

The Deschutes Echo.

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WORK WILL SOON BEGIN. Oregon Irrigation Company Completing Arrangements With State Land Board.

"All we ask is that we have the assurance that the land will be reclaimed without unreasonable delay, we won't permit any one to hold up the state by means of a contract for reclaiming land, and if a man has a contract and wants to go ahead we won't let anything stand in his way if we can help it." This is what Governor Chamberlain said to representatives of the Oregon Irrigation company which is to start work soon in this vicinity. Messrs. Turney, Guerin, Johnson and Elliott made plain their position. "We will go to work immediately if the land board approves" they answered. Then by letters from Governor Herrick of Ohio and from a number of strong Eastern banks they showed that they were well equipped with ready capital. Johnson is the brother of Tom Johnson, the Cleveland millionaire, and a man of wealth himself. On the whole the Oregon Irrigation Company now includes as strong a collection of capitalists and active business men as ever took hold of any business project. Any country would welcome a reclamation company so earnest and well financed and it is bound to be an important factor in this vicinity. The wary attitude of the State Land Board is commendable and would tend toward the belief that they have in mind some other company that has been abusing the power given it by its grant. The Governor showed a stern attitude toward speculative reclamation companies. The Oregon legislature at the special session passed an act giving the first user of water a right to it against all comers, and Mr. Hutchinson had filed a water right on the Deschutes that makes him and the company owners of sufficient water without any question. The Oregon Irrigation Company now intends to go to work at once and no later company will be allowed to lower the head of water which first flows into its ditches. Their position is a very strong one in every way.

BAD FOR CLAIMANTS. Mistakes Made by Commissioners and Entrymen Will Cause Much Trouble.

The predicament of people who have taken timber lands and made their sworn statements or offered proof before commissioners outside the land district in which their land is located is plainly set forth in the following letters from the acting commissioner of the general land office. Washington, D. C., Jan. 2, 1904. Register and Receiver, Lakeview, Oregon, Sirs:— In your letter of November 7, 1903, you stated that a great many proofs under the Timber and Stone Act are to be taken, during the next three months, at several places in your district, and you suggest that a special agent should be stationed at each of such places to cross examine the parties. Your letter also suggests that you are in

doubt as to whether applications and proofs made for lands in your district may be taken outside of such district, but within the county wherein the lands are situated.

The office has instructed Special Agents H. T. Jones and W. W. Scott relative to the action to be taken when final proofs are submitted. By letter "C" of October 5, 1903, you were informed that affidavits, proofs and oaths under the homestead, pre-emption, timber-culture, desert land, and timber and stone acts, must be made within the land district in which the lands are situated. The law is plain on this point, and such entries are not valid when the affidavits are made outside of the district. See act of March 11, 1902, (32 Stat. 63), and instructions issued thereunder March 26, 1902, (31 L. D. 274). You should notify any persons who have advertised to make final proof outside of your district that such proof cannot be accepted, and they must re-advertise. Very Respectfully, (Signed) J. H. FIMPLE, Acting Commissioner.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 23, 1904. Register and Receiver, Lakeview, Oregon. Sir:—

This office has received by reference from Hon. J. N. Williamson, a letter from Mr. C. M. Elkins, Prineville, Oregon, dated the 10th instant, enclosing one from you dated December 31st, 1903, advising Frank Elkins, that his timber and stone application for the W 1/2 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 1 & NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 2, Tp. 25 S., R. 10 E., W. M., could not be allowed for the reason that the sworn statement was made before a United States Commissioner at Prineville, Oregon, which is outside of your land district.

You are, therefore, advised that if the proof was regularly made before a qualified officer in your district, the defect in the sworn statement may be cured by the party on his filing a new sworn statement before a proper officer in your district, such sworn statement to be modified so as to show the applicants qualifications at date of original statement. You will so notify him. Very Respectfully, (Signed) J. H. FIMPLE, Acting Commissioner.

Land Opened to Settlers.

Officers of the United States Land Office at Lewiston, Idaho, have been notified by Governor Morrison that the state land board has decided to release filings on 45,000 acres of land in Joseph and Dumacque Plains, lying between Snake and Salmon Rivers, and about 100 miles southeast of Lewiston. These lands were selected by the state board last July, when blanket filing was made by the state on 72,000 acres of land. A letter from Chief Clerk Norman Jackson, of the land board, states that the land relinquished has been found by appraisers not worth the \$10 acre minimum price at which the state is allowed to

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There is nothing that delights the wearied traveler more than to find a real good hotel wherever he stops to rest.

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sell its lands. In Jackson's letter he says it is expected that homesteaders will settle on the lands relinquished by the state. When the state's filings were made last July there was considerable adverse criticism because the state made blanket filings under its 60-day preference right, claiming lands upon which settlement had been made in some cases over 30 years. In all, the state had taken lands already settled upon by about 80 homesteaders, and were compelled to relinquish in favor of these settlers.

New York has three presidential candidates, Parker supported by Hill, McClellan supported by Tam-

Bryan. It is likely that none of the three will get the nomination. What the Democracy needs is a man who has been in the public view long enough to give absolute assurance of his character and ability. All of these New York men may be presidential timber, yet they will have to be taken to some extent on credit. Absolute honesty should be the first requirement and saving common sense is the most important accompaniment.

Encyclopedia Jim, the Bulletin man, is now studying postoffice law. He may find that a course of law on penalty envelopes will do him the most good in the not too distant future.