

BOHEMIA NUGGET



Devoted to the Mining, Lumbering and Farming Interests of this Community.

VOL. VIII

COTTAGE GROVE, LANE COUNTY OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1906.

NO. 10

BOHEMIA MINING NOTES

And General Mining News Gathered from Exchanges.

W. H. Shane is taking a needed rest around town, but will soon return to camp.

Wm. Higgins is said to be a busy man, these days, and that camp has little attraction for him.

Albert Ziniker is making a number of little trips attending to various business affairs before going back up to the hills for a long run of work.

F. J. Hard went to Portland on Friday on business but will return in a day or so. He is very well satisfied with the looks of the mines, and is anxious for the snow to go so that more active work can be done.

J. A. Eade, Superintendent of the Oregon Securities Company, was a visitor in the Grove last week for the first time since he went up to the camp. He reports that everything is moving along steadily and that the good work is going right along. There is a great quantity of snow piled up in the canon and it looks as though it would mean plenty of water for the summer, but the company is not going to bank on that but will install a steam engine to furnish power when the water power is shut down.

Great Government Drainage Project, Enlargement of the Old Homestead Idea.

Guy Elliott Mitchell

The man who can provide homes for industrious and strong-armed citizens is a benefactor to the race. If Representative Steenerson of Minnesota can push his swamp reclamation measure to enactment into a law, he will be deserving of the praise of not only this but future generations. His bill is a practical extension of the old homestead idea, or rather, perhaps, an application to the vast areas of our swamp lands of the idea embodied in the national irrigation law.

There are in the neighborhood of 100,000,000 acres of swamp lands in the United States, some 70,000,000 of which have been surveyed, and the great bulk would make splendid farms, if the excess of water was drained off.

The Steenerson bill provides for the beginning of the work of reclamation of these huge areas. The measure is framed after the irrigation law; it provides that the receipts from the sales of public lands in the non-irrigation states shall constitute a "drainage" fund to be expended by the government in great drainage works and further, that the cost of such drainage shall be prorated among the land benefited and paid back by the settlers into the "fund" to be used over again for additional reclamation work.

WOULD CREATE THOUSANDS OF HOMES.

This plan of developing the internal resources of the country and making homes of waste places, is splendid in its scope, and appears to be entirely practicable and profitable. Take for instance, the single example of the swamp lands of the Kankakee river basin in Indiana and Illinois. Here are some 400,000 acres of the very richest of bottom lands, but subject to overflow. They are worthless except where they have been reclaimed through expensive private drainage works, when they have become worth \$100 and \$150 an acre. Yet it is estimated by the government surveyors and engineers that the entire system could be effectively drained at a cost in the neighborhood of \$10 an acre. The same can be said of the lands of the Red River Valley in Minnesota. These include the finest grain and farm lands in the northwest except that they are frequently overflowed. It would be worth millions of dollars to the farmers and settlers who would occupy these lands in small tracts, to have a perfect system of drainage provided. These extensive systems,

however, especially where they are interstate, seem to be feasible for handling only by the general government.

The Steenerson bill places the entire management of the work in the hands of the reclamation service and the plan of operation follows very closely the irrigation work now being done by that branch of the Interior Department. Government lands, ceded Indian lands and private lands may be included in any drainage project, but in each case, the cost of the drainage improvement is to be borne by the owner of the land and no settlers can have drainage provided for more than 160 acres, thus insuring the division of the tracts into small farms which must be actually settled upon and tilled.

DRAINAGE WORK ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

This work the reclamation service is qualified to do at this very moment. While primarily an engineering bureau it has, in all its great irrigation projects, to deal directly with the farmer. It must outline a comprehensive drainage system for each irrigation project, since there is as much danger from too much irrigation as too little, and to do this the service has its own farm and soil experts. Some of the irrigation projects have distinctively drainage features, in fact are almost as much drainage as they are irrigation projects. In the Klamath project 136,000 acres, or more than half of the area of the total project is rich tilled land covered by eight or ten feet of water, and is to be drained and converted into a thousand farms. The topographic branch of the geological survey, of which the reclamation service is also a branch has already run its lines over many of the great swamp areas of the eastern states and as soon as the Steenerson bill becomes a law the geological survey engineers will be ready to launch out into immediate activity in drainage projects.

WOULD START WITH A MILLION DOLLARS.

The fund provided by the bill would be small as compared with the irrigation fund—it would approximate half a million dollars a year and would start off with about \$1,000,000, the receipts from the sales for the fiscal year 1905 being included—but on the other hand the cost of drainage would not be so great as that of irrigation.

The importance of this work of wholesale drainage, in order to provide homes for increased population, is scarcely second in importance to the irrigation work. It means that tens of millions of acres of the most fertile land imaginable, which has lain idle for ages, may be converted from dismal and pestiferous swamps and useless bogs into highly prosperous homes, to become the garden spots of the nation.

