

## The DesChutes Echo

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 1903.

### NOT A GOOD PROCEEDING.

Some days since we received a communication from one Dr. N. E. Winnard, of Albany, in which he states that a timber pool had been organized at that place for the purpose of raising the value of timber in the Deschutes valley. According to the letter the doctor is president of the so-called organization, the name of which he does not mention. It is evidently the design of this gentleman and some of his associates to entangle others in an enterprise for the benefit of the promoters. We suppose that the usual membership fees, dues, etc., are expected from the members of this association. The letter states that buyers are making efforts to buy these claims at prices ranging from \$800 to \$1000, and that the formation of this pool will force the price up to \$2000. This is certainly a most ridiculous argument.

It is well known that very little buying is being done at present on account of the obscurity of titles and that practically no value has yet been established on account of this. The doctor states that prices offered by some buyers are ridiculously low. The figures from his letter quoted above indicate that a substantial advance has been made in the offerings of buyers, especially when it is recalled that companies made purchases in the past at much lower figures. Powers & Dwyer purchased lands nearly nine years ago and paid not in excess of \$3.00 per acre; the Scanlon-Gipson Co. made purchases three years ago when the same price was paid; the Mueller Lumber Co. purchased their tract about the same time for a like figure. Recently the Yawkey Lumber Co. purchased a tract on Wood river, in Klamath county, paying from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per acre. It must be remembered, however, that Wood river timber runs 50 per cent sugar pine and that the stumpage is from 50 to 60 per cent greater than on Deschutes river lands. If the doctor's figures are correct, timber claim owners would at present be making about 75 per cent on their original investment. It is said that Ralph E. Gilchrist, of Alpena, Mich., has purchased 83,000 acres in Northern Lake and Klamath counties, in which vicinity the claims of the association members are located, for a figure much below that which the doctor gives us. We repeat, that if such prices as he names are being paid to those who wish to sell, that a reasonable profit has been made and that it is an indication that timber is gradually increasing in value.

The recent cancellation of some 480 stone and timber entries in Northern California was the result

of a scheme identically the same as that which Dr. Winnard is now trying to promote. In these cases the Department decided that the pooling of interests, such as is proposed by the Albany people, was sufficient proof to show that entries had been made purely for speculative purposes and in the Deschutes river cases it would be argued that the above plan was conceived before entries were ever made. It is not necessary for a person owning a claim to become a party to a deal of this kind when his resources enable him to hold it for an indefinite period. Furthermore, it is a dangerous proceeding to become a party to a scheme that would be considered speculative by the Interior Department and result in jeopardizing an entryman's rights.

Binger Hermann has come out with a letter contradicting the statements made by Senator Fulton as to the leaks in the Department of the Interior that gave scrip artists a chance at the public domain. What is the matter with Hermann? Is he afraid that if that line of inquiry were pursued too far it might become personal to himself? Mr. Hermann was never one of our heroes. He is said to have turned on the lachrymal fluid and had a weep when he was turned out of the land office. It was also intimated at the time of dismissal that Roosevelt and Hitchcock believed that Hermann could not lie straight in bed. Lord Bacon says that a politician must be a mixture of greatness and meanness. We can not see this mixture in Hermann. He seems to be a good crawler.

Joseph Chamberlain has resigned from the position of colonial secretary in the English cabinet. Joseph may give up position and give his entire attention to some other line of work but we believe that he will always remember vividly the day he knocked the chip off Paul Kruger's shoulder.

Couldn't the Oregon Journal send Paul De Laney over to Turkey as a war correspondent? De Laney's Indian stories are of the red, red type and his Turkish reports would make our nerves tingle. We would then know the worst.

Portland is too giddy a town to have such an old man as General Williams for a Mayor. The ministers are too pious and the toughs are too tough and he can't take a middle course because there isn't any.

Some persons object to the English form of government, but who wouldn't live under a form of government where an objectionable cabinet officer resigns when he can do the most good in that way?

The Irrigation Congress will meet in Portland in 1905. This is well. The strain of deep thinking can be somewhat alleviated there by a few hours visit to the streets of Cairo.

It is strange that in the administration of the laws of a state or country where cases frequently arise demanding prosecution that some

people, whose open violations are a matter of public discussion, escape the notice of officials in the performance of their duties. This laxity is probably most noticeable where individuals of high-standing or would-be-greatness are involved. Such short-sightedness is seldom noticed where the application of justice reaches to men of less or no influence, politically or otherwise. Organized cliques and factions of different kinds have shielded their members from prosecution at different times until it has become apparent that theirs is a power to license crime. The American idea is that all men are created free and equal. Therefore the construction placed on our laws should be applied to all classes and individuals alike. Why an official should be exonerated where a direct violation of law occurs is hard for us to understand; whether through ignorance or superior wisdom, he should not be excused. The Federal government prints an official envelope with the following extract from the postal laws on the upper right hand corner: "Penalty for private use, \$300." If the appending of such titles as U. S. Commissioner, Notary Public, Fire Insurance Agent, District School clerk, etc., etc., will abrogate such a law, then we would suggest that Bend establish a college, empowered to confer these valuable degrees upon all who put-teth up the dough.

Up to the late investigation it was supposed that postal officials were a set of routine slaves. Now we know that there were a great many thinkers in that department.

A report from The Dalles says a ruling has been made by the Land Department which limits the stone and timber right to persons who hold adjacent home-

steads and who desire timber for their own use. No other office than that at The Dalles has yet received notice and the chances are that the ruling has been misread. Were it a fact, all the entries made in this section by non-residents would be rejected and the land thrown open again. The stone and timber act has been in effect since 1878 and no such construction has been put upon it, although every phase of it must have been ruled upon many times. No one interested should give himself any worry on the subject. There is nothing in the reading of the act that could bear such a construction.

Idaho, through her congressional delegation, has signalized her intention of fighting the bills to be introduced in congress for the repeal of three public land acts; namely, the Desert Land law, the Timber and Stone law and commutation clause of the homestead act. Idaho realizes full well the benefits that have accrued to Western states through the operation of these laws and it would be well for her sister states of the northwest to join her in the fight. There is no doubt that the acquiring of government lands by the masses through these acts means a fairer distribution of privileges as well as good prices to the government for its lands—prices such as no corporation would have been forced to pay had these laws never been enacted.

A son weighing six pounds was presented to Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Gile at Prineville last Sunday.

### A. H. GRANT,

NOTARY PUBLIC.

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