

The "Backbone" Land Grant

Hon. N. C. Blanchard Gives History of the Controversy With the Railroad and Says that Lands Cannot be Taken Away from Bona Fide Settlers.

Shreveport, La., June 14, 1911.
Editor Chronicle, Colfax, La.:

Dear Sir—Replying to yours of recent date, I beg to say that the situation with regard to the rights of settlers on the railroad land grant is about as follows:

The New Orleans Pacific Railway Company claimed what was known as the "Backbone Land Grant" in Louisiana, which embraced the odd sections of land in a grant twenty miles on either side of the line of a contemplated railroad from New Orleans to the West. This "Backbone" land grant was one of the early grants made by the United States Government to a railroad company.

I was in Congress when this grant was claimed by the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Co., and I sought to have the grant forfeited for non-compliance with the terms of the grant. This was in the early 80's. I was unable to secure the forfeiture of the grant, and thereupon took steps to secure the rights of settlers upon the lands included in the grant.

Congress eventually confirmed to the New Orleans Pacific Railroad, whose rights were succeeded to by the Texas Pacific Railroad, the land in question, but at the same time excepted out of the operation of the grant the lands to the extent of 160 acres held by actual settlers at the date of the definite location of the railroad through the parishes in Louisiana, beginning with Caddo and running southward, through which the railroad ran. But before Congress took this action, the Land Department at Washington, through influences brought to bear on it by the railroad, rushed the issuance of the patent to the railroad; and, when the Act of Congress was passed in 1887, confirming the grant to the railroad, but exempting the holdings of the settlers out of the grant, patent had already been issued.

My recollection is that the Act of Congress referred to was passed on 8th day of February, 1887, and the intention of the Act was to grant to all actual settlers the lands they occupied at the date of the definite location of the line of the railroad.

The lands held by the settlers were never confirmed to the railroad; but, since the patent had issued, it became necessary for the Government to institute a suit or suits against the railroad company to cancel the patent, so far as it affected the rights of the settlers.

A suit or suits for this purpose were instituted in the Federal Courts years ago, but through the fault of somebody these suits have never been pressed, and are still pending in the Federal Court in Louisiana.

I have always advised the settlers to hold possession of their lands; that the same cannot be taken from them; and that the railroad or its assigns dare not bring a suit to dispossess them, and such is the situation to-day.

I had no connection with the suits against the railroad referred to above. That was a matter between the Government and the railroads, and if the suits have not been pressed it is the fault of the Government.

Something ought to be done to press these suits that are now pending in the Federal Court, and this in the interest of the actual settlers.

A week or so ago a communication signed "Farmer," dated Bentley, La., June 1st, 1911, appeared in the Shreveport Times, which gives about the true facts of the situation.

I would advise that you hunt up this communication in your files of the Shreveport Times and reproduce same.

Yours very truly,
N. C. BLANCHARD.

The uniform success that has attended the use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It can always be depended upon. For sale by all dealers.

Solicitation to Run for Representative.

Colfax, La., June 19, 1911.
Editor Colfax Chronicle:

Dear Sir—I enclose you a petition that my friends and former fellow townsmen of the good old town of Montgomery have addressed to me. This petition is so flattering to me until I hesitate to publish it, or ask you to publish it, but I desire to use the columns of your paper to thank my loyal friends for the high esteem they hold of me. It makes a fellow feel good. While I know I don't come up the high plane my friends have seen fit to place me on, still we all appreciate good things said about us, whether they are true or not, and I certainly appreciate this sincere effort of their part to help me, and in the future if I should decide to offer for office such support as theirs would elect any man to, most any office. At present I had no intention of running for Representative, but with the proper solicitation I might make the race for the Senate. I will not offer for any office, though, until I feel sufficient pressure, as I will not push myself upon the people, and I don't want any office unless the people want me to have it. Now, as to the office of Representative, I feel that the enclosed petition is sufficient pressure for me to offer for that office, but there is plenty of time yet to decide on that. Thanking you for the kindness of your paper,

I am your friend,
C. H. McCAIN.

The following is the petition:
Montgomery, La., May 19, 1911.
Clair H. McCain, Colfax, La.

Dear Sir:—We, the undersigned voters of ward seven, recognizing and appreciating the strong moral character and upright conduct of our former townsman, and believing at this particular time we should put our best young men forward, we hereby ask that you submit your name to the Democratic primary for the office of Representative to serve in the State Legislature for the ensuing term to commence 1912.

Yours very truly,
L. Dow Wardlow, R. M. Dunn, W. F. Duffy, J. T. Smith, L. L. Thompson, L. J. Harrison, R. A. Sellers, T. J. Harrison, M. D., I. C. Dyson, T. L. Deen, H. C. Dodson, W. L. Dowty, L. E. Drewett, C. O. Sharp, J. M. O'Neal, J. W. Dyson, O. P. Harrison, W. Payne Harrison, J. H. Williams, E. B. Tyson, J. W. Horn, W. O. Harrison, E. W. Rodgers, Henry Lewis, E. J. Barfield, B. E. Woods.