The Dutch have reclaimed vast areas in Holland from the encroachments of the ocean. Thousands of families live and farm below sea level, gaining their security by magnificent feats of engineering and persistence. They now contemplate the drainage of the Zuyden Zee, reclaiming some 3,350,000 additional acres of meadow land. American drainage in most cases would be far more simple and less expensive, it is simply a question as to whether the nation will see the wisdom of setting its hand to this work.

ANOTHER INLAND EMPIRE.

In Florida the everglades alone almost solid muck beds, would afford an empire of some 7,000,000 acres; in New Jersey and Virginia are vast swamps, among them the Dismal Swamps. In Illinois which is generally regarded as a well settled agricultural state, there are 4,000,000 acres of swamp land; in Michigan there are nearly 6,000,000 acres. Fertile Iowa has about 2,000,000 acres of swamp land. In Minnesota there are almost 5,000,000 acres of rich unsurveyed swamp lands and huge swamp areas not yet surveyed. Arkansas has tremendous swamp areas which could be drained and made habitable, and in all there is a swamp area in the eastern half of the United States which is equal in extent to the great agricultural states of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, with three or four smaller eastern states eastern states thrown in,

OBJECT TO RESERVE OPENING

Citizens Assemble in Mass Meeting to Object to Opening 50,000 Acres of Reserve for Settlement.

A mass meeting was held in the Opera House on Monday night, the object of which was to get expressions from the citizens who are familiar with the reserve, in regard to the proposed opening of 50,000 acres of the reserve for settlement as homesteads, or otherwise.

The matter has come up through letters of Senator C. W. Fulton to prominent Lane County people saying that "Judge Chrisman of Eugene has stated to me that a large area of the forest reserve in Lane county possibly 50,000 acres would be much more valuable for other than forestry purposes, if it were opened to private ownership," and asking for their opinions on the matter.

J. P. Curran presided, with A. H. King as clerk. Mayor Veatch protested against such an action, stating that there was not enough open ground in the entire reserve that was fit to make a good garden patch. That the most open spot was Johnson Meadows and that it is at an altitude of some 6500 feet. That 50,000 acres out of the reserve meant \$1,000,000 and that if this land was opened for entry, that before one honest homesteader could get to the land office the whole thing would be taken up in scrip, which would result in driving all the small mills from the field and that the large corporations could then hold the timber as long as they wanted to do so.

Dr. Oglesby made a similar speech in which he spoke of the small acreage that was fit or suitable for cultivation and that he had been all over the reserve in Lane county and knew what he was talking about.

C. J. Howard read a letter from Judge Chrisman stating that he had received the information of the 50,000 acres that were more valuable for other than forestry purposes, from various persons who knew the reserve well and stating that the lands, as he understood it were along Fall Creek, the middle Fork and above Lowell. He also read a lengthy letter of protest to Senator Fulton, stating that there was not even 500 acres in the Reserve fit for agricultural purposes and that the government gave a person the right to take a squatters claim on tillable ground in the Reserve and after holding it for a certain number of years to gain a title to it, which should be sufficient for the small number of acres of this kind. A letter was also read from I. H. Bingham to the same effect and that at one time when it was sought to release two townships from the reserve for this same season, the government would not consent.

Frank Jordan also spoke concerning the matter and a committee consisting of Mayor Veatch, C. J. Howard, Frank Jordan, H. O. Thompson and J. M. Fisher were appointed to prepare and send a telegram to Senator Fulton protesting against the opening of any such acreage in the reserve which read as follows:

Cottage Grove, 3-27-'06.

Hob. C. W. Fulton, Wash. D. C.
Mass meeting last night are unit protesting against opening any part Lane County Forest Reserve for private ownership. Withhold any action until people of Lane County can be heard from.

R. M. VRATCH,
C. J. HOWARD,
FRANK JORDAN,
H. O. THOMPSON,
J. M. FISHER, Com.

If the Steenerson bill demonstrates that the government can transform swamps into fertile farm land and that the settler or owner will pay back to the government the relatively small cost of the improvement, there seems to be no reason why this work of creation of value out of worthless waste should not go on indefinitely and provide homes for millions more of rural population.

Subscribe for the Nugget.

Is Merging Many Electric Plants

The Willamette Valley Company, of which A. Welch of this city is manager, is carrying on active operations in the Willamette valley and other portions of the state in the absorption of available electric light, water and power plants and merging them into one immense system.

The latest acquisition is the purchase of the Cottage Grove Electric Company plant from Thompson & Abrams, the transfer of which property has just been announced, but the consideration is not given out. The company is also engaged in installing a 200-horse power electric light plant at Seaside. The Cottage Grove plant, which is of 100 horse power, is being equipped with new machinery capable of developing 100 horse power.

The Booth Kelly Lumber Company is preparing to install a large sawmill at Cottage Grove, as is also an easterner named Johnson, and a great amount of development work is planned for that section in the near future.

