

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

FRIDAY, - - - - DEC. 11, 1896

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

THE FOREST RESERVE.

The opening of the Cascade forest reserve to pasturage is one of the most important questions to Eastern Oregon. Several propositions have been made concerning it, one of which is the reduction of its area by setting apart two or three, or perhaps more, small reservations, around Mt. Hood, Crater lake, etc., and the throwing of the balance open. Another is to have entirely new regulations made for the government of the reservation, permitting the pasturing of flocks thereon under the direction of a superintendent and such rules as he might prescribe, one of which would be the taking of a bond securing the government against loss by fire, set or permitted by flock-owners or herders. If the latter plan could be adopted it would probably be better than having the area of the reserve reduced.

The protection of our forests is of the utmost importance, and the subject has awakened an intense interest in the East, where people realize what the destruction of the forest means. It is from them, and not from our own people the greatest objections to allowing the reservation to be pastured will come. It will come from them because they think the same conditions exist here as formerly existed there, but this is a mistake. Our forests are entirely evergreen, and in this respect differ from the deciduous trees of the East. The young growth of our firs is not injured by sheep, and the tramping out of such underbrush as the sheep destroy is of benefit rather than harm to the forests, in that it destroys the means by which fires run through the forest. Another thing is that the pine lands of the East do not so readily re-cover themselves with forest growth as do our fir lands. There great areas remain barren, and the same thing occurs in the pine forests of California; but here Nature is more kind, and ground cut over or burned soon starts another growth, a growth so prolific that a young fir forest is practically impenetrable.

If these different conditions were understood in the East, there would be but little difficulty in getting some modification to the present regulations. It would be a good move to have our coming legislature memorialize congress on the subject. And in the meanwhile the newspapers of Eastern Oregon should not be idle.

The taking away from the sheepmen of the summer pasturage of the Cascades, is virtually a confiscation of their flocks, and this means the destruction of the sheep industry in Eastern Oregon.

The description of the condition of India, printed on our local page, conveys an idea of the awful suffering already endured by the unhappy people, but at the idea of what is yet to come the heart turns sick. Yet, such is the nature of humanity, even while contemplating their calamities, we speculate on the price of grain, and as to what effect their misfortunes will have upon our markets. India will export no wheat next year, but instead millions of bushels must be imported to sustain its teeming millions of famine-stricken people. The plague that always follows famine conditions has made its appearance, and is bringing sudden death to thousands who otherwise would starve.

Some good legal member of the legislature can find congenial work and do a good thing for the fraternity, as well as everybody else, by compiling an entirely new probate

system. The miocene formation of the present probate aggregation needs to be set aside and something modern put in its place.

The purchase of the Barlow road by the state will be a good thing, if it can be purchased at anything like the figures that would be asked a private corporation trying to buy it. It is about the only road across the Cascades that can be traveled, and it should be free.

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Train No. 2 arrives at The Dalles 10:15 p. m., and leaves 10:20 p. m.

Train No. 8 arrives at The Dalles 11:55 p. m., and west-bound train No. 7 leaves at 1 p. m.

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69—TELEPHONES—69

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