

The Bend Bulletin

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FROM SHANIKO TO BEND.

It seems that Mr. Harriman has finally consented to take the bonds for extension of the Columbia Southern railroad to Bend. The present mileage of the Columbia Southern is bonded for \$10,000 a mile and the O. R. & N., a Harriman property, holds the securities. But that road was built when times were hard and labor and materials were low-priced. Its freight cars were to be supplied by the O. R. & N., thus doing away with the necessity for a heavy investment in rolling stock by the Columbia Southern. Now labor and materials cost more and the additional mileage will call for an investment in rolling stock, so the new line will be mortgaged for \$15,000 a mile, and Harriman, probably through the O. R. & N., will take the bonds.

President Lytle, of the Columbia Southern, speaks of the proposed extension in this frank manner:

If contracts are signed, we will build from Shaniko, the present terminus of the line, to Bend, in Crook County. That will be all the construction undertaken for the present. I do not believe it is wise to attempt too much at once. If, after the road is constructed, we find that it is a paying proposition, then we will take steps to carry out the full plans and build farther into the interior of the state.

So Bend is the objective of the new railroad advance up the Deschutes. Here the enterprise will halt for a time, then further advance will be made. This programme cannot fail to produce an important city at Bend.

DITCH LANDS OF THE DESCHUTES.

Prospects of a railroad up the Deschutes valley to Bend next year adds greatly to the interest in the enterprises for reclaiming arid land in this region. Without transportation settlement of these lands, no matter how well watered, would be slow. This fact contributed a large measure of caution to the projects already on foot, for it seemed like a great waste of money to dig ditches through land that would not be occupied. With transportation reasonably convenient there will be no doubt about occupation of the land and use of the water. This means a new empire in Central Oregon.

Three large irrigation enterprises under the Carey law are now well on foot in the Upper Deschutes country. The most extensive is that of the Pilot Butte Development Company, which has segregated about 84,000 acres. Its contract has been approved at Washington and there is nothing now in the way of rapid progress in the field. The Oregon Development Company has applied for 68,000 acres along the Deschutes in Crook and Klamath counties, but a considerable part of that area has been amended out and the matter is still pending in the department of the interior. The Columbia Southern is the least extensive of these but its work in the field is farthest advanced, though Secretary Hitchcock has not yet approved its contract. It has 10,000 acres already under ditch in the Tumello valley, 10 miles northwest of Bend. Its rights (applied for) extend over about 16,000 acres additional. The P. B. D. Co. is now constructing ditch and flume that will carry water to 20,000 acres by spring.

Under the terms of the contracts the applicant for land in these ditch segregations must pay the company having the lien an average price of \$10 an acre. That is to pay the

cost of building the irrigation works. Such payment extinguishes the lien of the company and upon presentation of the receipt of the company the state will give a free deed to the tract. Only persons who live upon the land can get this title, however, and then not more than 160 acres will be deeded to one applicant. An annual charge of 75 cents an acre, in case of the P. B. D. Co., and \$1 an acre in the other two cases, must be paid after purchase, for maintenance of works and regular service.

This irrigated land will be immensely productive. It will grow clover, alfalfa, sugar beets to beat the world and many other crops of general agriculture. The temperature now is not encouraging for oats, wheat, corn and other crops that are injured by summer frosts, but general irrigation is expected to reclaim the desert in the matter of temperature as well as moisture.

So little general farming has been done in this region that nobody knows what even its present range of production is. A few things are known to flourish here, a few will not. With systematic tillage and water at call there is no telling what the Deschutes valley will do. He would be a rash prophet who should pretend to foretell what change the coming 10 years will bring for the Deschutes valley and for Bend.

PUBLIC LAND REPORT.

The land department of our government is thriving pretty well, thank you. Here are the figures showing total receipts from sales of public land for a few fiscal years past:

1894	\$ 2,777,995.68
1895	3,079,127.34
1896	4,379,757.31
1897	4,574,166.79
1898	6,361,672.79
1899	11,084,742.65

A very interesting part of the annual report of Secretary Hitchcock is this statement regarding the land frauds in Oregon:

During the past year there have been indicted and arrested in the state of Oregon, charged with forgery and conspiracy to defraud the Government, a United States Commissioner and three others, the first being a woman. The United States Commissioner has been removed from her office, and all are awaiting trial by the court.