It is understood that the Willamette Valley Company, which is backed by Rhodes, Sinkler & Butcher of Philadelphia, I. W. Andersen of Spokane, and A. Welch & others of this city, is negotiating for the purchase of plants in Eastern Oregon, and will extend its operations into that territory.

Besides the Cottage Grove and Seaside plants the company has acquired possession of the Eugene-Springfield, Corvallis and Albany plants. Negotiations for the purchase of the Mouth and Independence plants have been reported but their consummation has not been confirmed.—Friday's Telegram.

Bids Invited.

The Farmers and Miners Telephone Company invite bids up to noon twelve o'clock of April 5th, 1906 for furnishing material and building a telephone line from Cottage Grove to Wildwood. Complete plans and specifications can be found and inspected at the office of the secretary of the company with Messrs Metcalf and Brund, Cottage Grove, Oregon. The company reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Cottage Grove, March 22, 1906.
A. Brund, Secy.

Grants Pass is glorying in the fine telephone privileges it is securing through the Pacific States Co. Practically all of Josephine county can be reached by telephone over the various farmer lines without extra cost, through the new arrangements. The work of making the new connections, and of installing a central energy system in Grants Pass is going rapidly on.

WASHINGTON LETTER

News of the Great Capitol

Congress seems to grow more earnest in the purpose of holding close hand on any great work of the nation and not delegating absolute and unqualified control to executive officials. When Senator Heyburn of Idaho, brings up for consideration his bill to place forest reserves under greater direct congressional control and take back again the power of creating such, it seems assured of greater support than was thought probable some time ago.

If the Heyburn bill does not secure a place before Congress, giving Western interests an opportunity for voicing the feeling there on this subject, it is quite certain that some other bill will be introduced. Senator Fulton of Oregon, has been endeavoring to get an expression of the Senate on this question, especially regarding the creation of more reserves. The experience of some of the stock interests of the state in so far being unable to convince the reserve management of the right of Oregon men to the range in that state, has been one feature of management that has created much discussion. In the creation of Oregon reserves the necessity of appealing from some of the bureau officials to the President in person, with the consequent trouble and delay of this prolix procedure and the positive statement made by many persons affected that land is now embraced within reserves which would be valuable for agriculture and horticulture, emphasizes the necessity of giving the people where reserves are created more of a voice in the work. It is held by many that this cannot be unless the power of creating reserves is left with Congress, in which body there is a marked tendency to defer local questions to the delegations affected.

Each session of Congress gives rise to renewed reports of a new mansion for the Nation's chief executive. This is no exception, although the discussion indulged this year is quite vague. Since the Nation began giving to some branches of the Government family beautiful homes, the consistency of improving upon the ancient and rather shapeless marble pile known as the White House, grows more apparent. There is one sight which every Washington heart leans toward for the new structure, this being in the Northwest section

of the city where there is a slightly little knoll of about the required acreage for commodious executive buildings. This sight has been unapproachable in the past, the owner placing a prohibitory price upon it, but hope burns strong here that the time will come when the new White House, which is expected to be a most elegant palace, will surmount this eminence. It is in the heart of the rapidly developing fashionable quarter of the city, and while not very close to other government buildings, would at the present day be very fit as the site for the President's home.

Price of Logs is Rising

Seattle, Wash. March 24.—The Washington Logging & Brokerage Association today advanced the price on merchantable and No. 2 logs to \$7.50 and \$6, respectively, an increase of 50 cents per 1000. On flooring the price was raised from \$10 to \$11. These are the highest prices that ever prevailed on Puget Sound.

Flooring logs have been raised \$3 per 1000 within the past six months. Increased prices for stumpage are primarily responsible, but the advance in lumber and great demand for logs is as much accountable. There is not an unsold log in the water, and every camp is running to capacity.

New Families Locate here

Fingal Hinds reports the sale of 2 acres of ground on south Fourth street to J. Fladager, who his father-in-law, Mr. Richards, and that they will immediately erect two houses thereon, one of which is already started.

He sold to F. Winzenread of Saginaw the large house just east of J. S. Benson's residence, and will move his family here. Mr. Winzenread is one of Booth-Kelley's head men at Saginaw.

Bert Willard has bought six acres west of town.

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., is sending out pamphlets entitled "Statement No. 1, explained for easy comprehension," in which he evidently takes it that Mr. Bourne is the only man that can correctly interpret Statement No. 1 and that the majority of the people of the state know nothing or next to nothing and can not figure it out for themselves.

The National Druggists Association and the proprietary Medicine people are sending out much literature to expose a so-called Physicians trust, the object of which is to drive the proprietary medicine man from the field and base their disclosures on articles clipped from medical journals.

New Stock

\$4,000

Worth of Mens Suits, Dress Goods and Dry Goods just arrived.

Garman, Hemenway Co.