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The Editor of the PLAINDEALER has no intention of making a false statement reflecting upon the life or character of any person, officially or otherwise and any statement published in these columns will be cheerfully corrected if erroneous and brought to our attention by the aggrieved party or parties. Our intention is that every article published of a personal or political official nature shall be news matter of general interest and for the welfare of the state at large.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1903.

FOREST RESERVES.

The Oregonian of August 31st contained an editorial headed,

"THE TRUTH ABOUT RESERVES."

A portion of this editorial is good and true and was taken by the Oregonian in substance from articles written throughout the state on the reserve question. That portion of the editorial is as follows: "The creation of reserves has been made the means of giving away vast areas of the best timber lands, and, instead of serving to preserve the forests, the reservations have had an opposite effect. Wherever large reserves have been created, large corporations have been permitted to give up their valueless lands, taking valuable lands instead in other parts of the country. This is a proceeding entirely without defense. This 'exchange' of lands was no more nor less than a giving away of lands, and in every view of the matter it was no worse to give the corporations a million dollars worth of land without just return therefor, than it would be to vote a millions dollars out of the treasury for the same purpose."

"It is against such practices as this that the people should protest, and carry their protest to the government in such a manner that there can be no mistaking the earnestness of their appeal."

So far the editorial voices the sentiments of the people as they have been repeatedly declared in resolutions, on the stump and through the papers. It is not new or original with the Oregonian, it has been discussed all over the state by all the people.

The editorial continues: "But so far as existing reserves are concerned, the wrong has been done and no remedy exists. To throw the reserves open would turn the remaining timber lands over to corporations and syndicates. It has many times been said that the timber land grabbers desire the lands to be kept within reserves until such times as it suits their convenience, when they will be pleased to have the lands thrown open again, so they may take what they wish."

This latter confession must have been an oversight on the part of the Oregonian. Keep the land within reserves until such time as it suits the convenience of timber land grabbers, corporations and syndicates! Where are we drifting if the policy of the government is dictated by timber land grabbers, corporations and syndicates? We, of the common people, have known of this policy for years and have tried to prevent it and are still protesting against it. The powers at the capital tell us that the reserve is created for the purpose of protecting the water supply, and that they are dispensing blessings to us with a generous but unseen hand. Yet we are forced to believe that what is offered as a blessing will prove a curse. The same editorial would let us believe. "That the proper course for the government to pursue now is to maintain existing reserves, sell the marketable timber at its actual value and no less, and avoid

the abuses of the past in creating new reserves. The land has been withdrawn from entry and no more private claims can attach." The natural inference then is that the lands are withdrawn for the purpose of preventing the attaching of private claims. And the further inference is that the private claims are prevented in order that "timber land grabbers, corporations and syndicates may have such time as it suits their convenience to have the lands thrown open again." It has always been our contention that these forest reserves were very largely a fake in their inception, a fraud in operation and a robbery in their ultimate results. The true solution to the reserve problem is to open all reserves for actual settlement. Repeal all scrip laws in connection with reserves. Allow neither the scripping of reserve lands opened to settlement, or the use of reserve lands as base for scripping other lands. Abolish the infamous scrip laws and the reserve question (if there is any question) will very soon settle itself. Such lands as are suitable for settlement will soon be taken and that which is unsuitable will be ample for all the reserves purposes for the next 10,000 years in Western Oregon.

THE STATE FAIR.

Oregon's State Fair opens at Salem on the 14th of the present month, and continues through Saturday the 19th. This is termed "Oregon's Blue Ribbon State Fair," and if the efforts of the officers in charge of the fair are justly rewarded it will certainly be a "Blue Ribbon" event.

Hon. W. H. Wehrung, president of the State Agricultural Association, has been untiring in his efforts to make the fair a success. He has traversed the state from end to end visiting local organizations and county boards urging upon them the necessity of getting together an exhibit that would creditably display their products and show to visiting strangers the capability of this county. Many of the counties have responded with splendid exhibits, while nearly all the counties will have a showing of no mean proportions. These exhibits, while they are of course mostly selected specimens, are nevertheless great educators. People in one county may be making a great success of a particular grass or cereal, while those in a neighboring county, under similar conditions are not doing so well. The first neighbor exhibits his products, the second sees them, learns their habits and culture, giving in exchange knowledge he possesses of another product successfully grown on his farm, both are alike benefited and the community in which each lives is enriched.

