

Crook County Journal.

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TIMBER FRAUDS.

Proofs on Timber Claims Withheld For

Further Examination

Commissioner Hermann Thinks That Fraud Exists in Many Cases.

On account of the timber land frauds discovered in Montana and Idaho, Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, has suspended all proofs made during the present year under the timber and stone act, pending conclusion of the full investigation and inquiry begun some time ago. The suspension applies to all states where government timber land is purchased, and involves thousands of cases. Many large companies and speculators, it is alleged, have had "dummies" as agents, making purchases of these lands from the government. Commissioner Hermann said:

"Owing to the act of congress permitting selections of valuable timber lands, as indemnity for lands held by individuals and corporations within forest reserves, a speculation in so-called forest reserve scrip has developed. This is a means by which the owner of such lands within the forest reserves may relinquish them to the government and in lieu thereof take valuable lands out of the unappropriated public domain, or may convey his holdings to another person seeking to exercise the right of selection.

"This provision has produced great rivalry among speculators and extensive mining companies in the acquirements of large tracts of timber lands. It has induced many others, who are not owners of such scrip or exchangeable lands inside forest reserves, to avail themselves of an earlier act of congress, approved June 3, 1878, the timber and stone act.

"This limits each purchaser to 100 acres and expressly requires the applicant to swear that the purchase is not speculative, but is made in good faith for his own exclusive use, and that he has made no agreement whatsoever with any person for transfer of his title.

For many years, particularly the past year, this law has been grossly violated and abused by persons who perjure themselves before the local land office. The general land office has directed its special agents to report on any further cases that may be discovered and all land officers have been warned to exercise the utmost strictness in the examination of parties and witnesses. Many of the fraudulent proofs made must have been detected at the time had the registrars and officers at local land offices strictly applied the rules for scrutiny of proofs of applicants. After such proofs have passed the local offices, showing regularity and apparent good faith of entries, it is impossible for the authorities here to detect an error of fraud."

A crazy man at Moscow, Idaho, killed Dr. Watkins and wounded a deputy sheriff and one of the posse that attempted to arrest him before he killed himself.

Lady Representatives.

The ladies of Eastern Oregon may smile at the discomfiture of their brothers who resent the apparent want of consideration which this section gets in the way of political preferment. This year two ladies of the eastern part of Oregon have received the highest grand lodge honors in the secret orders—the first being Mrs. Clara Marsden, of Burns, as Grand Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, and the second the election, last week, of Mrs. Wilda Belknap, of Prineville, as Grand Chief of Honor of the Degree of Honor lodge. Like Mrs. Marsden, Mrs. Belknap is a lady who will at all times wear the honors of her high station with dignity and grace, and their fraternal sisters in this part of Oregon will find that if their orders shall follow the womanly precepts to be found in the character and examples of their chiefs, much credit will be due to the representatives of this section.—Harney County News.

Hatching Canaries.

To insure the hatching of canary bird's eggs more nearly at one time the first eggs are sometimes taken away by the fanciers and replaced by artificial ones, all being put back in the nest when the bird ceases to lay. While she is sitting the prospective father lives up to his responsibilities, and devotes his time to seeing that his mate does her duty, and when she leaves her nest, if she shows an inclination to daily, sharp pecks drives her back.—August Ladies' Home Journal.

Who is It?

A rumor comes floating through the air to us that "Sugar" McKay will, some time in September, take unto himself another lump of sugar. The fair one lives in Prineville but we are requested to not mention any names. But we will extend congratulations before hand. Antelope Republican.

Street Fair Failure.

The proposed street fair at The Dalles is off, because the business men refused to contribute. The Chronicle says: "It is hard to write this humiliating confession, but it has to be written. It means that we shall not alone have no street fair, but that we shall have no district fair, and no distribution of \$1500 appropriated by the state for premiums. It means that after working hard to get the district fair back here again we are too all-firedly mean and niggardly to put up the funds necessary for its entertainment."

Crook county will be the oil field of this state. If some of those oil promoters were to visit that country and see what we have seen in the neighborhood of Ashwood, and between Antelope and Hay Creek' derricks would soon be springing up in that section.—Pacific Miner.

Postmaster Summers is in receipt of a letter from Congressman Moody informing him that Chief Forester Pinchott and Chief Hydrographer Newell of the Interior department will be here today (Thursday) and would like to meet all the stockmen who are interested in the forest reserve and all persons who take an interest in the reclamation of the arid lands of this country.

OVER THE COUNTY

A Stranger Tells His Experience.

The Outlook is Good.

A Trip From Prineville to Miner's Flat and Return Home Again.

How many of the inhabitants of Prineville have ever gone east to the boundry of the county, what do they know of the possibilities of their county and "who is my neighbor." It was the lot of the writer to start out on a pleasant morning from Prineville for such a trip.

It has been truthfully stated that Crook county produces more cattle, horses, and sheep and of a better quality than any other county in the state of Oregon. This statement can only be appreciated by a personal examination of the broad acres of pasturage. The everlasting hills, immense fields of alfalfa that come into view as one passes along the highway, notwithstanding the large acreage held by the road land company, running directly through the county from east to west, comprising some of the very best sections of land in the county which causes a stranger to ask; "Why is this land lying vacant and unoccupied? For the 863,000 acres secured by the road company they marked a trail through the center instead of building a first class turnpike that would have in part shown some evidence of recompense to the state for the grant and be a pleasure to the visitor to travel over rather than as it is now, and right here I desire to say that if there is any crime on the statute that cannot be fully expiated by driving over this road, I would be glad to know it.

