

THE DESCHUTES RANGER

FOR MARCH

The following are extracts from the March number of The Deschutes Ranger issued from the local forest office.

The new supervisor of the Deschutes, W. G. Hastings, is by no means new to the forest or to its personnel, but is simply one of the boys returned to a forest with which he became fairly well acquainted under the reign of Supervisor Harvey and later under Supervisor Merritt. One of his first expressions when he took up the duties of his new post was that he felt "more like a prodigal son returning home than like a stranger in a strange land." Soon Supervisor Hastings will endeavor to make a complete circuit of the ranger headquarters in order to familiarize himself with local conditions in each ranger district before the present season activities begin.

Still another change has taken place on the Deschutes and in this case what is our misfortune is certainly a streak of good luck for the Rainier Forest. On or about April 1 C. W. Long, who for several years has been an able clerk in the Supervisor's office will be transferred from the Deschutes Forest to the Rainier Forest with headquarters at Tacoma. Mr. Long looks forward to the change with pleasant anticipation, not because he is leaving the Deschutes but because it is taking him nearer his old home, which, of course, means more to most men than they care to acknowledge. Paradoxical as it may seem, we shall certainly be sorry to lose Long as a member of the Deschutes personnel, but if it means advancement to him we are more than pleased to see him go. His place will be taken on the Deschutes by Abbott C. Reed, who was transferred from the Whitman Forest to the Deschutes effective on March 1. Mr. Reed entered the service in District 2 and served as clerk on the Sundance and Leadville forests and therefore is thoroughly familiar with Forest service work.

It is with no small amount of pleasure that we announce the promotion of Harvey J. Vincent, which became effective February 1, but was not reported to the Supervisor's office in time to appear in last month's number of the Ranger. The promotion is a change in designation from Assistant Forest Ranger to Forest Ranger, but probably that which pleases Mr. Vincent most is the fact that the promotion carries with it an increase of \$100 in salary. The man's good fortune is the result of years of careful, conscientious, painstaking work and his promotion is but an acknowledgement of efficient service.

The following quotations from the "minutes of the district committee meeting" of March 1 may be of interest to those who habitually read the Ranger:

"Mr. Staley said that the Louise Criseman commuted homestead claim which covers the south ice cave on the Deschutes National Forest, has been cancelled after years of controversy and that the Supreme Court of the United States has reversed the Circuit Court of Appeals and affirmed Judge Wolverton's decision in the U. S. District Court for Oregon in the case of United States vs. Morrison, involving a case where the State sold land in a school section which was embraced in a Forest withdrawal after survey in the field and after approval by the Surveyor General, but prior to the acceptance by the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The Supreme Court held that the State did not have title to such sections."

"The Secretary of Agriculture has submitted his report recommending legislation for the disposal of the O. & C. grant lands in Oregon. The principal points of it are (a) that the 200,000 acres now inside the boundaries be made a part of the National Forests, (b) that the timber should be sold in advance of its demand for cutting by the lumber industry, and (c) that the lands be classified into four groups—(1) land chiefly valuable for water power, which should be held by the Federal Government, though the timber might be disposed of; (2) mineral lands which should be disposed of under the mineral entry laws; (3) timber lands, carrying over 250,000 feet B. M., per forty and (4) the remainder to be disposed of under the homestead laws. The Secretary says that the Forest is willing to assist in the classification of the last two classes of lands."

"Mr. Muncer said that the Forest had approved our making a proposition of land exchange with a company on the Ochoeco National Forest of such a nature that the lands received will probably be re-exchanged with another company. The dual exchange however, effects the purposes of the Act of consolidating the National Forest. Another application, involving about 17,000 acres, for an exchange of lands formerly within the Paulina Forest and now within the Deschutes Forest has been received."

From the best information available at present it is believed that the loss of stock during the past winter, in the Pine Mountain country, is not as great as it was feared some time ago. The snow is practically gone from the High Desert. The grass is beginning to start, and the stock

which is now in fair condition will undoubtedly come through the winter in good shape.

C. L. Evans has recently purchased thirty head of two year old heifers which he will water from the well on his ranch in Section 10, T. 20 S., R. 14 E. W. M., in order to utilize the range adjacent to his place, which has hitherto been little used. This fact is significant inasmuch as it furnishes a good example of what we may expect as soon as other watering places are developed.

It might be of interest to the Rangers of this Forest to know that the Fort Rock well which is being built from the improvement funds allotted to the Deschutes Forest is nearing completion and bids fair to be a success. The well is at present 230 feet deep and the contractors, Enloe Brothers, have suspended operations pending the arrival of the pumping plant which has been shipped to Fort Rock. The contractors believe that they have pierced a water bearing stratum of rock which will furnish an adequate flow of water for stock grazing purposes in that vicinity. The pumping plant will be installed immediately and a thorough test made of the volume of water already pierced and if insufficient for our needs the work will continue on the well to a depth of at least 250 feet or more. It is hard to realize just what a successful well in this locality will mean to the grazing industry. If the water supply proves adequate and if the pumping plant can be operated at a nominal charge it will mean that several hundred head of cattle can be grazed in the Cabin Lake district. If this well proves successful it is only a question of time before the Forest Service, through the appropriation of special range improvement funds, of stock associations, through co-operative levies, will have drilled several such wells in such places that all the range in the Paulina Mountains may be fully utilized.

