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LOSING ITS LAND.

Oregon Getting a Surplus of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Sept. 6.—When one-fourth of the area of the State of Oregon, including some of its most valuable lands, has been withdrawn from all form of settlement and entry, with the intention of ultimately making these with draws permanent, it is time for the people of that great commonwealth to pause and consider the situation which confronts them.

Such a time is the present. Such an issue has been raised. Its settlement is the question of but a few years. Are the people of Oregon to be heard in their own behalf? Are their wishes to be respected, or are the fanciers of theorists to be carried out regardless of the demands of an educated and enlightened public? Are the people of the state to have a voice in the disposal of its vast public domain, or are their demands to be set aside, their protests unheeded, their requests totally ignored? These questions must soon be answered. The crisis is fast approaching. The result is purely problematical.

It is no exaggeration to say that one fourth of the land area of Oregon has been segregated, by order of the Secretary of the Interior, and is today beyond the reach of the settler and the homeseeker. There are, in effect, in Oregon at the present time, ten distinct withdrawals made for forestry purposes, on the recommendation of the Bureau of Forestry, under Gifford Pinchot. These withdrawals contain approximately 464 full townships, or 10,690,560 acres. Add to this the present area of the Cascade reserve, 4,436,120 acres, and the figures closely approach one-fourth of the area of the state. The state's area is 61,277,440 acres. Unfortunately, the exact acreage of the forest reserve withdrawals are not definitely known, but the figures are conservative. For all practical intents and purposes, it may be said that one fourth of the area of the state is either now included in a permanent forest reserve, or is temporarily withdrawn from all settlement and disposal, pending investigations to determine what portion of the withdrawn lands shall be converted into permanent reserves.

A careful and unprejudiced study of the manner in which the vast withdrawals have been made in Oregon leads to the conclusion that there has been undue haste, that there has been too little preliminary study of the great problems involved; that there has been too scant knowledge of the actual condition of lands affected. In some in-

stances, there has been ample justification for making temporary withdrawals, but in few instances has there been warrant for withdrawing such large areas as now stand segregated from the public domain. Too much reliance often has been placed on recommendations of men whose judgment has not been the best. These men are, for the most part, representatives of the Bureau of Forestry. They pride themselves on their knowledge of all problems pertaining to the forests, and are—in truth, and frankly—inclined to believe that their knowledge is superior to that of other men.

Granted that this is so, some of these foresters lack practicability; they are, like most theorists, narrow in their view, seeing only one side to the question. They have not stopped to consider that other interests than those of the lumberman and the irrigator are involved. They do not duly regard the interests of the stockmen, and in this they gravely err. Proceeding on the theory that the future development of Eastern Oregon depends almost entirely upon lumbering and agriculture, the course of the Bureau of Forestry is amply justified, but this Bureau has almost, if not totally, ignored what is now and always will be by far the most important pursuit of the region east of the Cascade Mountains.

There is no intention to belittle the importance of the Bureau of Forestry, nor to cast slurs upon its good work. But the Bureau is handicapped by being in too great favor in the present administration. It is really the pet bureau of the Government. It receives liberal appropriations; it is almost unrestricted in its field of operations, and in the extent of its work, but more than all else, its recommendations are given more weight than they properly deserve. The judgment of representatives of this bureau is taken in preference to the judgment of more experienced men in other lines, and other bureaus are compelled, to a degree, to yield to the wishes of the foresters. There is too little restraint placed upon the Bureau of Forestry; it is the "administration's spoiled child."

FACES A CRISIS.

America Must Take Stand in Turkey.

London, Sept. 5.—The Morning Post publishes a letter from its Constantinople correspondent, in which he discusses the Beirut affair, and the position of the American missionaries in Asia Minor. He says:

"Things have arrived at a crisis. The United States must either insist upon the Porte listening to its representatives regarding American converts or drop the missionaries altogether. The latter course is naturally impossible, and the sending of a squadron has great significance as showing a determination on the part of America to take an active part in the Turkish question.

"One result of this step will probably be to induce the Sultan to raise his representative at Washington to the rank of Ambassador so that the United States can be equally represented here. At present, America is at a decided disadvantage in this respect compared with the other first-class powers.

"Nobody can quite foresee the ultimate attitude of the United States, but it is almost certain that her weight will incline on the side of the Christian against the Turk. At the same time, as a matter of importance to Great Britain, America is almost bound to oppose the decent of Russia on the Dardanelles, because in religious matters the Turk is more tolerant than the Russian."

To Try For The Cup.

Monteral, Sept. 5.—Graeme Hunter, who is stopping at the Windsor Hotel in this city, and who says he is a friend of Sir Thomas Lipton, is authority for the statement that his wife has ambitions for the America's cup, and may send on a challenger. Graeme Hunter comes from Arrocher, Scotland, and when seen tonight his first statement was to disclaim that he was a millionaire

as reported. Mrs. Hunter is at her home in Scotland.

According to Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Hunter, who he says is an enthusiastic yachtswoman and a member of the Clyde Corinthian Club, has had ambitions ever since the Valkyrie was lost off Hunter's Quay, Scotland, to have a try for the America's cup, and she has, he says, set aside £20,000 for that purpose. Her idea is to act as her own skipper and have an amateur crew.

Mr. Hunter says they have no intention of interfering with Sir Thomas Lipton, and that a challenge will be sent only in case the Irish Knight does not challenge again. In the event of a boat being built, it will be by the Messrs. Denny, of the Clyde.

Mr. Hunter says he once worked for Sir Thomas Lipton and made his money out of building operations.

Drainage tunnels have been completed that will enable the Cripple Creek mines to be worked 250 feet deeper than their present levels.

During the month of August just closed, there was coined in United States mints \$450,000 in gold, \$452,000 in silver and \$212,186 of nickel and copper.

In the United States there are 1,640,220 railroad cars and 41,228 locomotives. The railroad mileage of the United States would belt the world nine times.

H. Willis Haynie, under arrest in Seattle for robbery, says he would rather hang than see his wife, who accompanied him on his raids, spend the time in jail with him.

Weak Men!

G. & J.

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