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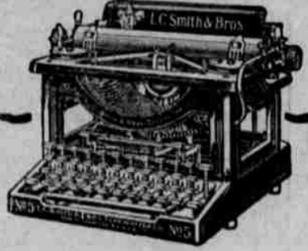
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## JUDGES' CONVENTION SOON

Road Construction Principal Topic to be Discussed.

The annual convention of the Oregon State Association of County Judges and Commissioners will be held in Portland December 9, 10 and 11. Invitations have been sent out by County Commissioner Rufus C. Holman, of Portland, president of the association, and Commissioner-elect Philo Holbrook, secretary. The convention will assemble the morning of December 9 in the Court-house. Members of County Court now in office and those to assume office, January 1, including county surveyors and road supervisors, are expected to attend from all counties. Governor-elect Withycombe will deliver the address of welcome.

The chief subject of discussion at the convention will be the construction and maintenance of roads.

December 9 Samuel C. Lancaster consulting engineer for Multnomah County's highway construction, will deliver an illustrated lecture at Central Library hall on highway engineering and construction. December 10 will be devoted to discussion of topics bearing on construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts, and in the evening a banquet will be given at the Commercial Club. The closing day will be given over to a trip over the Columbia River Highway.

Among those who have been invited to address the convention are: Frank Branch Riley, F. K. Billner, Professor H. T. French, of Corvallis; City Commissioner W. L. Brewster, of Portland, who will talk on "The Solution of the Unemployed Problem Throughout the State"; Grant Dimick, ex-Judge of Clackamas County, Judge W. C. Judd, of Clatsop County; Henry D. Griffin, secretary of the Board of Relief, on "The Proper and Economical Care of the Indigent Poor."

### FIGHTING POTATO PEST.

California Product is Said to be Infected by Moths.

Grange committees who have been investigating methods of the war against potato moths will meet at the Portland Commercial Club building the afternoon of December 12, to make reports. The meeting will be open. The State Inspector is to ask for a quarantine against California potatoes until that state has rid itself of the moths. J. E. Stansberry fruit inspector for Multnomah County is describing the danger of infection from potatoes shipped into the state before the grangers of the state.

### Many Went to Defeat.

The combination of State Grange, Central Labor Council and Peoples' Power League, that originated many of the most radical initiative measures finds them all defeated.

## DEFENSE IS NEEDED

### State's Interests In Grant Land Suit Unprotected.

Oregon and California Land Grant Suit Now Before the United States Supreme Court.

Salem, Ore., Oct. 24.—The extension of forest reserves and great loss of taxable property is involved in a suit to vacate the Oregon and California land grant.

Eighteen Western Oregon Counties will be knocked out of half a million dollars of taxes for 1914 if the O. & C. and grant is declared forfeited by the U. S. Supreme Court.

These counties and the state will lose forever over two million acres of timber and agricultural land worth from two to twenty dollars or an average of about \$15 per acre, assessed at about \$30,000,000, if forfeiture is finally decreed.

The legal department of the government is interested in adding these lands to the forest reserve, already too large in Oregon.

Out of 61,188,480 acres in Oregon, 36,216,317 acres are under federal control.

The O. & C. Co. is interested in retaining the land grant, while the people are interested in compelling specific performance of its contract by the railroad corporation, and retaining \$30,000,000 on the tax rolls.

The people would be satisfied if the Supreme court decreed specific performance, or an order to sell the lands on equitable terms.

Western Oregon is vitally interested in this suit. The 18 counties of western Oregon pay \$2,246,830 of the total state tax of \$4,165,000 for 1914—or 77.94 per cent.

These 18 counties levy tax on but 17.62 per cent of the entire landed area of the state.

These 18 counties have in their borders the O. & C. land grant of 2,074,161 acres, on which the tax this year would be \$466,872.87.

This tax is not being paid on account of litigation still pending in the United States Supreme Court.

If the Supreme Court upholds the forfeiture this tax will never be paid, but the land grant will be disposed of by congress and will probably be merged in the forest reserve.

The expenses of fire patrol of these lands, heretofore borne by the O. & C. Co. will fall on the State or the Forestry service.

The state will forever lose this property as a taxable asset if the Supreme Court upholds forfeiture of the grant.

