

# The DesChutes Echo

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SATURDAY, OCT. 10, 1903.

## PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Land Commissioner Richards has given out an interview in regard to the formation of the Blue Mountain forest reserve that is very entertaining reading. The very fact that Richards has come to the point of explanation and seeks to justify his course is a pretty good evidence that he is getting off his high horse and that the Oregon press comments and petitions have hit home. It is also an evidence that the opinions of Oregon people will be considered before any new reserves are made. This will rebound to our benefit and people in this vicinity can now feel confident that the tract of land to the south of this place which was lately withdrawn from entry will again be thrown open shortly after a change of officials has been made at Lakeview. The commissioner's interview, though straightforward and most innocent in appearance, leaves very much to be read between the lines. In speaking of the Blue Mountain reserve, he uses one sentence to show ex-Congressman Moody's connection with it. Moody recommended it. Then follows a petition of residents asking for the reserve with a comparatively few signers. Then comes the most significant item in the interview—a letter from Williamson favoring the project.

Now it will be observed that the style and nature of Moody's recommendation was not mentioned but the text of Williamson's letter was set out in full. It would appear from this that Richards would be pleased to make Williamson shoulder the responsibility for the Blue Mountain reserve and to leave Moody in the background. When we remember that Williamson has opposed the reserve in this section in a most caustic manner and has expressed, on every occasion, opposition to its formation it is easy to understand that Richards is painfully anxious to have it understood that Williamson was the chief factor in the setting off of that reserve. The Blue Mountain reserve, however, had a good reason for existence. It is the source of water supply for a considerable scope of territory and it differs radically in that respect from the proposed reserve in this section. While forest-clad mountains gather moisture and feed it gradually to the surrounding level country, the tracts of yellow pine situated on the level neither get nor hold moisture.

Take the Deschutes river valley. If there is any surface water it never reaches the river for the Deschutes water is clear cold Cascade water all the year round. The water supply on these pine tracts is so scant that the trees stand quite a distance apart and their

roots run all directions several rods in order to gather sufficient moisture for growth. This land is arid, very little less arid than sagebrush land, and always will remain so until irrigated. All talk of water conservation on such a tract is rot. There is no water supply to conserve. Now we have a little insight into the influence that is moving for the formation of a reserve in this section. Williamson is actively and emphatically opposed to it. Who, then, is the sponsor for the project? Is it possible that Richards is relying entirely upon Moody for aid and comfort in this reserve? Is it Moody's work, and if so, what is Moody's game? Has he friends among the scrip men or what? The republicans turned down Moody for Williamson in this district and in the meantime it will render its congressman every aid in his fight against this reserve. His stand is popular in this vicinity and all over Oregon and he will succeed, we hope. If Moody is trying a shell game on us, we will soon find it out, although Richards will hardly admit that Moody has him hypnotized.

## TO SETTLE THE DIFFICULTY.

Truthful James, the local poet, has an article in the Oregonian in which he states that all the dissensions that have ever been prevalent in this vicinity have been due to pie and the different methods of devouring that pleasant but unwholesome viand. The dissensions mentioned have been resting in peace for some time but we are glad to see that Truthful has desecrated their graves. The off-hand manner in which Truthful grasps all the pros and cons of any question is as pleasant as it is astonishing. We move that Truthful be appointed a committee of one to decide on the only right method of eating pie and that all parties concerned accept the report and abide by it for all time.

Of course, we expect that the referee will select his own method of eating pie as the only proper one, and that is what we want. Pie-eating has an important bearing on character-building and we ask that the report include that subject. If a woman's name could also be rung in, in some equivocal manner, it would also be acceptable.

Capital punishment exists in a large number of states including Oregon. As a preventative against murder it is not a wonderful success. This can be easily shown by comparison with states which have no death penalty. As a spectacle capital punishment is nauseating and hardening. It creates a contempt for the sacredness of human life. We could well do without it.

The failure of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company ends one more business romance. The company harnessed the waters of Lake Superior for water-power, opened the Michicopin iron mines in Canada, built a steel plant and started to project a railroad to desolate Hudson Bay. The result has

been a horde of laborers clamoring for pay, a large mortgage ill secured and the waste of an immense amount of wealth and labor.

In his state fair address Governor Chamberlain attacked forest reserves and was cheered to the echo. There is no doubt about the direction the wind is blowing, remarks an exchange. True, but wind doesn't blow hard enough out here in Oregon. Could we prevail upon one of those Eastern twirlers to twirl Hitchcock back into Wisconsin and into private life again, there'd be a blow with good in it. Oregon winds don't amount to much anyway you take them. There's a Portland breeze about a railroad into Central Oregon, but it doesn't count for anything. Reverting again to Hitchcock: His latest is a turn down of the man who occupies Oregon's gubernatorial chair and with him the Warner valley settlers.—Klamath Falls Express.

Now, brother, be a little more careful of your geography. We are from Wisconsin, and although we do not come from the state where a show-down is required on every occasion, we would quietly and respectfully warn you against intimating that Hitchcock hails from the Badger state. Postmaster General Payne is from Wisconsin

but we never set a man right who credits him to some other state. However, a rogue gets arrested in Payne's department once in a while and a man weak in integrity finds a hospitable asylum in the department run by Hitchcock.

The following commentary on the Donkel case is worthy of attention for its tone of manliness and human kindness.

No greater injustice could be done this young man than to accuse him of a horrible deed, if he be innocent. It is to be hoped that he will prove his innocence beyond the shadow of a doubt and thereby turn all suspicions from him. His case is being thoroughly investigated and his guilt or innocence will soon be established.—Silver Lake Bulletin.

The curtailment of immigration has become a subject of considerable interest to Americans at this time. The class of immigrants shows plainly that we are getting too many of the incompetents of Europe. Scandinavian, German and English immigration are falling off while the South of Europe is moving over here.

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