

THE BEND BULLETIN

CHARLES D. ROWE.....EDITOR

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The spirit shown by the Bend Board of Trade in urging the Reclamation Service to take up the Crooked River Project, is most commendable. That spirit should be found prevalent throughout all of Central Oregon, and each section should base its labors on the broad principle that what helps to develop one community will likewise redound to the advantage of all. Let us all pull together for the upbuilding of a great and prosperous "Inland Empire" in Oregon.

The country knows very well what will be the verdict of the congressional committee appointed to investigate the Department of the Interior and the Forestry Bureau. There is but little respect for congressional investigating committees. Their findings have too often been tinged with whitewash. Secretary Ballinger is being bitterly attacked and his character questioned. It is to be regretted that there is not some better means for shifting this whole dirty matter to the very bottom. If the Secretary is innocent his detractors should be punished; if he is guilty, he merits the fullest punishment and severest condemnation. The character of a man who has an excellent record behind him, is on trial. The entire nation, and particularly the West, will hope that the Secretary can establish his integrity. The verdict of the congressional committee, however, will have but little weight. Would that there were other means more certain of dispensing justice.

Beyond question, the all-absorbing and all-important issue before the republican voters of Oregon during the next few months will be embodied in the fight for and against the holding of "assemblies" or conventions by the republican party, at which candidates for the various offices will be "suggested." The chief objection to this procedure is that it opens the way for the old-time political bossism and ring politics. The new-named assembly is nothing more nor less than the old-time political convention in its crudest form. And no good thing can come out of a convention. The granges of the state are beginning a bitter fight against the assembly idea, and they, in common with the labor organizations, propose to defeat—if possible—every candidate proposed by the assembly. These powerful organizations are being assisted by some of the ablest men of the state, among them Judge Henry E. McGinn, who says openly that for Oregon to return to the old-time convention is to return to corruption, graft and boodle. The rank and file of the people are satisfied with direct primary nominations and have no time for the assembly. Strange it is how so many of the old-time politicians are so very anxious to "save" the republican party by means of a convention.

A host of people over the United States will read with regret of the removal of Chief Forester Pinchot by President Taft. There is no doubt but that Pinchot may have "invited the lightning," and in view of the forester's insubordination there was nothing for the president to do but remove him. Nevertheless, Pinchot is admitted to be scrupulously honest and a true friend of the conservation of the nation's resources—opposed body and soul to giving them away to the predatory interests, in other

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words, to the grafters, the Rockefellerers, Morgans, Guggenheims, Weverhausers, etc. Secretary Ballinger may be as honest and as great a friend of conservation as the ex-chief forester, but there is a very strong suspicion in the minds of many regarding this point, and Ballinger comes far from enjoying the entire trust of the nation. The fight against Pinchot undoubtedly has been instigated largely by the corporations and trusts, by those who wish to gobble up the nation's resources for their own private pocketbook. The trusts and predatory interests scored a mighty victory against the people when the present tariff measure was enacted into law. They have won another in the removal of Pinchot.

OLD LAWS UNWISE.

Riparian Water Rights Stand in Way of Reclaiming Much Land.

Under Oregon's old riparian water laws, and the influence of enormous grants made wagon road and other companies, development of the great interior of the state is sure to be retarded, according to the effect of a decision rendered by Judge Wolverton in the Federal court. In this case the court was impelled to hold that riparian rights acquired prior to enactment of the Desert Land Law of 1877, gave to the large landowner, as well as to the small farmer, the privilege of insisting on all the vague benefits coming from having flood waters of spring overflow their holdings.

The decision came in the case of the Eastern Oregon Land Company, which is one of the wagon road grantees, vs. the Willow River Land & Irrigation Company. It was proved in the hearing that the Eastern Oregon Company had a considerable acreage which was annually overflowed in the spring, and that this soaking gave the land life to yield crops of wild grasses and other forage. The Willow River company had acquired a mining company's water rights on the stream, and was preparing to use this water for irrigating arid land. The plans of the last-named company were to construct a dam a short distance above the meadows of the Eastern Oregon Company, store the water during flood season and then distribute it through ditches to farms. That the Willow River Company had a right to the normal flow of the stream was conceded. The Eastern Oregon Company insisted that its rights went to the flood flow only, but in this its title could not be defeated by any later reclamation projects. The court sustains the Eastern Oregon Company, which will have the effect of preventing the storing of flood waters on that stream for any purpose.

To what extent such constructions of the law may be invoked to check storage of flood waters could not be stated by the conservation men who have discussed the matter. Since the act of 1877 was passed, it is conceded that the old riparian rights have been qualified, and since the enactment of the new water law of 1907 the utmost power is given the state to use water where it is needed to carry on reclamation work, so far as it does not result in confiscation of private property, title to which has already passed.—Telegram.

Card of Thanks.

We desire to sincerely thank all who so kindly befriended our brother, Walter Mevius, during his illness caused by the accident which resulted in his death.

MRS. CARRIE CHRISTENSEN
MRS. H. J. SCHURMANN
Visalia, California.

AN EASY VICTORY.

J. M. Rice Much the Better Man in Wrestling Contest.

The wrestling match scheduled for last Friday evening opened with a preliminary bout between Arthur King and Frank Page, a recent comer to Bend. Young Page had the best of it all the way through, and while he didn't show much science yet he knew altogether too many of the tricks of the trade for King. Page secured the first fall in six minutes and the second in seven.

When the two principals of the evening appeared on the mat there was considerable interest evinced by the men looking on. J. M. Rice, champion of southern Idaho, was there to defend his reputation as a wrestler, while Ben McMullen of The Dalles showed up in pretty good form and gave promise of furnishing the onlookers with an interesting match. But the result was a disappointment. McMullen was clearly outclassed from the minute Rice got his hands on him. McMullen's defensive tactics availed him nothing, and Rice apparently did with him about as he wished. McMullen never took the offensive. In the first round, Rice soon had his opponent down on the mat and then slapped on a full Nelson and soon had McMullen's shoulders to the mat. Time 4 1/2 minutes.

The second fall was a repetition of the first. McMullen didn't seem to be able to hinder Rice, who soon scored another fall, again with a full Nelson, and in 4 1/2 minutes. The time in which the falls were secured shows plainly that the match didn't amount to much.

Rice gave evidence of being a pretty good man on the mat. He apparently had great confidence in the outcome, and went about the work before him as though he thoroughly understood the business. The general verdict was that Rice had been there before, and that someone ought to be matched against him who would give him a harder tussle.



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Oregon Trunk Wins Again.
Dispatches from Washington bring the news that the Oregon Trunk Line has again won a decision from the General Land Office relative to contested right-of-way in the Deschutes canyon. This gives the O. T. L. undisputed right-of-way over all government land which the road will cross.

Will Double Track O. R. & N.
Orders have been given for double tracking the O. R. & N. line from The Dalles to Deschutes. This is believed to be the first step in double tracking that line from Portland to Huntington. It is conceded that the great amount of traffic that will originate in Central Oregon will make necessary a double track from Deschutes to Portland when the Deschutes road is finished.

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