the fool." Allen B. Parker, one time democrati candidate for president, calls Ford "A strutting clown and most of the other prominent persons asked to accompany the expedition declined while others did not even ay him the courtesy of answering his invitation.
In London Lloyds will bet against anything. It is bet ing now with the English soldiers at the odds of eight to as not more than one in eight is killed Lloyds cannot lose With the larger part of England's army at home it looks as though Lloyds had a lead pipe cinch on that be
The shooting of Ashland's postmaster Tuesday made a
aper in the state took advantage of it. Suppose the story ad been printed under a big display head: "Kaiser is ast enough for the public.

Greece has about as attractive a choice in deciding hat she will do concerning the war as one sentenced $t$. death in Utah. In that state the generosity of its people ind who can be hanged or shot just as they prefer.
Villa is certainly having a hard time. He has been villed a dozen or more times, fatally wounded as many more and now he is hopelessy insane and wandering in
the deserts of northern Mexico.
It is possible there is any connection between Ford's vading Europe and the resignation of half the Austrian abinet yesterday?


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