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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 1903

Bryan's friend, Tom Johnson, has secured the Democratic nomination for governor of Ohio. One fourth the seats in the convention were contested and as Johnson had the state organization from two years ago all his partisans were seated. The convention will hardly add to party harmony.

Turkey having had internal and external trouble during the last two weeks has settled her outside difficulties and the Russian fleet has withdrawn from Turkish waters. A Russian consul had been murdered in Turkey and a number of Turkish officers expressed approval of the deed. The Sultan appeased Russia by beheading the murderers and dismissing from their places the offending officers. Internally, Turkey is experiencing the revolt of some of her Christian provinces. Both parties have had their little victories and each party has disgraced itself by massacres after each success.

Two American consuls have been shot at in Turkey. As a result three American war vessels are headed for the scene of the trouble. Turkey is an eyesore to Europe but each European nation is afraid to allow a neighboring nation to end Turkey's reign of vice and crime. These countries would be highly pleased to see the United States get embroiled with the Turk and put him out of business. The Turk, however, is one of the best crow-eaters that ever lived. He knows Europe is harmless and he will cut off as many heads of his subjects as he thinks will satisfy the United States. There will be no war.

The result of the late German elections will be very beneficial to this country. Heretofore the agrarian or farmer party has been in the majority in their national legislative body and has championed a high tariff on agricultural products. This policy made living for the working classes very high, so high that it is said that the German workman did not eat meat oftener than once a month. In the late election the agrarian element lost heavily and the tariff on agricultural products seems doomed. This will open a new and wide market for American meat and grain. It means that Germany is going to put her manufacturing interests ahead of agriculture.

England for the past few years has lost much of her manufacturing trade to Germany and the United

States. Her working people seem to have lost heart and they turn out less and poorer products than in former years. Now Chamberlain is attempting to establish a protective tariff policy that will aid her colonies. Should he succeed, English manufactures would undoubtedly suffer, and overcrowded London would be a place of starvation. It is improbable that Chamberlain will win and should he do so his policy will bring on a panic that will soon drive him from power. Germany is doing what England did years ago, subordinating her meager agriculture to her greater manufacturing pursuits. England, on the contrary, is going back to a policy at which she made a failure years ago.

Special Agent Greene who has frequently been a visitor at this place has become a hero. He has met and conquered the Oregon congressional delegation. The latter foolishly recommended an Oregonian for appointment as register of the land office at La Grande. Greene didn't like the man proposed and recommended a candidate of his own who was appointed. Greene is the highest type of the busy body. He is entirely incapable of seeing both sides of any question. Some people in this vicinity believe that he is responsible for the reserve policy of the Interior department in this region. It is supposed that the inspector had a heart-to-heart talk with some cattle men. If the Oregon delegation to Congress does not at least reach for the hair of Mr. Greene, it is no good.

Lands are Thrown Open.

On Monday, the 15th ultimo, one million acres of land in southern California were thrown open to public entry. That this was to be done has long been known and very much interest has been shown in the fact, especially by eastern people, who know very little of California conditions. Newspapers and public officials have been flooded with communications and inquiries concerning this land and it looked as though a second Oklahoma rush might be expected. We have heard so much about the value of southern California land, which is worth all the way from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre for growing oranges, that it is no wonder that the uninformed were ready to jump in and take up a fortune in 160 acres of such land when it was thrown open to them. But while California has some of the best land in the world it has also very much of the worst, and this is the worst. It is situated on the Mohave desert, between Mohave station and the Needles, and if there are two more desolate places on earth it has never been our misfortune to see them, and all the intervening country is a barren, desolate waste, without sufficient water to even provide for the teams that may have to cross it. With water it would unquestionably be first-class agricultural land and that water may possibly be secured from artesian wells at some time is

probable, but this is so remote a possibility that no one in his senses would ever take up a claim on the desert on such a chance. It is a region swept by the burning winds, where the thermometer registers 120 to 128 degrees in the summer and where 100 degrees is a cool day; bare of vegetation, except of the scrubbiest description—a barren and forbidding waste. We should not advise any of our readers to leave their happy homes in expectation of bettering their condition by taking up any of this million acres which the government has thrown open. And yet some 6,000 inquiries have been received at the Los Angeles land office concerning it and these have come from every state in the Union and from Canada, England, Australia and most of the countries of Europe. The writer has seen a great deal of that section and for his part any one who likes can have the whole of it for him.—Orchard and farm.

