THE BEND BULLETIN


THE KLAMATH MISUNDERSTANDING
On Tuesday we called attention here to the protest file by the Klamath county court against a proposed exchange o
land for timber recently put in process by The Shevlin-Hixon land for timber recently put in process by The Shevlin-Hixon
Company and the forest service. Yesterday we commented on the seven grounds of the protest. We had said on Tuessay that
the subject had had the benefit of comment by Malcolm Epley in his column in the Klamath Herald and News. Since then we have found in that paper a statement of the approving
vote of the Klamath chamber of commerce. Today we want to
take up the subject as developed by Epley and the chamber approval.
We can best begin, perhaps, by quoting one of the Epley
Pook of the

Back of the county court's protest against a proposed
national forest land acquistion in Klamath ounty is a serr.
ous and growling concern over the extension of federal ous and growing concern over the extension of lederal
ownership of more and more Klamath cunt area.
Concern over siminilin situations in other counties has made
federal ownership of otherwise taxable estate a matter of federal ownership of otherwise taxable estate a matter of
Whdespread discussion in the west. The Klamath action will
have the effect of forcing the IIssue to the front and should
help bring about an understanding and, eventually, action help bring about an thatrstanaing anda, eventually, action
that we think solve the problems involved to be commended for taking this
step in the Interest of Klamath county.
The proposal against which the court protests is shown in
a legal ontice which has been running in The Hherald and
News for several weeks. The Shevin-Hixon people, who own News for several weeks. The Shevlin-Hixan people who own
extensive stands of land in notreren Klamath, in this proposi-
tion offer to the forest servie about 16.00 acres. in exhange
for ton offer to the forest service about otional forest lands.
for an equal value of timber on nate
If transaction goes through, the 16,000
arces would
so into federal ownership, and would be removed from the go into federal ownershlp, and would be removed from the
tux rolls of Kiamath county. Court members say that already
48,000 acres of such land has been removed from tax rolls in

 1999. This indicates that this is not strictiy cutover land, but
is land on which there is still taxable timber. Completion of
the deal would take tis timber off the Klamath rolls.
Shrinkage of taxable valuations plles more and more taxes Shrinkage of taxable valuations piles more and more taxes
on farms, surviving private timber, city property, and utili-
ties. If you have been following this discussion you will
quick to note that in this comment by Epley he has failed quick to note that in this comment by Epley he has failed
set forth the facts as they exist. We know him too well have any thought that his errors in this conncetion are in
tentional. We think it unfortunate, nevertheless, that th original Klamath thinking on the subject should be based o
a misconception because it means that before starting th a misconception because it means that before starting th
discussion the misunderstanding regarding the facts must b cleared up.
Let it be noted, then, that the Klamath interest is. in only
8,436 acres of forest land (some already cut-over) and not 8,436 acres of forest land (some already cuttorever) and not
"about 16,000 " as stated by Epley. It is, therefore, only thes "about 16,000 " as stated by Epley. It is, therefore, only these
8,436 acres that would be removed from the Klamath tax
rolls if the transaction goes through. According to the forest rolls if the transaction goes through. According to the fore
service the total Klamath acreage that has been acquired
exchange since exchanges were begun in 1922 is 52,737 exchange since exchanges were begun in 1922 is 52,737
which 1,140 acres were taken as roadside scenic strips.
of course, the important fact is not the exact amount if these lands go off the roll. The loss would be negligible. Th real loss-and an unavoidable one-takes place when the
timber is cut. That cutting the county would never think
protesting. Its interest, then, is in what the lands wou bring as reforestation lands-which they would undoubtedil
become at an annual tax of two and a half cents per acr
The figure, as stated here yesterday, is $\$ 210.90$. That flgur represents the prospective tax loss if the exchange is made
but against is is to be set up, again as stated yesterday, the
larger return from the national forests larger return from the national forests based on the increased
acreage in the county. The figure varies with the annual forest
income but it will probably be more than $\$ 210.90$-and the county will get it all while the $\$ 210.90$ must be shared with
one or more school districts.
Again. it is unfortunate that Epley fails to understand the meaning of the reservation of the right by the company
protested by the court, to enter upon the lands after the ex
change and remove certain designated trees. No skulduggery
such as is suggested by the court's fourth point listed her



Washington

Moths Fly Out When French Embassy Opens, Says Scribe

## Column






Certa Box Spring \& Mattress



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zaide by stimuns -a value in steep 29.95
White King Małtress

Sealy Tuftless Mattress
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prullow for the tired body - same as
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BEND FURNITURE CO.


## Tower Starting Tonight



Seene from "Yourt Ruse Wivid", one of the most taring, timely pictur
of the year, with Bonita Granville Kent Smith and lean Brooks.


