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THE CHRONICLE ANNIVERSARY.

Two years ago today THE CHRONICLE unfurled its banner to the popular breeze in the inland Empire and launched forth upon the sea of journalism with no misgivings as to the future. The course of the paper, and its present liberal support fully attest its worth and appreciation. It is not necessary at this time to enter largely upon a review of the past years work, nor make any glittering promises for the future. The fact is apparent that THE CHRONICLE is established in the hearts of the people, and we have a proud sense of the situation which prompts us to untiring efforts in the promotion of the interests of all classes for whose benefit the paper was founded, and so long as the people remain with us we shall remain with them, without prejudice or partiality, laboring under the banner of onward and upward, the greatest good to the greatest number.

OUR LAND OFFICE MUDDLE.

By reason of a ruling, made at the instance and dictation of United States Inspector, Harbison by name, the receiver at United States land office The Dalles, Or., refused on Saturday last, to issue any more final receipts to entrymen offering proof as required by law; assigning as a reason the sickness of the register, Capt. Jno. W. Lewis. It will be remembered that during the first session of the present congress, efforts were made to secure an extension of time in which claimants, under act of September 29th, 1890, were allowed to offer proof and pay for lands embraced within the law, generally known as the Railroad Forfeiture act; but notwithstanding the combined efforts of the Oregon delegation, the democratic house could not be induced to allow said extension to embrace only such entries as where claimants were actually residing upon such land at the time of the passage of said act, and the time allowed for all other claimants was restricted to February 2d, 1893. This was a small concession by a large democratic house, and was a gracious boon to a righteous few only, as nine-tenths of the claimants under the act of September 29th, 1890, were either living on other lands, or had exhausted their rights under the general land laws then in force.

Our object in calling attention to the provisions of the forfeiture act, is to show the "condition" which "confronts" entrymen, now ready and anxious to make final proof; and to show the grounds of complaint which the general public are now making of the way business in the U. S. Land office at The Dalles is now conducted; and to show the manner in which this important branch of the public service is being run, through the over-zealousness and domination of a U. S. Land office inspector, whose assumption of authority, is "cheeky" to say the least, even in the "wild and woolly west."

To say that this man has made himself obnoxious, in his official capacity with the general public is putting it mild, and the sooner he is ordered and directed to seek other fields of labor and pastures new, the better it will be for the splendid record of the U. S. Land office department under Mr. Harrison's administration. We of the west had a surfeit of insane circulars and arbitrary rulings from the general land office in the days of Andrew Jackson Sparks; and we vigorously "kick," just at the close of a well spent life, to be subjected to the idiosyncracies of this "government official."

But a few days since a number of citizens from Sherman county came to The Dalles bringing their witnesses with them for the purpose of making final proof on entries under the forfeiture act; but upon application at the land office were informed that the receiver would not issue them final certificates (receipts), but that the receiver would issue them a receipt dictated by Mr. Harbison, which in effect can only be construed as a personal receipt. In this connection we call attention to the decision of Secretary Vilas, in the case of Mathieson and Ward, upon application to purchase, from which we quote: "The receiver has no authority to receive money except when tendered in payment upon an application made to the register for the purchase of lands upon which the local officers having authority to act," etc., and further: "A payment received by the local officers in advance of the time when they are ready to act upon an application and allow the entry, is not in pursuance of any duty enjoined by law."

We believe enough has been said to show the necessity of calling the attention of our delegation in congress to the conditions which now obstruct entrymen upon forfeited railroad lands, and in urging that the attention of the commissioner of the general land office be called to the situation; to the end that some definite instructions may be given, looking to the relief of this class of entries.

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