

**The Dalles Daily Chronicle.**

The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

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

MONDAY, - - - APRIL 5, 1897

**THE FOREST RESERVE.**

It is with pleasure we commend the Oregonian's editorial printed below. We think it covers the case and the entire case, and we indorse the sentiments therein, because it expresses our own sentiments much better and much stronger than we could express them ourselves:

"It is believed that President Cleveland's forestry orders will be modified by President McKinley. They ought to be. The government should take vigorous measures against all timber depredations on public lands. It should enforce regulations against destruction of timber in the mountain districts inaccessible to settlement, because innumerable streams find their sources in those localities, and destruction of timber affects the steady flow of the streams, making them torrents at one time and greatly reducing their flow at another. For the timber well up toward the mountain tops there will not for a long time be any demand; but it ought to be preserved, not only for the reason that the effect of its loss upon the streams would be great, but for the further reason that it ought to be kept against a time when it will be needed for use, to be cut under regulations that will permit its steady renewal, so that the timber shall not be wasted nor the mountain sides stripped bare.

"In Oregon, at the present time, and to an extent in adjoining states, the chief interest in the subject lies in the necessity of using for summer pasturage large districts included within these forest reserves. It is an absolute necessity to take the stock from the arid regions east of the Cascade mountains into these woodlands, in the dry season of the year. To shut the flocks out of these summer pastures is virtually to destroy a great and valuable husbandry. It is a loss that Oregon could not afford. In this state of limited production, sheep and cattle are too valuable a portion of our available resources to be sacrificed, even in part, to any theoretical or sentimental idea. Pasturage on the reserves, under proper regulations ought to be allowed.

"It is believed there is much less danger of forest fires from the presence of the flockman than from that of the hunters, fishermen, mountaineers and mineral prospectors, who range through the mountains in numerous parties every summer, shift their camps almost every day, are proverbially careless with their campfires, and certainly are quite as likely as the shepherds to set out fires for the fun of the thing."

"It is announced that President McKinley will give this subject his attentive consideration. Means ought to be taken by the people of Oregon and Washington to give him complete and accurate information as to the state of the case and the interests involved. It is especially incumbent on our delegation in congress to give the president a full and careful statement; and we are certain that if the facts are made known to him, there will be modification of the order, within reasonable limits. Forestry is a very practical matter. It can have no hard and fast rules for all times and places, but should adjust its measures to conditions and circumstances. The timber of the country, on the public lands, must be preserved from destruction. But practical judgment, not sentimentalism, should preside over the policy employed for the purpose. We have large areas of mountainous woodlands in which permanent homes, owing to the depth of snow in winter, are impossible. The timber on

these lands must not be destroyed. But the lands should not be shut up against their only practical use, which, at this time, is that of summer range for the arid regions."

The sheepmen have again taken up the proposition of sending a representative to Washington to press the matter of opening the Cascade reserve to pasturage of herds and flocks. We had something to say in that matter when Mr. Steele was working it up, and we have not changed our opinion since. If the senator and congressmen can do nothing of what avail is a private citizen? We know that our delegation will do all in its power to open the reserve, and if they can do nothing, what can anyone else do? The sheepmen are simply fooling away their money in sending a representative to Washington, and will do more harm than good by doing so.

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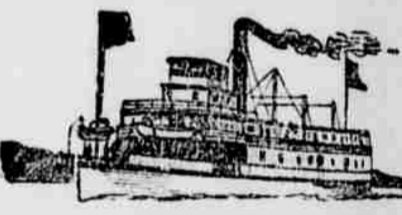
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