

THE BEND BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1910.

WHO WANTS SUCH CONSERVATION

The country will be better off for the failure of the bill presented in Congress to give water power sites to the States in which they are located. This is an attempt on the part of the "interests" to get indirectly what they probably will not be able to get directly, notwithstanding the strict constructionist would confer upon them everything they want that is not positively forbidden by law and leave to the people the blessed consciousness of having "developed" the country by placing its natural resources in the control of a few great trusts.

When and where has a State administered with wisdom, or even with decency, such native resources? When the Nation wakes up and seeks to reform the abuses, those who are bent on obtaining the rich graft try to accomplish their purpose through the State. And too often they are successful. It is very plausible to argue that natural resources should be administered by the local authorities, which, of course, are more interested than anybody else in the wise use of them. But all experience has shown that the States habitually abuse the trust cast upon them in this manner, and that it is far easier to hoodwink and bamboozle (not to use a harsher term) a State Land Board than to reach the same end through an awakened federal department.

Oregonians have abundant illustration of the truth of this statement right under their noses. Look at the immense land grant to the Oregon & California railroad. Look at the multiplied millions of acres conferred upon the six "military" wagon road companies. Look at the shameful and pitiful waste of our school land patrimony. Look at the screaming farce of the State's Carey-act administration, of which the Deschutes valley at this moment has distressing examples. All these muddles, to use a mild word, came through the State authorities—their flagrant neglect of plain duty.

There is no promise that the State will do better in the future than it has in the past with such matters. The State receives as a gift from Congress what it has no right to expect, it values the gift lightly and readily turns it over to the first palavorous applicant, who comes with a wink and a smirk and a promise of some sort, any sort, of political influence. True and practical conservation will not be served by turning native resources over to the individual States.

SQUAW CREEK WATER RIGHTS.

Adjustment of the water contests at Sisters last week may be regarded as in all respects wise. Contention is generally unprofitable. The attitude and history of the Wurzweller concerns drove the settlers to active measures of protection in these cases. When it was found that they could not be bluffed further, Wurzweller announced "we don't want just what belongs to us." His language was a bit ambiguous but his meaning was understood to be conciliatory. So the fight ended.

It should not be assumed, however, that the Board of Control will award the water in accordance with the stipulations and amended applications now filed. Reduced to lowest terms the dismissal of the contests means only that the dispute between applicants is ended. It remains to be seen what the Board will do with the applications before it. It is certain that none will get more water than he has applied for—in many cases it may be materially less.

Superintendent Saxton says that in adjudicating the water rights on six streams the highest award yet made by the Board is 40 miner's inches to 50 acres of cultivated land—eight-tenths of an inch to the acre. An inch to the acre means six feet depth of water upon the land within the irrigation season, which is deemed more than any land requires. There is chance for error here, however, because the Board awards the water at the point of diversion from the stream, and if the land to be served is a long distance away and the ditch in porous soil much of the water may be lost, just as we have many "lost" rivers.

It is practically determined by the Sisters adjustment that the Squaw Creek company cannot speculate with water. It will have enough to serve the area already under cultivation by its stockholders, but none to sell to outsiders. And the stockholders as individuals would have that much any way.

NEWS OF LAIDLAW

ROAD IMPROVEMENT ACTIVE
 Visitors Come In, Ice Is Shipped Out, Crops Are Exceptionally Good and Bob Sturgeon Has a Fine Girl Baby.

Laidlaw, June 7.—Mr. J. H. McCoy, a rancher north of Redmond, visited old friends in this vicinity a few days last week.
 W. H. Courtney started out bailing hay last week. Mr. Courtney expects to use a new power bailer in a short time.
 Mr. Ward Rutherford, formerly a representative of the Laidlaw Townsite Company, returned here a few days ago.
 H. R. Baily, County Commissioner, spent Sunday with his family here. He reports work at Trail Crossing progressing satisfactorily. It is the intention of the County to spend about \$7000 on the grades, so when completed this will make one of the best traveled thoroughfares in this section.
 Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, with the latter's sisters of Powell Butte, enjoyed a day's fishing on the Deschutes near town last week.
 Dr. Fox and son, recent arrivals from England, were in town last week. The Doctor is looking the different sections over with a view to locating. This section appealed greatly to him and, no doubt, another shingle will soon adorn our business street.
 W. H. Courtney and F. R. Barbour were recent visitors to Prineville.
 Road Supervisor Root reports that the Laidlaw-Redmond road is now in the best of condition. Mr. Root has also completed the new road between Cline Falls and Laidlaw.
 Railroad contractors visited this section last week. It is the intention to establish a camp east of here.
 H. H. Humphrey and C. K. Swafford will arrive shortly from Portland. The survey being completed upon their water power project, it is expected that upon their arrival, actual construction will commence.
 The farmers are preparing to take care of their hay crop, cutting of which will begin in a few days. Bumper crops will prevail in the Laidlaw section.
 Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Root were called to Carrollton, Oregon, last week by the death of Mrs. Root's brother.
 The Laidlaw Ice Co. has been shipping considerable ice the past few weeks, Madras being one of the largest buyers.
 Robert Sturgeon is wearing a Sunny Jim these days, also handing out cigars. It's a girl.
 Mr. J. D. Gibson just returned from Rogue River Valley, where he spent the winter. He says the Laidlaw section looks better than ever to him.

SECRETARY GIVES UP JOB.
 Lack of Time Causes Putnam to Resign Publicity Work.
 George P. Putnam, who for a year has been secretary of the Bend Commercial Club, last week tendered his resignation to President Hudson, it to take effect the 1st of June. While as yet no action has been taken in the matter, it is known that arrangements will be made by the organization for the answering of the many letters of inquiry that daily are being received. Until someone can be secured to attend to this correspondence Mr. Putnam will see to it personally that all inquiries are answered satisfactorily.
 The retiring secretary's reason for giving up the work is the growing demand upon his time of other interests, which rapidly was making it impossible for him to devote an adequate amount of time to the publicity work. Bend correspondence for the Portland papers, however, will be kept up as systematically as possible.

Building On Bond Street.

Ellis & Sherritt are to erect a building on Bond street, just south of the Kulp establishment on the corner of Oregon, for Louis Eibert, who will use it for a pool hall. The structure will have two stories, and ground dimensions of 25x70 feet.

For Sale.

Irrigated "40" six miles from town—28 acres under cultivation, all fenced, cleared and in crops. House, barn, wagon and complete set of tools, and this year's crops go with place if sold soon. Low price. See Bulletin Office.

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POSTOFFICE TO MOVE SOON.

Increasing Business Demands Bigger Quarters With Better Facilities.
 The new building for the Bend Postoffice on Oregon street is almost completed, and F. O. Minor says he expects to move in next week. In the enlarged quarters there will be much better accommodation for the office, which recently has scarcely been able to meet the demands of its rapidly enlarging business, especially in the direction of new lock boxes. Many more of these will be in use than formerly, materially lessening the congestion at the general delivery window.

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