It is alleged that several hundred entries and final proofs were made before this Commissioner under the act of March 11, 1903, all of which have been or are being examined by officers of this department. The methods pursued by these parties are alleged to have been substantially as follows:

Forged entry papers of fictitious entrymen, alleged to have been executed before the United States Commissioner, alleging settlement on a tract of land within the limits of a forest reserve prior to the creation of such reserve, would be transmitted to the local land office. Within a month thereafter, probably, final proof notices on said entry would issue, and after the period of publication required, forged proofs, alleged to have been executed before this Commissioner, would be transmitted to the local land office, where, everything on the face of the papers being regular, they would be forwarded by the Register and Receiver to the General Land Office at Washington, where, no intimation of fraud appearing, the proof was approved and patent on the entry issued.

Thereafter, forged deeds alleged to have been executed by the fictitious entrymen before this Commissioner or a notary public, conveying the land to one of the parties to the conspiracy, would be duly filed for record, and thereafter the land would be transferred by one of said parties to some other person, or else made a basis for a lien selection under the act of June 4, 1897.

The report has a good word to say for Colonel A. R. Greene, inspector of the interior department, who is in charge of the Oregon renovation, and for District Attorney Hall.

How it does pain some of the editors of Oregon to have the searchlight of investigation turned on the dark spots of public land frauds! Undaunted by the shocking revelation of the recent Thomson trial, the East Oregonian takes occasion to declare the inspection service rotten because it brought the swindles and perjurers to light. The exhibition in court was sickening enough, it would seem, for even the land hogs to be willing to let it rest, but their brazen cheek is equal to their conscienceless oaths and they have the effrontery to at-

tack the inspection which uncovered them. The Astorian is another paper that is moved to condemn these efforts to get the land tangle straightened out; and where have there been more open and flagrant frauds than in the timber districts of Clatsop and Tillamook counties? The pursuit of the thieves is getting so hot that every effort is being made to stop the investigation. It has ceased to be a joke and fright is taking the place of the complacent sneer among the guilty ones. Let the good work go on, we say. No honest man has anything to fear from it. Inspectors are not angels, but their work is producing a net result of good in Oregon.

It is fortunate for justice as well as for good citizenship that Dan Malarkey was not appointed to assist District Attorney Hall in the prosecution of the land fraud cases. Dan Malarkey is smart rather than able, shifty and tricky rather than honest, and above all a politician who delights in the dirty "practical" work of that craft. The appointment of Frost, of Alaska notoriety, to assist Hall was doubtless a mistake, but hardly a worse mistake than the appointment of Malarkey would have been.

Some 150 Greeks that had been working for the O. R. & N. Co. in the Grand Ronde and Powder river valleys, made an armed attack on the depot at La Grande Sunday in an effort to get at Assistant Superintendent Buckley. The railroad men sallied forth and there was a battle in which many shots were exchanged and two Greeks were severely wounded. Now the Greeks have accepted the railroad company's terms of \$3 each for transportation to Portland.

Brother Harriman seems not to have much regard for the feelings of the mill men and timber speculators interested in cornering Deschutes timber. His railroad announcement stiffened the price of lands of this locality prodigiously.

GRAND BALL!

ON CHRISTMAS EVE

AT West's Hall

GOOD MUSIC!

GOOD FLOOR!

Come and have a swell time.

There will be a saving of several dollars—in the way of Christmas presents—to the young fellow who has had a falling out with his best girl, and the anticipation of that sweet reconciliation is also a joy.

People kiss their dead who never stop to kiss their living; they hover over open caskets with hysterical sobs but fail to throw the wealth of affection about those loved ones who are fighting the stern battle of life. How unheedingly we permit the opportunities for carrying sunshine into the lives of those we love, to pass by. A word of cheer to a struggling soul is worth more than all the roses in christendom piled high on casket covers. The dead cannot smell the fragrance of the flowers, but the living can; scatter them broadcast in their pathway, therefore, and pluck out the thorns. A welcome smile, a cherry "well done", an affectionate look, will cause a rift to break in the lowering clouds and permit the glorious sunshine to gladden the lives of those you love.—Ex.

Z. F. MOODY,

General Commission and Forwarding Merchant

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