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Life is a gradual death. There are animals and insects that die on the instant of the culmination of the purpose for which they were created. Success is death, and death, if you have bargained with fate wisely, is victory. We hear of the hair growing white in a single day, and we know of men who have rounded out a life-work in a single hour, and of others who have accomplished between the rising and setting of the sun what associates spread out over a lifetime, and then failed to accomplish—Elbert Hubbard in Little Journeys.

FIGHTING THE RESERVES.

Portland has appointed a committee of citizens from the Chamber of Commerce to investigate the complaint of the people of Southern Oregon, against the creation of the Roseburg forest reserve.

This protest of Roseburg recites the fact that large areas of the public domain of the state are being withdrawn from settlement by means of these reserves and that material damage is being done to many sections by reason of them.

The protest says that much of the land now set aside in these forest tracts, is capable of supporting a population, and that the formation of so many reserves retards settlement and hinders legitimate commerce in the way of shutting off the timber supply of the large mills.

Does the city of Roseburg know that this is the very object of creation of the forest reserve? Does it not know that these large timber corporations, through the abuse of the timber and stone law, have driven the government to the creation of these reserved tracts, for the use of future generations, and the protection of the great water sources of the mountains? With this very object in view, the government has begun to lay an embargo on the abuses of the land laws, and to look ahead into the future, when other generations will have need of timber, water and land. If the large timber and land corporations had not put the magnificent laws of the United States to such bad uses, the formation of these reserves in the mountains of the west, would not now be necessary.

Portland must look into the nature of the complaints, and to the motives back of them, before she can afford to go to the national congress with the plea of the anti-reserve people. The creation of the reserve and the protection of the interest of the future of Oregon, mean more to that city than the temporary benefits to be derived from the operation of a few sawmills on her wharves. This question is made a commercial one, too often, and only in rare instances is there any just, public spirited ground for objection to the reservation of the forests.

There may be injustice in the management of them, or in the formation out in the principle, never. The creation of these reserves should be left to the chief of the forestry, Gifford Pinchot, who is the ablest judge of conditions and needs, on this subject, in the United States, and who studies the reserve question from the economic, and not its mercenary side. The people of Roseburg and of Oregon must be educated to the reserve idea. It is one of the national questions that is to receive

What better advertisement of a county can be offered to homeseekers than to say that the tax levy is low? Would it not be better for Umatilla county to assess all property at full face value every year, and make the levy accordingly? Would it not invite investors, permanent settlers and homeseekers to publish the fact to the world, that the tax of the county was only 12 or 15 mills? What man with money to invest will choose a location where a 30-mill tax faces him, if another country of equal advantages offers a 15-mill tax, or still lower than this? The high valuation and the low levy is the most practical and beneficial method of taxation. It places all property on an equal basis, and distributes the burden of government equally on all property holders. With the present valuation of property fixed by Mr. Strain in this county, an 18-mill levy will produce sufficient tax to meet the needs of the county. If his assessment is sustained by the county court, it means that the levy is to decrease year by year. If the court refuses to sustain his assessment it means that it will be useless to make a high assessment on one class of property if the same rate does not prevail in all classes, and the old levy of 28 to 30 mills will be necessary again after this assessment.

The exhibit of livestock and agricultural products at the coming Merchants' Carnival in Pendleton, promises to be extensive. It is to be hoped that the farmers and stockmen of the county and surrounding counties will take this opportunity to make a display of the wonderful resources of their industries, and that before the carnival closes those brought together by it will organize a permanent county fair and association, and lay plans for future meetings. It is the most remarkable state of affairs that can be found on the coast, this absence of such an organization in Umatilla, the greatest county in the inland Empire.

One feature of the program for the coming meeting of the Oregon Irrigation Association should be a series of talks by the actual irrigators of the state. The veterans who built the first ditches and reclaimed the deserts from biliousness are always interesting members of any industrial movement, and in this great national and state issue, they are especially needed to stimulate an interest and furnish ground facts for future work. The actual, active irrigators of the arid counties should have a prominent place on the program.

The arrest of T. A. Wood, grand commander of Indian war veterans, at Portland yesterday, for pension frauds, is not surprising to those who have followed his methods of securing pensions for disabled veterans. It is unfortunate that temptation successfully assails men in such positions. It reduces confidence in the

servants of the people and tends to retard the adjustment of questions entrusted to men in semi-official stations.

COST OF THE CANAL.

Prof. William H. Burr, of the Canal Commission, has done good service to the state by combating the railroad lobby's argument that "no one can tell what the barge canal will cost."

No cry could be more fallacious. We can tell what the canal will cost; we can fix a limit. And Prof. Burr agrees with Col. Symons, the distinguished army engineer, that the limit of \$101,000,000 already fixed is "very generous."

Consider how that estimate was made! As Prof. Burr says, "probably no other large public work in the state has ever been undertaken where the surveys and examinations required for estimated cost have been so comprehensive and so thorough." These surveys are checked by those of United States engineers and revised by the board of Advisory Engineers. The earlier and very liberal estimate of eighty-old millions was later increased by an unusually large percentage, for higher prices and for emergencies, to the present figures. For those reasons and because of the constant improvement of engineering machinery Prof. Burr thinks it more likely that the cost will fall short of the estimate than exceed it.

In any event we do not "count the cost" of vital necessities.—New York World.

Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

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