

**THE BEND BULLETIN**

CHARLES D. ROWE, EDITOR

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**Is the Waiting Ended?**

It is becoming more apparent every day that railroad transportation is soon to be given Central Oregon. Well confirmed reports are to the effect that at last, after weary months of waiting, actual construction has been begun on the Harriman line up the Deschutes canyon. A train load of men, with horses and construction tools, have been shipped through The Dalles to the Deschutes and are now at work building roadbed.

It is natural that many in this vicinity should look upon these late developments with suspicion. They have been fooled so often that they expect to be fooled again, and are of the opinion that after a few weeks of work the crews will be withdrawn. They are inclined to the opinion that Harriman is only at his old game of bluffing.

This may all be true, but The Bulletin does not think so. Harriman has bluffed all that is necessary. He has right-of-way locations made and could hold them without further expense, yet he has, during the past week, put on the largest crew of surveyors yet employed on this line. Neither would it be necessary for his agents to come into the Madras and Redmond sections and spend many thousands of dollars buying right of way if there were no intention of using that right of way. Harriman is not putting money into land for which he has no use.

The more reasonable version is that the beginning of construction on the Deschutes railroad has been made, and that other camps will be established and everything gotten in readiness for the vigorous prosecution of construction during the winter. Harriman and his lieutenants have insisted that the Deschutes road would be built just as soon as the proper arrangements could be perfected.

It begins to look as though they were really telling the truth.

**The Bulletin Differs.**

While The Bulletin agrees with some of the statements made by ex-Congressman Williamson in his Fourth of July oration at Bend, yet it differs radically from him on the three leading points of his address and believes him to be in error. The speaker deplored the tendency of late years to centralize so great power in the federal government, at the same time taking it away from the states. The Bulletin sees no cause for alarm in this tendency. You can not have a strong, efficient government without it has power to handle the problems that come before it. One of the principal questions before the United States government today is the proper curbing and handling of the criminal rich and the monopolistic trusts. As an example, the trusts—as corporations—are first created by the various states. It becomes the government's work, however, to properly control them. One of the greatest difficulties in doing this has been the fact that the corporations, having been created by the states, were very difficult to control due to lack of power by the federal government. Some of our ablest statesmen have advocated that these corporations should have power to engage in business only under a federal license, believing this to be the best way to solve the trust difficulty. That would give more power to the federal government, with a corresponding decrease in the

state's authority. We need a strong central government. There is, at the present time, no cause for alarm in this respect.

Secondly, Mr. Williamson attacked unsparingly the special agents which the government has employed during the past few years. The Bulletin admits that some abuses may be traceable to this source, and that some of the agents may be woefully incompetent, but conditions as they have existed during late years have fully justified the employment of these men. The graft and corruption that have been disclosed during the past decade are sufficient proof that the government was badly in need of men whose business it was to look carefully after the affairs of the government. Practically all of the natural resources of the country—such as timber, mines, valuable lands, etc.—have been gobbled up, and often really stolen, by a comparatively few men. It is only necessary to consider these conditions, which are well known facts, for one to conclude that the special agents should have been employed long ago. If they had been, perhaps the government would possess now some of its timber lands and mines that have been illegally acquired. How about the railroad company that has been forced to surrender title to several thousand acres of coal lands that had been fraudulently acquired? And how will the government be able to conduct its affairs, say here in Crook county, if men are not sent out to examine conditions on the ground—in other words, special agents?

Mr. Williamson's third attack was on the initiative and referendum, and he pronounced them most pernicious. Again, we differ. These measures undoubtedly have been much overworked in Oregon. The people have been like a boy with a new watch—have wanted to play with the attraction too much. They should be amended in a few respects, and by all means, every little, insignificant measure, wanted by some particular locality, should

not be put on the ballot for the people to vote upon. But the principle behind the initiative and referendum is sound and, The Bulletin believes, will ultimately work out successfully. In fact, the I. and R. already have accomplished much for Oregon and should never be repealed.