The live stock features of the coming state fair are going to be of immense importance to the state. There will be exhibited at Salem during the State Fair some as high grade animals as the world produces. There will be draught horses weighing a ton and a quarter, trotters that are able to turn the mile in 2:10, the thoroughbred in all his regal glory. There will be cattle of the beef breeds, short-horns, red polls and herefords, the peers of any living. In the dairy breeds there will be jersey's holsteines and others without superiors. Hogs, sheep, goats and all poultry will be up to the standard requirements of the most exacting.

The agricultural display made by the different counties will be the very best product of Oregon arranged in the most attractive manner.

On all these there will be paid liberal premiums. The railroad transports all exhibits, whether grain, grass, fruit or live stock, absolutely free of charge both to the fair and return.

The attendance at the Fair will be very large, and every effort will be made to entertain visitors.

The importance of the State Fair is being more generally understood and the Fair is coming into greater favor each year.

Local Land Office not a Party.

In justice to the officers of the local land office, it is our duty to state that the disclosures published in the PLAINDEALER of August 24th in regard to "Questionable Methods" in the land department can in nowise be charged to the Roseburg land office.

The U. S. Commissioner, before whom the proceedings were had, is not an attachee of the Land Office at this place, but is a U. S. Court Commissioner, appointed by the Federal Judge for the District of Oregon. These Commissioners, of whom there are a great number in the state, are authorized by law to take final proofs. These proofs are sent in and passed upon by the register and receiver of the local land office. The case in question however had not been reached in its regular order by the local office, so there was no reason for the register and receiver to know anything about it's regularity.

The fraud was discovered by the merest accident at that time by the special agent in examining the witnesses on another case. The fraud was so apparent that it is impossible that it would have escaped the eye of the officers, as it consisted in part of unsigned testimony. This explanation is made for the purpose of dissipating any impression made by the former article that might reflect on the register or receiver.

Trouble over a Dam-Sight.

In regard to the article in the Review of Aug. 27th and 28th entitled "The Dam War is On", I wish to correct a few mistakes or rather misrepresentations under which the Editor is undoubtedly laboring, in regard to the blowing out of the dam belonging to the Potts Bros., Lumber Co., South Myrtle Creek, Ore. For the benefit of the public we wish to make a few statements; I have been operating a saw mill and box factory on South Myrtle for the last six years, five years before the Johnson Lumber Co. was heard of; have floated logs for the same length of time I have run the mill. During that time I have maintained three dams, one of which was washed away last winter a year ago, and was known as the Lally Creek Flood Dam, and was three miles above my mill and has never been rebuilt. The other two which Mr. Johnson states was put at his expense last year, were in reality put in between eight and nine years ago, by Jackson Bros., as the old mossy timbers will testify to any one that will take the trouble to look. Said dams were bought by me, together with a small portion of the mill, we now run. One of these dams is located directly at my mill, the other one-fourth mile above, the one that was blown out being located about 20 feet from the mill. Before spiking the gates in the said dam I went to Mr. Johnson and asked him if he wanted to make any agreeable arrangements so we could work to advantages. I told him that I was willing to make it all right all around but could not allow him to ruin my business entirely, but he would do nothing. I never tried to prevent him from opening the gate previous to this time to let the logs pass through, but what I objected to, was him using my dam and water to float his logs below, when there was not a log in the pond belonging to him above my dam. Every time they were opened it shut me down from 24 to 40 hours, and as this was done about twice a week you can imagine how much I could get done between times. It also states that after the dams were spiked bodily harm was threatened to Johnson or any of his servants who attempted to open it. The facts are, that trespass notices were posted and they were

