

# The Deschutes Echo.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 13, 1904.

It now seems that timber claimants who proved up before commissioners outside of the land district wherein the lands were located will have their filings and proofs rejected. Those who proved up within the district but filed outside must cure their defective filing by refiling in the land district where their land lies. This refiling can be done at the same time as making proof and thus does not necessitate two trips. Considering the number of people who have proved up in The Dalles land district and whose land lies in the Lakeview district the rejections will cause a great amount of hardship and expense to people innocent of all wrongful intent. The ruling is good law but nearly every piece of patented land in this vicinity has been proved up on outside of the district wherein it was located. It may be that the defect of filing and proving up outside of the land district may be cured by readvertisement and proof within the district, and at the time of proof refiling. The conditions are unfortunate but ignorance of the law is held to excuse no one and the timber claimant who followed custom is granted no favors.

Binger Hermann has recommended to the president two men for one office. The president nominated the one that Hermann really didn't want and refuses to withdraw it. Hermann is the same old shifty, tricky, boneless Binger. The president showed a friendly attitude towards his discharged servant during the time that Binger was running for congress but that exhibition of good feeling was made for the benefit of the multitude and the president takes this opportunity to show the ex-commissioner that he likes neither hide nor hair of him, and will not stand any dog-tricks from the Oregon man.

Russia is about to take a few battles with the Japanese for the sake of a seaport on warm seas. We do not appreciate the great advantages that our wide seacoast gives us, until we see a great nation like Russia hazard her existence as a nation for the sake of a little sea coast. Russia has been planning for years this outlet to the Pacific ocean but she made a great mistake when she angered Japan during the China-Japan war by interfering with Japan's possession of Corea.

President Roosevelt is changing front on the negro question. He has appointed a white man instead of the negro, his former choice, for the position of postmaster of Indianola, Miss. The postoffice had been closed for over a year and the people received their mail from a postoffice some miles distant. The Mississippi people were stayers and finally won.

The Japanese navy consists of seven first-class battleships, two armored coast defense vessels, seven armored cruisers of the first-class, ten protected cruisers of the second class, eight protected cruisers of the third class, nine unprotected cruisers, seventeen torpedo-

boat destroyers, and sixty-seven torpedo-boats. Thirty years ago Japanese officers were instructed at the British gunnery and torpedo schools at Portsmouth. The Naval College at Tokio was presided over by Commander Douglas, of the British navy, and a large number of the best officers were permitted by the British Admiralty to train the young men who are today the Admirals and senior Captains of the Japanese navy. The British naval officers think that the Japanese fleet is better for battle purposes than the Russian fleet, because the Russian fleet, while larger, includes more old vessels. Ship for ship, the new Japanese battleships are as a rule better than the Russian ships of the same class opposed to them in the Far East. The Japanese fleet is manned by about 35,000 men, mostly drawn from the fishing population. The Japanese fleet has the advantage of being able to resort for repairs to well-appointed dockyards and machine shops. There is some provision for docking at Vladivostok and Port Arthur, but it is utterly inadequate for large battleships, so that serious accidents to Russian ships are not easily repaired. The Japanese are clearly using their ships as a cover to land their troops in Corea. If the Russian fleet leaves the shelter of the batteries of Port Arthur to interrupt this landing it can only succeed by beating the Japanese fleet. With the Japanese army landed in Corea, its communications are secure so long as it can stand off the Russian fleet. When the Japanese army is landed it will make a dash to break the railway communications behind Port Arthur. Of course the Russian army is there in force to protect these railway communications. The forces of Russia cannot be less than 200,000 men in Manchuria. Japan cannot probably concentrate more than 200,000 men in Corea for the invasion of Manchuria, and if the Russians are equal in military talent they ought to be able to defy successful invasion.—Oregonian.

There probably has never been a secretary of the interior who has won such unpopularity as the present officer. Every one who is forced to go to several hundred dollars of expense to retain his timber claim can blame the constantly shifting policy of the land department. The inquisitorial methods adopted towards persons seeking government land have been of the stamp which has never yet been accepted tamely by Americans. It is not an Americanism to consider a man guilty of fraud until he proves himself innocent, and such methods as are now in vogue will not last very long. We think that some method should be found for curing the defect of a filing and proof outside of the land district where the land is situated. The persons who filed are not to blame and the great expense of going through the whole process again would work a rank injustice.

Negotiations between Russia and Japan have been broken off. Russia has a treaty with France the conditions of which are that she will assist Russia in case the latter is attacked by two nations. If England supports Japan France will be compelled to take part and Europe will be broken up in factions. England has been urging the Japan and the danger in Russia's attitude towards India will eventually drag England into the war.

## Her Vain Plea for Sympathy

Russia shows a singular obtuseness in fondling the notion that she must account to the moral sense of mankind somehow for her course in this struggle. The act of Japan in cutting off negotiations at the very moment when the Russian reply was in process of delivery may be technically objectionable, but if Russia thinks any one is going to regard Japan any the less highly for it, she is greatly mistaken. It is probably true that Japan had recourse to arms for no better or worse reason than that she had meant to do so all along and only acted when she got good and ready. If this is immoral or irregular, Russia is welcome to make the most of it; but she must not imagine that the intelligent opinion of mankind will reprobate Japan or sympathize with Russia in the premises.

The intelligent opinion of mankind, so far as we are able to read it, will only glory in Japan's spunk and hope she will do Russia up in the most expeditious manner possible, without regard to the Marquis of Queensberry, President Woolsey, Francis Wharton or John Bassett Moore. The world will not inquire what sharp practice Japan resorts to, though it might view with indignation any similar exploit on Russia's part. If the Czar has the idea that the antipathy of mankind is to be mitigated by any appeal from him for fairness, he may as well strive to forget it. As for the powers, their moral sense need not be seriously considered. When the war is over they will step in and grab the reward. Their moral sense was shown at Berlin in 1878 and Chee Foo in 1895.

The night attack at Port Arthur may also serve to undeceive Russia, if she has counted upon anything but an alert, vigorous and cunning foe. Both on land and on sea Russia must count upon Napoleonic tactics and Nelsonian zeal. Where attack is desirable, it will be sudden and sharp. When the enemy is least expectant and where it is least prepared, there Japan will strike. When distances are to be covered, the Japanese forces will be there before it is time to look for them, and when the Russian squadron is resting in security and ease will be the hour for torpedo or combined attack. Valor, preparedness, strategy, endurance, all must be looked for and contended with.

If Russia cannot meet these on even terms, the beginning of the war will certainly go against her and time will be required to bring up her ponderous if unwieldy superior force. Meanwhile Japan will not be idle. The alertness her armies and navies showed in the war with China, hurrying from one success to another, should have shown Russia that Japan will lead her a terrific pace. It is of no avail to cry out that Japan hit her before she had her guard up. The most that this long appeal for justification that comes from St. Petersburg will provoke is the merry ha! ha! from the powers and from Japan another good swift kick.—Oregonian.

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