The Tumalo Beef Breeders' Association held a meeting at Sisters on March 11. Messrs Hastings, Harpam and Vincent of the Forest Service were in attendance and had hoped that a sufficient representation of the Sisters district would be on hand to make possible the organization of a new association for the Sisters district. However, since only four users of the Sisters unit were in attendance it was decided to call another meeting for March 18, which meeting was held with the result that about fourteen local users signed up a constitution and by-laws and elected officers for one year. Another meeting will be held in a couple of weeks to perfect the organization and adopt special rules, etc., to meet local conditions, after which all data will be forwarded to the District Forester for approval. This office is very glad to see such organizations formed. We believe that those instrumental in forming such organizations will have no cause for regret and that if all will work together a great amount of good can be accomplished.

Considerable interest is being shown by the people of Millikan valley in the proposed road to East Lake from the east side of the mountain. There is still too much snow in the Paulinas to do any work on this road, but soon as conditions will permit this road will be looked over thoroughly and a definite location decided upon. Mr. Bush, of the Fort Rock Times, stated a few days ago that the settlers of Fort Rock would be glad to co-operate in the construction of this road, in order to give them a shorter route to a recreation ground.

The first public camping ground to be improved according to circular letter O-Pire, No. 1652, in the Pine Mountain district, is on the Pine Mountain road in Section 17, T. 21 S., R. 15 E., W. M. The site, which has been used considerably in the past has been improved by building a rock fire place provided with a lug pole and pot hooks, by building a table and digging a garbage pit. It required four hours work, 12 feet of lumber, a few nails and about ten feet of number 9 wire.

Ranger Brinkley and J. H. Haner, secretary-treasurer of the Central Oregon Fire Protective Association, are at present engaged in repairing the Forest Service telephone line extending southward from Bend on the west side of the Deschutes river. The line has suffered badly as the result of railroad construction and the present repairs amount practically to a rebuilding of the line.

The engineering party of the Strathorn railroad is doing location work just east of the Paulina Mountains. Their present camp is at East Butte, in T. 22 S., R. 15 E., where they moved from Evans' ranch on March 8. From this camp the party will move to the South Ice Cave and join their work with that of another party working north from Silver Lake. From the South Ice Cave they will move back to the Percival ranch on the Bend-Burns road and extend their main line east towards Burns from that point.

During early March Ranger H. E. Smith spent some time getting out poles for a horse corral at Pine Mountain station, a much needed improvement. For the past few days his time has been spent improving roads and posting guide signs in the vicinity of Pine Mountain. So far

this work has been confined to the open ground as there is too much snow in the timber to permit of travel.

A. F. Hauser, of Fort Rock, who was employed on the Deschutes and Fremont forests last year, has been assigned to the position of lookout on Paulina peak for the coming summer. This is the first assignment that has been made this year, but it is thought that most of our old men will be with us again this summer.

The Big River land classification project which has been in course of preparation for several years and suffered many interruptions is finished and will go to the District Forester for review within a few days. Much of the field work of this project was

conducted in the fall of 1911 under the direction of Assistant Ranger John Ellis and the task of finishing the work has fallen upon Forest Assistant W. J. Sprout. The present status of the work shows that Mr. Sprout has succeeded in making a valuable report in spite of the many interruptions.

The Paulina extensive reconnaissance also is near completion. Assistant Ranger J. A. Brinkley, who has been making the office copies of the timber cover and topographic maps, has finished this part of the work and has submitted the maps to the District Forester for criticism. The written work in connection with this classification of the lands within the old Paulina forest will be prepared in

the District office, probably under the direction of former Supervisor Merritt.

The heavy fall of snow in the mountains this winter has suggested the desirability of making a study of the effect of forest growth on the melting of winter snows. The subject, if intelligently handled, will add important data to the already partially established fact that Forest growth retards the run off appearing in the streams by fully a month, thereby giving the users of irrigation water an added supply during the growing season. This study will be conducted on the Tumalo watershed within the Deschutes forest and will be under the immediate direction of Forest Assistant Sprout.

ARGUE FOR JONES BILL.

(The Oregonian.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 30.—O. Laurgaard, of Portland, and J. I. Hinkle, of Hermiston, accompanied by Representative McArthur, today had a hearing before the Senate irrigation committee on Senator Jones' bill providing that the Government shall guarantee interest on bonds issued by reclamation and drainage districts duly authorized under state law. Mr. McArthur made no arguments but filed a brief with the committee.

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