The Truth About Reserves.

The demand voiced in some sections for the abandonment of forest reserves already created is unwise. There is some reason for the protest against the creation of reserves upon the lines indicated by the recent withdrawal of public lands from entry, but the same reason does not exist in favor of the abandonment of reserves. The preservation of forests is a duty that this generation owes to its successors, but this duty will not be fulfilled by the creation of reserves in the manner that has obtained in the past.

As the Oregonian has many times shown, the creation of forest reserves has been made the means of giving away vast areas of the best timber lands, and, instead of serving to preserve the forests, the reservations have had an opposite effect. Wherever reserves have been created, large corporations have been permitted to give up their valuable lands, taking valuable timber lands instead in other parts of the country. This was a proceeding entirely without defense. This "exchange" of lands was no more nor less than a giving away of lands, and in every view of the matter it was no worse to give the corporations a million dollars' worth of land without just return therefor than it would be to vote a million dollars out the Treasury for the same purpose.

It is against such practices as this that the people should protest, and carry their protest to the Government in such a manner that there can be no mistaking the earnestness of their appeal. But, so far as existing reserves are concerned, the wrong has been done and no remedy exists. To throw the reserves open would turn the remaining timber lands over to the corporations and syndicates. It has many times been said that the timber land grabbers desire that lands be kept within reserves until such times as it suits their convenience, when they will be pleased to have the lands thrown open again, so that they may take what they wish.

The demand for the abandonment of existing reserves is a movement which, if successful, would play into the hands of timber sharks. The proper course for the Government to pursue now is to maintain existing reserves, sell the marketable timber at its actual value and no less, and avoid the abuses of the past in the creation of new reserves. There is no need of haste in creating new reserves. The land has been withdrawn from entry, and no more private claims can attach. The land department should carefully ascertain exactly what lands should be included within a reserve before final action is taken, and then the rules governing the exchange of lands should be so modified as to prevent the giving away of thousands of acres of the best timber lands.

It is not enough to amend or repeal commutation laws and timber and stone laws. No reserve should be created until the lieu land and "scrip" laws have been amended so that owners of valueless lands will not be permitted to exchange them for valuable lands. This is the abuse against which Governor Chamberlain has protested, and against which the Oregonian has protested for years.—Oregonian.

Few people appreciate the fact that man can modify climate. Pioneers of long-settled communities are constantly telling of the conditions they found at the inception of their labor, and newer generations can hardly believe their statements to be true. Pioneers of this region are frequently astonished at the appearance of some local product which they thought this climate incapable of producing. Summer night frosts are due solely to the lack of moisture in the soil. Our days are warm enough, but dry soil has no capacity to retain heat more than a couple of hours. The Sahara desert lying in tropical Africa is very cold of nights due to the same cause. Were there water on our desert it would take in the heat of the sun's rays in the day time and give it out at night. There is no known substance which retains heat so long as water. Fields of grain or hay tend to render climate more equitable because of the large per cent of water which they contain. A region having a high temperature in the day time and well supplied with water need have no fear of the temperature of the nights. Central Oregon is blessed with almost continual sunshine and can be made a farmer's paradise.

American missionaries are charged by the Turkish envoy with being engaged in encouraging revolt against the government. American missionaries seem to be getting unpopular. In China they have won the hatred of the people and the title of "foreign devils" and now they have incensed the Turks against all Americans. There is nothing intrinsic in the Christian doctrine calling for all these animosities and the American missionary must be degenerating.