### The Counties Interested.

The following table shows the area, in the several counties of the forfeited O. & C. land grant. Should this forfeiture be confirmed, these lands will go back to the federal government and in all probability be placed in the Forest Reserve. The disastrous effect of such action upon the several counties affected will be apparent, when the acreage and taxable property which will be taken from the different counties is studied.

The revenues of these counties are decreased \$466,000.

The amount of taxable area forfeited is over 2,000,000 acres, divided as shown below:

Counties	Acres	Amt. Assessed to O. & C. Land Grant not paid because of forfeiture.
Benton	53,627	\$ 20,073.76
Clackamas	89,162	30,661.52
Columbia	17,679	15,042.62
Coos	106,563	60,922.62
Curry	7,845	2,313.67
Douglas	616,843	96,901.76
Jackson	441,791	71,219.20
Josephine	167,481	35,874.60
Klamath	43,015	10,359.50
Lane	299,606	80,527.00
Lincoln	15,906	2,158.22
Linn	61,966	13,871.38
Marion	30,256	8,273.46
Multnomah	9,047	2,328.26
Polk	37,018	13,557.59
Tillamook	29,741	3,444.95
Washington	17,932	4,876.65
Yamhill	28,683	4,461.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,074,161</b>	<b>\$466,872.81</b>

The above table also shows the tax to each county by means of the forfeited O. & C. land grant tax being unpaid.

In the suit before the Supreme Court of the United States the O. & C. Co. and the United States are represented by counsel but the state is not.

A memorial to Congress was adopted by the legislature of 1907 asking that steps be taken by resolution or otherwise, to enact and declare some sufficient penalty for non-compliance with the terms of the grant.

To protect the interest of the state in retaining the O. & C. lands as a state asset, the state or Oregon must

be represented in the suit, and the legislature should declare the position and interest of the state in this matter.

A state that already has about three-fifths of its area locked up in forest reserves cannot afford to allow this great additional wealth of natural resources to be transferred to the federal government without protest.

### Can State Lose Its Rights?

An interesting question is raised as to whether these lands can be taken without the jurisdiction of this state, title once having vested in the grantee of the Government.

The right to tax these lands has vested in the state and no forfeiture of the rights of the state to tax these lands should be permitted.

What the people of Oregon want is that the terms of the O. & C. land grant should be enforced; that the lands should be distributed and the development of the counties wherein the lands are situated be promoted.

We do not want these reverted back to the Government, where they will pay no taxes, and the State's interest in its right to tax these lands should be insisted upon.

Oregon should intervene in the suit now before the Federal Courts, to the end that its rights may be preserved.

These lands will not be open to homestead or preemption.

## ADMINISTERING THE WATER LAWS

### Cost Has Increased Over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars in Past Twelve Years.

Here is a statement showing what the administration of our arid land and water laws has cost the taxpayers and tells how mighty oaks from little acorns grow:

In 1901-2 the State passed a law accepting the provisions of the Carey Act, providing for the reclamation of our arid lands and placing its administration in the hands of the State Land Board; no appropriation was made.

In 1903-4 no appropriation was made for State Land Board for the Carey Act Project.

In 1905-6 no appropriation was made for State Board for Carey Act Project. But the office of State Engineer created, salary \$2400 per annum. Appropriation for State Engineer's office of \$15,000.

In 1907-8 no appropriation for the State Land Board for the Carey Projects was made. The appropriation for state engineer's office was again \$15,000.

In 1909-10 the Desert Land Board created to take over the Carey Act work. Appropriation for said board, \$4000.

The State Water Board of Control was created to take over adjudication of water rights with an appropriation for said board of \$20,000.

Appropriation for State Engineer's office \$25,000. His salary was raised to \$3000 per annum, making a total appropriation for this office of \$49,000.

In 1911-12 the Desert Land Board received \$8,000; the State Water Board got \$20,000.

The state engineer got following amounts: Standing appropriation \$20,000, Special surveys \$13,800, Special surveys estimated \$8200, Topographic and hydrographic maps \$45,000. Making a total of \$115,000.

In 1913-14 appropriations were as follows: Desert Land Board, \$10,000; State Water Board, \$40,000.

