

The proposed forest reserve is causing considerable comment in this section. The petition sent the chamber of commerce at Portland, it seems from a clipping on our first page from the Oregonian, has not been as effective as desired. The people of this section are opposed to the reserve as to its present lines as much of the land temporarily withdrawn has practically no timber on it and surrounds many ranches that are occupied. Many claim that very little of the timber included in the temporary withdrawal is merchantable and that it would be many years before the mountains would be denuded of the timber to such an extent as to materially injure the water sheds of streams.

The people realize the benefit of timber to the water supply, but are of the opinion that it is not necessary to reserve this vast amount of territory for that purpose. It not only retards the development of the section but would seriously interfere with grazing privileges now enjoyed. It gives the stock owner with money and a "pull" too much advantage in securing permits while the smaller man would be excluded altogether.

We have just learned that the reserve was created, or the temporary withdrawal made rather, through petitions circulated and signed from localities in the reserve. We also learn that such petitions were circulated in Burns and vicinity, but can find no one who signed it.

Surveyors from the geological department are now in the reserve and will report as soon as possible on the advisability of what should be permanently withdrawn and what amount should again be thrown open to the public. Unless the people protest most vigorously a reserve will be created, but hardly on the boundaries now laid down. Much of the temporary withdrawal will soon be thrown open again.

If the people of Harney county desire to make a fight against it they should do it in a systematic manner and send the petitions and memorials to the Interior Department where they will be of benefit. The Portland chamber of commerce is controlled by men variously interested in this section and of course each will view the matter as it affects their individual interests. With them it is not a matter of what is beneficial to Eastern Oregon in general.

The Times-Herald finds the people undecided as to what course to take. They are opposed to the reserve as it now stands but talk in a half hearted manner. If the grazing privileges were understood and it was shown that the reserve would not be a detriment in that respect our small stockmen would know better how to act.

There is no doubt that a reserve would be a great detriment to the development of this section at the present time, but would it not prove a benefit in future in the way of water for irrigating purposes. This is a proposition that the majority are not well enough acquainted with to determine and are therefore undecided.

Pendleton, Ore, Sept 20.—Congressman Malcolm A. Moody has rendered an opinion that sheep will probably not be excluded from grazing privileges on the proposed Blue and Strawberry mountain forest reserve in eastern Oregon. This does not apply, Mr Moody says, to areas where special conditions prevail which would make sheep grazing injurious to the district. Mr Moody adds that an examination by agents of the department of the interior will be made this year, and the lines as now constituted made permanent if correct, or changed if circumstances seem to

warrant it. As Congressman Moody is a member of the public lands committee of the present congress his opinion should do much to set at rest the fears of both sheepmen and settlers of Grant county. The former have been afraid lest their grazing privileges would be shut off; the latter because the temporary lines of the reserve included so much agricultural land. The opinion was contained in a private letter to a friend on the east side.

STRANDED IN THE DESERT.

A Fully Equipped Ship Rests on the Banks Bordering the Treacherous Colorado River. There does not seem to be much use for a ship in the desert country of California which borders on the Colorado river, yet travelers in that region may see there a veritable "ship of the desert." Far from any body of water capable of floating even a mudscrew, accustomed to ply up and down the river carrying passengers and freight. She has been lying there since last September, stranded high and dry on the sands a mile and a half from the stream's present course, reports a man on exchange.

This strange condition of affairs has come about simply because the Colorado, a mighty stream, but one of the most treacherous of rivers, chose to cut a new channel for itself in the early fall without notice or warning.

One night last September the Alviso, Capt. J. W. Babson, tied up to the shore a couple of miles above Needles, awaiting telegraphic orders. She was loaded with passengers and supplies, and as travel is sometimes leisurely pursued on the Colorado all hands turned in for a good night's sleep. Between three and four o'clock Capt. Babson was aroused by Indians, who warned him that for some reason the river was falling rapidly, and advised him to pull out into midstream as quickly as possible. This the captain tried to do, but the water had already gone down so low that his prow stuck fast in the mud when he got up steam and tried to turn his paddle wheels and move out into navigable water. And there he was stuck fast ever since, becoming resigned to the situation perfect and hopefully awaiting the flood water that comes down at the time of the melting of the Colorado and Wyoming snows in June.

By this freak the Colorado river, which is always accomplishing some unusual feat, has annexed to California a strip of land from three-fourths of a mile to a mile wide and about four miles long. This kind of land annexation is going on all the time along the Colorado, which is the official dividing line between California and Arizona. Sometimes Arizona steals from California, and sometimes the state steals from the territory, but this is the first time a record that a steamer has been held up as a pledge in the transaction.

DECLINE OF THE APRON.

An Article of Feminine Apparel Which is Now But Little Worn in Public. It is about 40 years since the popularity of the apron began to wane. At that time no woman's wardrobe was complete without an assortment of aprons for all sorts of occasions. A black silk apron was the acme of elegance and propriety, and any non-descript gown, even by the acquisition of the black silk apron, trimmed with a few rows of black velvet ribbon, be dignified and adorned to the utter satisfaction of the wearer, says Woman's Home Companion.

An apron had rather a wide field of usefulness when you consider that it not only preserved and embellished a new gown, but it also concealed the defects, and added dignity to an old one. An apron was always on leg. The best dress was kept clean by its use, and the distinctness of it represented all the feminine traits. It was a regular member of the home. To its strings the children were tied. "Tied to his mother's apron strings!" Contemptuous expression of subordination! And yet so much sentiment attached to it! Whoever was tied to his mother's apron strings was comparatively safe—in his mother's hand. Mother's apron! The baby was rolled in it. Childhood tears were dried with it. The little boys used its strings for reins, and the little girls played princess and trailed its ample folds behind them, real ladies in waiting to an imaginary queen.

These were ante-war woman days. Knitting and needlework were feminine occupations. It was previous to the day of higher education for women. It may sound far-fetched to say that home sentiment waned with the decline of the apron. The latter may not have been the cause, but it certainly kept pace with it. I have the written statement of a man to the effect that a snow-white apron tied neatly about a trim waist had power to attack the masculine heart at its most vulnerable point. After that say there is no sentiment about an apron! But men cherish sentiments above things of which the feminine mind has no conception, and his heart has been many times ensnared in the muslin bow that tied at the back of his sweet-heart's waist this banner of the home. The last was about the man of a generation ago. But the man of to-day has the same sentiment—latent.

Sentimental Seal. The Zuni Indians are sentimental in the extreme, and marry at a young age. When a youth is wooing a maiden he will go and sit before her with his back turned to her and untwine his lead cloth. She rejects him by softly stealing away, or accepts him by running her hands expressly through his tangled locks.

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