The Constitution of Arizona Attacked.
A new orator has appeared in the ranks of the Republican minority in Congress. The opening speech of the minority on the Arizona-New Mexico statehood resolution, a distinction accorded to Representative Frank B. Willis, a freshman from Ohio, turned out to be a two hours' running fire repartee and fight with the Democratic leaders.

In supporting the New Mexican constitution as President Taft has approved it, Mr. Willis drew the fire of Chairman Flood and a half-dozen prominent Democrats. He was armed with a mass of constitutions and organic acts of the various states and whenever a new proposition was advanced he would say: "I've got it right here," while the Republican side cheered and laughed.

The Republican speakers condemned the recall of judges in the Arizona constitution and approved the plan to force Arizona to vote again on that feature, but they declared no change should be made in the New Mexican constitution.

Chairman Flood of the territorial committee secured an agreement to have all debate closed on the measure. Mr. Stedman of North Carolina supported the resolution.

Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Madison and Roosevelt would have been victims of the recall had it been included in the constitution when they were in the presidential chair, said Representative Kahn of California, speaking against the initiative, referendum and recall in the Arizona constitution.

"When Washington sent the Jay treaty to the senate to be ratified," said Mr. Kahn, "there was such an outburst of disapproval on all sides that within twenty-four hours thereafter the necessary recall petitions would have been signed by thousands of electors in excess of the required percentage.

"Lincoln would have been put to the task of defending his title as chief executive of the republic, if during the dark days of 1862 the recall had been one of the cardinal principals of the federal constitution.

"Does any one doubt that enough signatures could have been procured in the South for the recall of President Roosevelt immediately after he had invited Booker T. Washington to lunch with him at the White House."

Wins Fight for Life
It was a long and bloody battle for life that was waged by James B. Mereson, of Newark, N. J., of which he writes, "I had lost much blood from lung hemorrhages, and was very weak and run down. For eight months I was unable to work. Death seemed close on my heel, when I began, three weeks ago, to use Dr. King's New Discovery. But it has helped me greatly. It is doing all that you claim." For weak, sore lungs, obstinate coughs, stubborn colds, hoarseness, lagrippe, asthma, hay fever, or any throat or lung trouble its supreme. 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by all druggists.

Why Americans are Disliked in Mexico.
The Right Rev. Dr. Henry D. Aves, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Mexico, contributes to The Churchman an article in which he points out the underlying causes of the present revolt against the Diaz government, and the growing animosity toward American residents in Mexico. This animosity, Bishop Aves says, is not a sudden manifestation, but on the contrary it has been developed slowly, and the cause of it is given briefly as follows: "The American has become disliked because he is American—for there is remarkably little race prejudice in Mexico—but because he represents vested rights, pre-emptions, privileges, concessions and advantages that are felt to be prejudicial to the best interests of the native people."

This is a natural feeling and it would exist in this country were foreigners to obtain possession of its wealth-producing resources. It is estimated that nearly a billion dollars of American capital is invested in Mexican mines, lands, railroads and other projects, and there has been remarkable industrial development in many directions for which the Diaz government has received fulsome laudation.

But there is another story, and it deals with the spoliation of Mexico's rich resources through corrupt concessions, grants and special privileges, the great profits of which have been shared by the American exploiters and the high officers of the Mexican government, Diaz himself getting in "on the ground floor" of every deal. "The government is blamed," says Bishop Aves, "for thus giving to foreigners concessions that admit them to the chief sources

of the country's riches; and the grievance has voiced itself in what has become a political slogan: 'Mexico for Mexicans. Down with the Gringo.'

The good Bishop admits that American capital has done great things in the land of the Aztecs, yet Humboldt's saying of a hundred years ago is true to-day. "Mexico is a beggar sitting on a bag of gold," hence it is reasonable to assume that the present insurrection is due to the fact that the beggar has been forgotten in the eagerness of the foreign interests to get their hands on his bag of gold.—New Orleans States.

WHY WOMEN SUFFER

Many Colfax Women are Learning the Cure.

Women often suffer, not knowing the cause. Backache, headache, dizziness, nervousness. Irregular urinary passages, weakness, languor—

Each a seeming torture of itself. Together tell of weakened kidneys. Strike at the root—get to the cause. Quickly give the help the kidneys need.

No remedy endorsed like Doan's Kidney Pills. Endorsed by thousands—

Endorsed at home. Here's convincing proof from a Colfax citizen.

