

Historical Society
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The Deschutes Echo.

VOL. III.

DESCHUTES, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 28, 1904.

NO. 1.

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Government Investigation.

At the request of Senator Mitchell, reconnaissance party will proceed late in June to make an investigation of the central part of Lake county, Oregon, with a view to ascertaining whether there is a feasible location for the construction of a large irrigation work for the government. Senator Mitchell describes this district as having a fine climate, where all cereals, fruits and vegetables that are cultivated in any part of Oregon grow abundantly, and where there is a fine body of agricultural land.

The Chewaucan river, which flows through this section, is reported to furnish an ample supply of water for reclamation of nearly, if not quite all, these lands. It has been reported to Senator Mitchell that reservoir sites can be secured to hold flood waters at different points along the stream. As Lake county has contributed largely to the arid land fund, citizens of that district are exceedingly anxious that this project shall receive early consideration.

Progress of the Water.

The D. I. & P. Co. is getting the tract of land under the small ditch under water at a remarkably rapid rate. To facilitate matters the company arranged with the Swalley ditch people for a supply of water from the latter's ditch north of town and connection being made the water is being used for testing the water carrying power of the Deschutes company's ditch. The company is doing a large amount of work towards getting its high ditch line mapped out. The Benham falls line is decidedly the big engineering feat of the whole undertaking, as it must water a tract of 100,000 acres or more. The survey is being carried around from the falls to Powell Buttes and an engineering corps is now at work near the Buttes. This ditch on account of the large amount of land to be irrigated will be a small river in itself until spread out into laterals.

Crook County Reserves.

It is probable that the Warner Mountain reserve will be thrown open. The following report from Washington gives the report on other reserves:

Forester Pinchot today formally recommended the creation of the Blue Mountain and Maury Mountain forest reserves in Eastern Oregon, the former to embody about 3,000,000 acres, within the limits of existing tracts temporarily withdrawn, the latter embracing 60 odd thousand acres in the center of Crook county. Because of some opposition to the creation of these reserves, Land Commissioner Richards will make careful examination before recommending final action. He will not act immediately.

Special Excursion to the World's Fair.

The Denver & Rio Grande, in connection with the Missouri Pacific, will run a series of Personally Conducted Excursions to the World's Fair during June. These excursions will run through to St.

Louis without change of cars, making short stops at principal points enroute. The first of these excursions will leave Portland June 7th, and the second June 17th. The rate from Deschutes will be \$62.50 to St. Louis and return. Excursionists going via the Denver & Rio Grande have the privilege of returning via a different route. This is the most pleasant way, as well as the most delightful route, to cross the continent. The stops arranged give an opportunity of visiting the various points of interest in and about Salt Lake City, Denver and Kansas City. If you wish to accompany one of these excursions write at once to W. C. McBride, 124 Third street, Portland, for sleeping car reservations.

A Governor's opinion.

Governor Van Sant of Minnesota, who fought Merger, has the following to say of the primary law:

St. Paul, Feb. 13, 1904.
Republican State League,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Gentlemen:

Answering your communication of recent date, permit me to inform you that the primary election law of this state is very popular. It has been in force for several years and works satisfactorily. It is certainly a great improvement over the caucus system. If you desire details as to the law and its workings, I would suggest that you write to Hon. W. P. Roberts, Guaranty Building, Minneapolis; he has made a study of the law and can give you much information of interest.

Yours very truly,
S. R. VAN SANT,
Governor.

For Irrigation Rules.

The state land board is en route for Crook county and may arrive at this place today. The party consists of Governor Chamberlain, Secretary of State Dunbar and Treasurer Moore. The board will view the Columbia Southern Ditch Company's plant and look over the Deschutes Company's tracts. Oregon has not yet determined her rules for supplying water to settlers by companies under the Carey act, and this visit of the land board is for the purpose of personally investigating the problem and determining the respective rights of parties in this region, and for other projects under the same law. The board desires to formulate a set of rules that will cover all questions that are likely to enter into irrigation so as to avoid future friction, and this can be best done on the ground.

It Will Be to Your Interest.

If you contemplate visiting the St. Louis Exposition, to secure reliable information as to railroad service, the lowest rates and the best routes. Also as to local conditions in St. Louis; hotels, etc.

If you will write the undersigned, stating what information you desire, the same will be promptly furnished. If we do not have it on hand, will secure it for you if possible, and without any

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Portland, Ore.

The Pursuit of Timber.

The present summer will, if the indications of today do not fail, see about all the pine timber lands in Harney county pass into private ownership. Of course this al-

ludes to such timbered lands as lie outside the forest reserve. The stability of the value of these lands has often been called in question here, and persons living almost in the shadows of the trees have neglected to place their rights upon them. The fallacy of such thought could have no better illustration than in the fact that people from many hundreds of miles away are making the long, trying and expensive trip in order to enter these lands.—Harney County News.

John N. Hammond spent Sunday in town. He says that the part of the automobile route constructed was successful but does not know when further work on the road may be taken up.