After leaving what is known as Poverty Flat about 50 miles east of Prineville where you will find mosquitoes and alfalfa, mosquitoes and timothy, and more mosquitoes and red top clover and quite a fertile valley with more mosquitoes, you travel eastwards and upwards until you reach a great plain on Beaver creek; after crossing Grindstone, you arrive at Red Rock Soda Springs a delightful oasis where the thirst of man and beast can be fully satisfied as the creek affords abundance of clear sparkling water as well as the spring does the cool and effervescent soda.

A few miles drive brings you to Miner's flat, a most wonderful country, the rock in the hills being filled with pre-historic clams, and other species of water inhabitants, fossilized wood, shells, clams and snails. The foot of a deer, or pre-historic cow, well preserved and formed was picked up the day I happened to be there. A pleasant drive brings you to Suplee, where warm springs of soda abound furnishing abundance of hot water for bathing, most delightful and refreshing after a dusty drive, and which are indulged in by the residents of that neighborhood for twenty miles around. A report reached us while there of the finding of the \$30,000 cache made some years ago by a soldier who resided there and that the finders had in-

formation of another cache on Stein mountain and were starting for the supposed location.

MORE ANON.

Oregon King Case.

The argument on the motion for a new trial in the case of T. J. Brown et al, vs. the Oregon King Mining Company was finished yesterday, and the matter was taken under advisement by Judge Bellinger. The argument was begun about two weeks ago, and was carried on for half a day. The matter was taken up again last Friday and proceeded for two days without reaching a conclusion, but the lawyers finally succeeded in bringing their talk to a close. The suit was brought by Brown to secure possession of the Oregon King mine on the ground of a former location, and was decided in his favor. Defendants, who are in possession of the mine, moved for a new trial. The mine is supposed to be very valuable, but it will require further development to show what it is really worth. Defendants allege that so far they have expended some \$30,000 more on the mine than they have taken out of it.—Oregonian.

Windmills at Burns.

We believe that the "per capita circulation" of windmills is as large at Burns as at any other town of its size in Oregon. There are three newspapers here, each provided with a six-horse power bellows. People who have pneumatic bicycle tires to care for sort of hanker for an injunction against the editors; for sake of the public good, we would advise anyone seeking an opening for a wind power institution to get closer to the Japan current.—Harney News.

Improvements at Fajr Grounds.

The State Board of Agriculture is making some wonderful improvements at the state fair grounds and old-timers will hardly recognize the place when they attend Oregon's greatest fair this fall. The old pavilion is being enlarged to double its size, and after the best exhibits ever seen in the state are arranged there will be ample room left for an auditorium, a thing that has been needed for a long time. A brand new, up-to-date creamery building is being erected; also where the best dairy display ever made in the state will certainly be seen. The machinery hall is being enlarged, new cattle stalls, hog stys, and horse stables are being built. A cozy farm cottage, hay barn, and new sidewalks are also on the list of improvements, and nothing will be left undone to accommodate the exhibitor and entertain the visitor at the state fair this fall.

Lester Bryan, who has been working for the B. S. & L. Co for several months, has returned to Antelope to nurse a foot which he accidentally chopped into with an axe. He reports that the Hay Creek company's sheep were recently shot into in the neighborhood of Summit Prairie, two herders being in close enough touch with the bullets to receive several of them through their clothes, and about 20 head of fine sheep being killed.—Herald.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges
News Notes of the Week
Timely Topics.

A shipment of 250 head of unbroken horses from The Dalles brought satisfactory prices at Kansas City.

The Eastern Oregon Land Company has men prospecting its Wasco county lands in search of oil indications.

W. W. Aldrich of Olalla was arrested and fined \$25 for dumping saw dust into Olalla creek in Douglas county.

It will take one hundred persons four weeks to pick the crop of prunes in the big orchard near Corvallis. 40,000 bushels is the estimate.

The opening up of the Kiowa-Comanche strip in Indian territory and the giving away by lottery 13,000 quarter sections thereof drew 167,000 homeseekers to the territory.

George Scott charged with furnishing liquor to an Indian, was held to the United States Grand Jury in \$200 bonds at Toledo, Thursday. Bonds were furnished.—Salem Statesman.

It is estimated that \$2,000,000 in bank notes is in circulation which have been printed from the plates of a defunct bank. The plates were supposed to have been destroyed 50 years ago.

The citizens of Sherman county are organizing a County Horse Fair Ass'n which will hold a fair at Wasco about the 26th of October. The principle object of the Association is to encourage the breeding of good horses of all kinds.

Ernest Billings, a seventeen year old boy, accidentally shot a hole through his foot with a .38 calibre revolver at the residence of J. A. Thompson, near Sweet Home, on Sunday the 21st. He had but recently purchased the revolver and was showing how it worked.

Figures compiled show the sheet steel strike is daily costing the three companies involved \$210,000 and the workmen \$156,000. In addition, many industries are badly crippled. These losses cannot be computed now. The Amalgamated is said to have a fund of \$200,000 for the strike.

License was issued today for the marriage of Warren Hamlin and Miss Fay Banks, of Oakville. Miss Banks is a daughter of the celebrated Louis A. Bank, one of the brightest ministers in the United States, who once ran for president on the prohibition ticket.—Albany Democrat.

Notwithstanding work at the Oregon King mine has been suspended for some time on account of litigation, development work on other mines in the Trout creek district is being pushed ahead and some good values are being discovered. Stock on one of the mines in the district has advanced 50 per cent in three months.