State Engineer's office: Standing appropriation \$20,000, Special appropriation \$13,800; Special surveys estimated \$11,200; Topographic and hydrographic maps, \$45,000; Co-operative survey \$50,000; Cello investigation \$15,000. Total of \$155,000. Or a grand total of \$205,000.

It is proposed to place all these functions under the State Land Board, and reduce the number of officials and appropriations.

### FARMERS PLAN RAILROAD.

#### More Direct Outlet to the Sea an Imperative Demand.

With a view to forming a stock company of farmers of Umatilla County for the construction of a railroad from some convenient point in the Cold Spring section to the Columbia River, a meeting has been called to be held at Pendleton Saturday by the Farmer's Union Grain Agency. The proposed road would be about 20 miles in length, and it is estimated that the cost of construction would be \$100,000. Should the plan fail a hard-surface highway will be built as the next best move.

The trend of the times is the looking to the utilization of the Columbia River, the greatest trade artery in the West, as an inexpensive means of reaching the markets of the world with the products of our Western Empire. Preparations for the enjoyment of enlarged trade by reason of the Panama Canal are apparent everywhere in the West.

## SPECIAL CONFERENCE

### Commonwealth's Friends to Have Extra Session.

Need of Constructive Legislation to be Pointed Out and Legislatures Asked to Act.

To discuss three definite legislative problems, a special session of the state Commonwealth Conference will be held in Villard hall, at the University of Oregon, Eugene, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 10, 11 and 12. Governor-elect James Withycombe is to open the conference.

The three main topics will be:

1. Unemployment.
2. Greater economy and efficiency in state administration.
3. Hydro-electric districts, made up of a city, as a nucleus, and its tributary watershed area.

The three days of consideration are to culminate in appointment of committees, each of which is to draft the recommendations of the conference upon its special problem and to submit these recommendations to the proper committee in the Oregon legislature. The conclusions in each case will reach the legislature of next January in the form of a bill.

The persons whose participation is expected in this conference represent about all the elements directly interested in each of the three items, and are roughly these:

1. Unemployment. The state legislative committee on unemployment; representatives of labor; social service workers; city officials, especially members of the Oregon League of Municipalities; state officials; members of the incoming Oregon legislature; members of state commissions or other bodies having to do with labor in any form; representatives of employment agencies; the state labor commission. Meeting with them will probably be Frances A. Kellor, managing director of the North American Civic League for the Protection of Immigrants, 95 Madison avenue, New York.

2. State administration for greater economy and efficiency; State officials; members of the incoming legislature; efficiency experts.

3. Hydro-electric districts: The state hydro-electric commission. all city officials who can come; persons interested in power development; legislators; the state engineer.

Several important states, notably Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota, have found taxes growing faster than either wealth or the number of taxpayers. In these states investigators discovered that commissions, bureaus, and other administrative bodies, had been created in unscientific fashion, often with overlapping duties. Each of these bodies had a chief and a staff. Results among the various groups were not correlated; results were also expensive. The remedies suggesting themselves to a typical investigating body were these:

To group commissions, individuals bureaus, departments, that are doing kindred work into a central department with a single head.

To let that single head be an appointee of the governor, except in the treasury department, where he should be elective. To hold the head responsible for results and for the cost of results in his office.

To let the subordinates in all such departments be under civil service provisions.

To adopt and use a simple field and clear budget in made easier by such grouping of state administrative functions into a half dozen departments.

The organization of Oregon commissions, departments, bureaus and similar state administrative offices, that are recommended in these reports of experts will be brought into a harmonious whole, and as a report of the Commonwealth Conference, formed into a suggestion to the proper legislative committee.

Preceding the experts' report will come a paper upon the principles that underlie state administration, the University in this connection fulfilling one of its many duties, that of making special material available for use by any element in the state.

### TIME TO LIQUIDATE.

#### Do Not Delay in Applying for Automobile License.

To expedite the registration of motor vehicles for 1915, Secretary of State Olcott is sending to all owners the necessary blanks. Under the law all motor vehicle registrations expire December 31, and by forwarding blanks now, ample time will be given the owners to apply for licenses. The motor vehicle plates for next year will be made with yellow background, and black letters and numerals.