Mrs. J. D. Boston, insurance agent, Colfax, La., says: "I suffered a great deal from pains in my back and hips and I always felt tired and languid. Being told to try Doan's Kidney Pills, I obtained a box and they gave me relief at once. By the time I had finished the contents of the box I was free from my trouble."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50c. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

\$25.00 Reward.

\$25.00 reward will be paid for proof sufficient to convict party or parties cutting timber on Byrum Estate. Late trespass on Spanish Grant, section No. 37, tp 6 n, r 2 w.

S. S. KEENER, Monroe, La.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given of my intention to enter the following described State land, viz: Lots 2, 7 and 9, sec. 24, township 8 north, range 1 east, and Lot 7, sec. 27, and Lot 6, sec. 35, township 8 north, range 1 east, aggregating 138.05 acres.

Selma, La., June 7, 1911.
STEPHEN R. TAYLOR.

Estimated Budget of Parish Expenses.
On motion of Mr. Parvis, seconded by Mr. Bullitt, the following budget of expenses was adopted, and after having gone over the assessments and estimating the expenses of the parish, for the year 1911:

Sheriff's salary	500.00
School fund	12,000.00
Court house payment	2,500.00
Bridges and roads	10,000.00
Court and criminal expenses	3,000.00
Maintaining prisoners	2,000.00
District Attorney	600.00
Treasurer	300.00
Justices and Constables	1,500.00
Printing	500.00
Per diem and mileage	500.00
Clerk and Attorney	300.00
Contingent expenses	6,000.00

J. W. DUNCAN, Prest.

J. B. ROBERTS, Secretary.

Notice of Filing of Final Account.
13th Judicial District Court, Grant Parish, Louisiana.

Succession of W. O. Cory, deceased No. 2540.

Notice is hereby given that W. A. Cory, administrator of the above named succession, has this day filed in this office his final account as administrator, praying that same be homologated and that he be discharged and his bond cancelled.

You are therefore hereby notified to file such opposition as you may have thereto within the time prescribed by law, showing why same should not be homologated and made the judgment of the court and the administrator discharged as prayed for.

Witness Hon. W. F. Blackman, judge of said court.

This June 6, 1911.

JAS. J. O'QUINN, Clerk Dist. Court.

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The Health of Yourself and Family

Pope's Herb is prepared to provide a dependable household remedy, based upon the principle of purity of blood insuring freedom from disease. It is a medicine for maladies such as rheumatism, liver complaints, constipation, fever and ague, female disorders, indigestion, lumbago, kidney derangements, catarrh, sick and nervous headaches, loss of appetite and all ailments arising from inactivity of the liver and kidneys.

It is a purely herbs, barks and roots compound. It is put up in chocolate coated tablets pleasing and easy to take (or can be dissolved in water).

Mrs. J. C. Meade, of Hyattsville, Md., says:

"For years I have suffered with backache, headaches, neuralgia and nervousness and extreme fatigue. I tried many remedies without relief. Four months ago a grateful friend induced me to write to Pope Medicine Co., Washington, D. C., for a box of Pope's Herb Compound Tablets, the very first dose of two tablets gave me relief. I used not quite a \$1 box and I am entirely cured of the pain in my back and have no more headache."

Dr. J. V. Hennessey, a prominent physician and surgeon of Albany, N. Y., in part says:

"As a blood purifier, liver, kidney and system regulator I prescribe Pope Medicine Co.'s of Washington, D. C. Herb Compound, as I have done for the past 20 years, and I have found it to be a great remedy, which seldom if ever fails. There are thousands of letters from users of Pope's Herb that have been benefited and cured by its proper use. Pope's Herb Compound Tablets are put up 200 in a box, 'six month's treatment,' and will be sent postpaid on receipt of \$1. Each box contains a printed guarantee binding us to refund the purchase price if the remedy fails to benefit, also full directions.

Guaranteed by the Pope Medicine Co., Inc., under the Pure Food and Drug Act, June 30, 1906, No. 3486.

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Pope Bldg. Washington, D. C.

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Stray Sale.

Taken up by Fandy Reed, of ward 6, Grant parish, La., one red and white spotted cow, marked with under slope and upper slope in lower, and crop, split and underbit in right ear, about 7 years old. Appraised by A. Hoffmister and J. F. Carmike to be worth \$12.

Unless owner comes forward and pays all legal charges same will be sold on June 24, 1911, at the office of the 6th Justice Court to the highest and highest bidder for cash.

This May 22, 1911.

J. R. GRAY, Magistrate Ward Six.

Petition and Ordinance Ordering Special Election in District 13.

Last, La., March 29, 1911.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Parish Board of School Directors of Grant Parish, Louisiana:

The petition of the undersigned property taxpayers of School District No. 13 of the parish of Grant and State of Louisiana, being the required number of the property taxpayers eligible to vote at special tax elections, respectfully pray that your honorable body order a special election held in the manner required by law, for the purpose of determining whether or not a special tax (5) mill tax levied on the year 1911 and ending in 1915, both years inclusive, be levied and collected in the said school district of the aforesaid State and parish, on all property in the said school district subject to State taxation, for the purpose of constructing, repairing and equipping public school buildings, purchasing school sites, if necessary, titles to which shall be vested in the public, for paying teachers, in fact for general educational purposes.