told that they would be prosecuted by law if they disregarded them. It is entirely false that threats were made after the dam was spiked. The statements that defendants helped construct the gates in the dam, are also false. The fact is that one of the defendants, C. R. Potts, at the time that the gates were constructed, some time the last of November or the first of December, 1902, instead of July, as the Review states, had been confined to his bed in the good Samaritan Hospital, Portland, for some five months, he going there June 16th, 1902, before Mr. Johnson ever came to this place; and being there confined to his bed almost constantly till June 16th, 1903. He was sick there all the time while this work was going on unbeknown to him, except from June 16th this year. At the time according to the Review's statement, instead of constructing flood gates I was in the hospital fighting a hard battle for life. On the 8th day of Nov., 1902, I was on the operating table for three hours, and not constructing flood gates as stated. If any one doubts this statement they can inquire of Dr. George Wilson, of Portland, or Dr. Houck of Roseburg, and am under the care of the latter at this date. In regard to other statements I do not think it is necessary to

tendencies, so far as known, never having been interested in questions of that kind. He was employed daily on his father's farm.

The initial step toward the presentation to Sir Thomas Lipton of a memento from the American people, probably in the form of a silver service, was taken Thursday when the following resolution was adopted at a meeting held at the Waldorf-Astoria; The committee named to arrange for Sir Thomas feel assured they represent the universal sentiment of appreciation among all classes of Americans who love sport and admire a true sportsman, and acting upon that assurance they suggest to the general public a popular subscription to meet the foregoing view.

The remains of Lord Salisbury were interred Monday, Aug. 31st, beside those of his wife, in the burial grounds of the Cecils, at Hatfield. The arrangements were of the most private and simple character. All the children of the deceased were present, as were also Premier Balfour, Lord Selborne and a few intimate neighbors. Otherwise the mourners were made up of the dead statesman's tenants, retainers and inhabitants of Hatfield. The coffin was carried to and from the parish church by the old retainers.

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say anymore. I would not stoop to malign Mr. Johnson in any way, but he is not at all particular as to the statements and affirmations he makes to say the least. I am only giving facts as they are, and defy Mr. Johnson or any one else to prove otherwise, and am willing to face him in them at any time. As to the statement that Sheriff Parrott ordered the blowing out of the gate, we heard no such orders, Sheriff Parrott was there at the time it was done, he being there to serve the injunction. And after he had done his duty that he merely stood on the bank and watched the proceedings. We think that Sheriff Parrott knows his business too well to order a man to blow up a man's property with dynamite before there had been any inquiry or trial of any kind and without any order from the Court.

POTTS BROS.,
Lumber Co.

THE PRESIDENT IN DANGER.

From page and.

is one of three boys. He has two sisters. The family is respectable and is held in general esteem. Weibrenner several years ago had a nervous attack, which rendered him mentally helpless for a day or two, but his family supposed that he had been quite restored by medical treatment. Since then he had manifested no symptoms of mental aberration. He had no socialistic or anarchistic

A dispatch from San Francisco, of recent date says: The transport Thomas, which will sail tomorrow noon for the Philippines will carry \$5,000,000 in Philippine silver certificates, accompanied by a guard of 25 enlisted men of the fourteenth calvary.

Oscar Warren's Bail Reduced.

Upon a habeas corpus proceeding before Judge Hamilton, the bail of Oscar Warren was reduced from \$2000 to \$500. This is the case where a bar-keeper at the Cruiser saloon, some weeks ago, beat a man almost to death, the alleged cause being a demi mode, who was a frequenter of the saloon. His victim George Brown has sufficiently recovered to resume his position as one of the drivers on the Roseburg-Coo Bay Stage line.

The Matter Satisfactory Arranged.

In our last issue we had occasion to note what we then termed, "A Military Wedding."

An investigation before Justice Buchanan on Tuesday, disclosed, that aside from the minority of the young people, there was nothing in the way of a pure honorable marriage. Through the good offices of a friend of both families the consent of the parents was secured, and we wish the young couple all prosperity. A lot of trouble and unenviable notoriety would have been avoided, if the parents had exercised as much discretion before as they did after the matter became public.

Oregon City will have a free street fair and carnival to run from September 5th to the 8th, inclusive.