

The Heppner Gazette

IN WASHINGTON.

Williamson Urges Claim of State for Irrigation.

Washington, Nov. 8.—Representative elect J. N. Williamson, of Oregon, is in Washington for a few days, getting acquainted in those government departments which have direct supervision over matters of interest to Eastern Oregon. He has been conferring with officials of the Geological Survey, the Department of Agriculture, the land office and Secretary Hitchcock's office, extending his acquaintance, and familiarizing himself with departmental methods of doing business. More than all else, Mr. Williamson is urging upon the several offices the claim of the State of Oregon for immediate recognition under the irrigation law passed at the last session of Congress. He declares irrigation is the greatest issue now before the people of his district, and in view of the large amount contributed to the irrigation fund by Oregon, exceeded only by the contributions of Oklahoma and North Dakota, the state has a just claim for an early return.

Mr. Williamson finds the department proceeding cautiously in an endeavor to locate the initial projects in vicinities where the natural conditions insure success, and a quick return of the money invested. At the same time he insists that there are no more favorable sites nor more promising projects anywhere than can be found in Eastern Oregon.

Americans' Big Success.

TURIN, Italy, Nov. 8.—The American exhibits have met with remarkable success at the International Photographic Exhibition here. The New York Camera Club secured the King of Italy's

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prize while altogether the United States, although its exhibits were fewer than those of other countries, received the highest number of prizes, including five grand prix, two gold medals, four silver medals and eight diplomas.

Coming Back to Eastern Oregon.

One evidence of the superiority of Eastern Oregon's mining district's ores over any of the other new sections which have been opened up in the past few years is the return here of many operators, who left for those fields. There is scarcely a man who went from here to the Thunder Mountain country but what is back again perfectly satisfied to remain here. Many others who went to Alaska have returned and do not hesitate to say that the chances are better in Eastern Oregon than there. Nearly all the little hamlets that sprang into life over the Thunder Mountain rush are now deserted. The town of Roosevelt, which, it was claimed, would soon take on the proportions of a city, has scarcely an inhabitant today.

One reason assigned for this state of affairs is that the Thunder Mountain boom was started on top of about 10 or 15 feet of snow. The great strike had been made just at the opening of Winter and with the coming of snow there was no way of disproving the tales of fabulous wealth reported to lie beneath the soil of that country. It remained for the warm Spring days of the following years to expose the fraud that had been practiced by a few active and anxious boomers. The result was the rush out of the district was greater than the rush in, as many of the old-timers left in disgust also. Today Thunder Mountain is scarcely spoken of, while the Sumpter gold fields are becoming more prominent and valuable every day.

This fact is having its effect upon every town in the district. Sumpter, Bourne, Granite, Greenhorn City and many other smaller hamlets are growing rapidly, and in these places it is almost an impossibility to find a vacant residence to move into. The hotels are all overtaxed to accommodate the floating population.—Ex.

Alaska's Gold Output.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—Director of the Mint Roberts today made public his final statement of the gold output of Alaska for the last 10 months. These figures, which are based on the receipts at San Francisco, Seattle and the Selby refinery, show a total of \$18,870,075, as follows: Klondike (Canadian), \$13,861,095; Nome, \$5,008,980.

This total is something over \$4,000,000 in excess of the Alaska output for the entire calendar year 1901, the figures for that year being \$14,675,675. In the output for the last 10 months is included \$250,000 expected to arrive from the Klondike before January 1, and \$1,350,000 expected from Nome.

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