NAMES OF PETITIONERS.

F. M. Deen, J. C. Albright, E. A. Wall, G. B. Guyne, Thos. B. Deen, Leroy E. Warner, W. M. Foster, E. C. Sanford, W. P. Deen, G. W. Murr, J. M. Nugent, T. W. Young, R. M. Deen, Geo. E. Ober, J. B. Patterson, Julia Nugent, K. Hyde, G. E. Gulliam, D. C. Meade.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Grant.

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared J. N. Warner, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, declared and acknowledged that he was on the 15th day of May, 1911, and is now, secretary of the Parish Board of School Directors of the parish of Grant, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the petition filed with said board on the 15th day of May, 1911, together with a list of the names of the petitioners, and acted upon by said board at its meeting on the 18th day of May, 1911.

J. N. WARNER, Secretary.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 18th day of May, 1911.

J. B. ROBERTS, Notary Public.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Nugent, and seconded by Mr. Jackson, who moved its adoption:

Whereas, there has been filed with this board a petition signed by one-fourth of the property taxpayers of School District No. 13 of the parish of Grant, Louisiana, eligible to vote at special election, praying that a special election be ordered in and for said district No. 13, at which shall be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

To levy a special tax of five mills on the dollar on all property in School District No. 13 of Grant parish, Louisiana, subject to State taxation, annually, for a period of five years, beginning with the year 1911 and ending with the year 1915, both years inclusive, for the purpose of constructing, repairing and equipping public school buildings, purchasing school sites, titles to which shall be vested in the public, for paying teachers, in fact for general educational purposes.

And, whereas, in the opinion of this board such special election is necessary and advisable.

Be it resolved by the Parish Board of School Directors of the Parish of Grant, Louisiana, as follows:

Section One—That a special election be and the same is hereby ordered to be held in School District No. 13, of Grant parish, La., on

TUESDAY, June 27, 1911,

at which shall be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

To levy a special tax of five mills on the dollar on all property in School District No. 13, of Grant parish, Louisiana, subject to State taxation, annually, for a period of five years, beginning with the year 1911 and ending with the year 1915, both years inclusive, for the purpose of constructing, repairing and equipping public school buildings, purchasing school sites, titles to which shall be vested in the public, for paying teachers, in fact for general educational purposes.

Section Two—That the Secretary of this board be and he is hereby instructed to have prepared for use at said special election a sufficient number of ballots, on each of which shall be printed the proposition mentioned in section one of this resolution, and in the following form:

PROPOSITION.

Proposition to levy a five mill special tax on all property subject to State taxation in School District No. 13, of Grant parish, Louisiana, for the purpose of constructing, repairing and equipping public school buildings, purchasing school sites, titles to which shall be vested in the public, for paying teachers, in fact for general educational purposes.

NOTICE TO VOTERS.

To vote in favor of the proposition submitted in this ballot place a check in the square after the word "YES," and to vote against it place a similar mark in the square after the word "NO."

And the Secretary of this board be and he is hereby instructed to have prepared for use at said special election all the necessary ballots, tally sheets, lists of voters, assessed valuation of property, and compiled statement of votes in number and amount.

Section Three—That the polling places for the said special election shall be at Bucklew Predict, and F. M. Deen, George Ober and E. A. Wall are appointed commissioners, and W. P. Deen clerk of election to serve thereof. The said election shall be conducted under the laws of this State applicable thereto.

Section Four—The President of this board is hereby instructed to give notice of the special election herein ordered, by his proclamation to be published according to law, and in the said proclamation he shall announce that at eleven o'clock a. m. on June 27, 1911, this board will meet at the court house at Colfax, Grant parish, Louisiana, and in open session proceed to open the ballot boxes, examine and count the ballots in number and amount, examine and canvass the returns, and declare the result of the election.

The above proposition was adopted unanimously, all the members of the board heretofore named voting in favor thereof.

J. N. WARNER, Secretary.

J. H. McNEELY, President.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Grant.

Personally came and appeared before me, the undersigned authority, Prof. J. N. Warner, who being first by me duly sworn, declared and acknowledged that he was on the 18th day of May, 1911, and is now secretary of the Parish Board of School Directors of the parish of Grant, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parish Board of School Directors of the said parish and State, held at Colfax, La., at eleven o'clock a. m. on May 18, 1911, as provided by law.

J. N. WARNER, Secretary.

This sworn to and subscribed before me on the 18th day of May, 1911.

J. B. ROBERTS, Notary Public.