The speaker was inconsistent in that he deplored the centralization of power in the federal government and later condemned the initiative and referendum, the aim of which is to give power to the people.

The chief opponents of the initiative and referendum are the old-time, old-school politicians. They hate the I. and R. and the direct primary with the bitterest hatred. These very measures are loved by the people in general because of the enemies they have made. If you wish to know the reason for the popularity of these measures, just look at the men who, everywhere, are head and front of the opposition to them. The people are competent to pass upon any measure of really leading importance. The initiative and referendum gives them the privilege of doing so.

Mr. Williamson also said the one test as to whether the present generation is doing its duty is whether it is or is not preserving the form of government, intact and unchanged, as created by and handed down to us by our forefathers. The Bulletin differs radically with him in this regard. From 1776 to 1909 is a span of 133 years. Has the world learned nothing in government in all those years? Did our forefathers possess all knowledge in this regard, or were they just ordinary individuals like the rest of us? Did all advance in governmental wisdom stop with their death? The Bulletin believes not. It believes that the world is constantly advancing and learning. And one of the surest signs of decay is when a people sit down and refuse to apply to their form of government those new methods which advancing civilization declares are good and wise. If we learn anything today that is good—even though it be in direct opposition to what our forefathers believed—then, if it is good, we

should adopt it. To fail to do so is a crime.

Complaints have been made to The Bulletin that the boys of the town are using the Pilot Butte canal, just where the town lateral comes out, for a swimming hole. Inasmuch as some of the townspeople, who are not supplied from the city water system, are obliged to use water from the canal for drinking and cooking purposes, this pastime of the boys should be stopped at once. No one begrudges the boys the pleasure of swimming, but please don't swim in our water pail.

**RECORDS OF FIRE LOSSES.**

Statistics Will Be Compiled Showing Damage to Oregon Forests.

The forest service of the United States is co-operating with the various states to prevent forest fires and to secure statistics of the amount of timber burned each year. This movement will interest people in this vicinity because of the great wealth represented in our vast pine forests. While timber here is very seldom damaged to any great extent by fire, nevertheless any movement undertaken to prevent such fires will receive the hearty support of Bend people. A letter from the forest service at Portland reads:

State officials, associations and individuals will co-operate with the United States Forest Service in an attempt to get accurate records of all fire losses in Oregon and Washington this summer. The forest service will compile a report showing by counties, the area burned over of merchantable timber, non-merchantable timber, and cut over land; the quantity and value of the timber destroyed, and the cost of fighting the fires. In this way the federal and state governments as well as the public will be enabled to obtain at once systematic information concerning all fire losses in these states.

Heretofore, this information has been only partially collected. The forest service has secured comprehensive reports from rangers on the national forests, but from no other source. The state boards of forestry in Oregon and Washington

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have had reports from their wardens, but many regions had no wardens. The state and government statistics were in different form and not brought together. Consequently, although those interested in the subject know in a general way that fire entails an enormous loss to the community every year, they have been unable to back their arguments for remedial action with any definite proof.

District Forester E. T. Allen is receiving the active help of the Oregon Conservation Association, the Oregon State Board of Forestry, and the Washington Forest Fire Association in organizing the work. The two latter have revised their report forms to bring out the same facts regarding all fires. The Oregon Conservation Association is canvassing the state to secure suitable men to act as fire wardens and report on fires in their territory and presents their names to the state board for appointment. It will also send each man a post card reminder every two weeks, with a return card on which he will enter a few main facts about the fire. The Washington Forest Fire Association will collect reports from its rangers and from other correspondents where it has no rangers. The forest service will furnish franked envelopes for mailing in the reports, and compile the results. The Washington State Board of Forestry has not made any agreement as yet, but will undoubtedly furnish all the aid it can.

Every lumberman, or any one else who is interested in preventing forest fires, will see the advantage in bringing this information before the public and can be of great assistance by reporting fires in his vicinity. Forms will be furnished on application to the Secretary of the Oregon State Board of Forestry, or, in Washington, to the Washington Forest Fire Association.

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