

The Deschutes Echo.

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MUST NOW GO TO DULUTH.

Those Making Final Proof On Claims Now Forced to Go to Duluth.

In accordance with the new ruling regarding the taking of final proofs on their claims by homesteaders, Judge Page Morris of the federal court, has requested the resignation of all the United States commissioners in the Duluth district, appointed in connection with land matters, with the exception of the official at International Falls the far northern settlement of St. Louis County. Communication with this point and Duluth is so very difficult that the International Falls commissioner will be allowed to remain in his position.

According to the new rules issued by the interior department, notification of which was received by the Duluth land office a short time ago, a settler who desires to make final proof without visiting the land office in person will make the customary papers out as heretofore, but can have no action taken in the matter until the special agent of the department is notified and investigates the case.

If possible, the agent is required to be present at the hearing of the case, when the final papers are made out by the officer who is qualified under the law to act in that capacity.

The new rules are an important step by the general land office to provide against fraud in the final entries on government lands, and it is thought by officials that the new arrangement of affairs will work well. Frauds in Minnesota have not been great, but a few instances have cropped out.

One of the principal reasons for the new order is that many of the commissioners are grossly ignorant of what their duties call for, and by improperly filling out the final proof notices and forwarding them to the Duluth office they cause a long delay to the claim holders, a lot of useless trouble and not infrequently a great deal of expense. Under the present ruling more trips will have to be made to the district land office by settlers, but it is said they will find it cheaper in the long run, and all chance of fraud or mistakes will be averted.
—Tower, Minn., News.

The World's Fair Route.

Those anticipating an Eastern trip, or a visit to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, cannot afford to overlook the advantages offered by the Missouri Pacific Railway, which, on account of its various routes and gateways, has been appropriately named "The World's Fair Route." Passengers from the Northwest take the Missouri Pacific trains from Denver or Pueblo, with the choice of either going direct through Kansas City, or via Wichita, Fort Scott and Pleasant Hill.

Two trains daily from Denver and Pueblo to St. Louis without change, carrying all classes of modern equipment, including electric lighted observation parlor cafe dining cars. Ten daily trains between Kansas City and St. Louis. Write, or call on W. C. McBride, General Agent, 124 Third street,

Portland, for detailed information and illustrated literature.

Irrigation Activities.

The D. I. & P. Co. is gradually increasing the number of its crew and is rapidly preparing for a great summer's work. The mild winter has favored construction work for this year, since grain and hay are likely to be obtainable at more reasonable prices than were current last year. On account of the severity of last winter cattlemen and sheepmen put up a large amount of hay last summer, and only a small portion of this has been used, hence the surplus will soon be for sale. Last Monday the company purchased seventy-five tons of high grade hay, which will cost when delivered some \$16 per ton. Richard Powell was the seller.

The new flume was tested last Friday when the water was turned into it. The test was successful but a couple of rocks must be removed near the intake. On account of the late start which the P. B. D. Co. made at ditching, a part of the ditch route near the flume became unworkable from frost. When the frost leaves the ground at that place the ditch will be made continuous. The P. B. D. Co. planned to cut the ditch only sufficient to give a channel for the water and then rely on the force of the water to deepen the ditch to the depth required, the wash being turned into depressions in the desert. The present company taking hold of the project at the time it did, will try this plan of construction, and if it does not succeed will revert to horse and man power methods. The company has arranged with Richard King for boarding one of the new crews to be put on the works and further arrangements or crew accommodations will be made as the exigencies demand.

The ditch now being constructed is well located for extension to the Agency Plains country, and in due course of time will be extended there. At present it will irrigate a tract of 10000 acres. The present flume would have to be remodeled in case of extension, as it is far too small for such a project.

Patents for Sellers.

Proof of putting water 12000 acres of land has been filed in the Dalles land office by The Columbia Southern Ditch company.

The contract of the company with the secretary of the interior was only signed a short time ago, and this action of the company is taken for the purpose of securing patents from the United States to the State of Oregon, and thereafter from the state to the large number of settlers who have already contracted for the land.

This company spent large sums of money on its tract before its contract was signed. It depended on its good faith in the undertaking and succeeded.

Preparing for Crops.

The stockholders of the Deschutes Reclamation and Irrigation Company held their annual meeting at Prineville last Saturday. New officers were elected for the

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Mrs. C. E. McDowell, Prop.

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You will pronounce the Columbia Southern the best by far of
any hotel you have ever run across in a city of Shaniko's size.
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coming year, and the policy of the company for the next season was discussed and decided upon. Frank Glass, of this place, was elected president and Wm. Johnson was made secretary and treasurer. The work on laterals which was in progress last fall will be resumed at an early date so as to permit the land to be placed in cultivation this year. This company has worked at its project faithfully, and will probably be the first to show to the doubtful what the Deschutes valley will do under water. It is to be hoped that a good acreage of the tract under this ditch will be cropped this year as a good market is assured at this place. Where this land was tried last year the results were very flattering. The company has sufficient water for 2500 acres. Major Elliott of the D. I. & P. Co., when

he was here, highly complimented members of the company on the character of the work done and thought that the company had under water an ideal tract of land.

Horace Tillard Jones, special agent of the general land office, of Washington, D. C., arrived in Albany this noon for the purpose of investigating all the claims of Albany people of timber lands in the Lakeview district made under Dorgan & Collins as locators, suspended for investigation. Mr. Jones desires to see every person in Albany having such a claim, at his room in the St. Charles Hotel, where they will be heard and their case properly reported to the authorities at Washington. If satisfactory it is probable there will be no further trouble in the matter of title.—Albany Democrat.