

COMMENT ON RESERVE.

Ontario Democrat:

It looks very much like two counties are to be wiped from the map of Oregon, Grant and Harney, as the forest reserve order of the department, it is rumored, takes all of these two counties except their respective county seats. Fortunately court can be held in the three counties which still leaves the 9th judicial district intact.

It is to be hoped that the department will not discover that Malheur county is one dense forest of sage timber, for should all these forests in this county be set aside as a forest reserve it would take the entire county from the map of Oregon, including Vale and Ontario, which would include both county seats and prevent any possibility of county seat entertainments during the coming year.

Blue Mountain Eagle:

There is over \$350,000 worth of taxable property within the lines of the so-called forest reserve in Grant county alone, yet it is said every day by the boosters of that dirty job that there are no settlers within the lines.

How do our resident sheepmen like the idea of filing their applications for range in the forest reserve with a life insurance agent at Pendleton, and then have them passed upon by a few dictatorial sheepmen residing in Columbia river counties. This is the proposed proceeding as backed by the Woolgrowers' association, in case Mr. Moody gets the land scrip sharks forest reserve through.

The members of the Portland chamber of commerce should be ashamed of themselves for endorsing the dirty, thieving proposition—the so-called Blue Mountain forest reserve. With very little trouble they could have found out that to do so was simply playing into the hands of unscrupulous scrip dealers and worse than unscrupulous woolgrowers' association, both of whom hope to skin this country of land and range to the great detriment of thousands of its settlers.

Grant county people rise in their wrath against the proposed forest reserve. A petition to his excellency, the president of the United States, remonstrating against the commissioner's proposal is in circulation and is being numerously signed. Grant county seems to be the bone of contention in stock and grazing matters.—Athena Press.

The creation of the Blue mountain forest reserve is a live issue in eastern Oregon. The people who favor the withdrawal of the interior department of this large timbered area in the Blue mountains are people, generally speaking, who live a long distance from the lines of the proposed reserve, and who would not feel the effect of the closing up of such a large body of land. A great portion of the opposition comes from Grant county. The lines of the reserve as now proposed would cut off from the John Day valley almost all of the timber supply and take in some of the best agricultural lands and some of the oldest settlements which would be such a blow to the settler and the business interests of this territory that it would be very injurious. The people there well understand the position that they would be left in. The lines should be changed so as to take in only a reasonable portion of the timbered lands and then the opposition will not amount to much.—Hepner Gazette.

FIRST MONT PELEE DRAMA.

A Play with the Maritimo Voleano in It Produced in Paris in 1840.

It is scarcely to be expected that the dramatists ever seeking some new field for the scene of their efforts will long allow the volcanic eruptions at St. Pierre to escape them. But even the earliest to utilize any scenes of the recent eruptions will not be a pioneer in drawing inspiration from Mont Pelee, says the New York Sun.

It has been recalled by a Frenchman with a long memory that Adolphe d'Ennery, author of "The Two Orphans," "A Celebrated Case," and about a hundred other melodramas, succeeded in getting before the public first with a play based on the volcano at Montique. It was called "The Earthquake at Montique," and was acted in 1840 at the Theatre de la Gaite in Paris.

The old play in spite of its horrors is said to have been very effective on the stage. In it the villain who murdered an old man led his wife and daughter into a crater of the volcano 100 feet under the surface of the earth. There was a sudden earthquake and the villain fell into a cavity and was killed, while the woman and her child were rescued.

the largest school districts with the least school population in the United States. This single district is larger than the entire state of Delaware, with an area of 2120 square miles and where the state of Delaware has a population of about 185,000, this freak school district has a school population of but seven. Malheur, Southeasternmost county in Oregon, is the county of magnificent distances containing this curiosity. The district was organized in 1898, and is situated in the southwest portion of Malheur. The exact location is on crooked creek, about 140 miles from Ontario, the nearest railroad point. There are six boys and one girl enrolled as the school population of district 33, Malheur. School is held in a room in the residence of Andrew Loveland on Crooked Creek, and the teacher for the past two terms has been Miss Eva M. Smith of Mosquito—Grant County News.

A student of the Chicago directory finds there are in the city 700 Adams and not a single Eve. But of Cans there are 55 and Ables 8. The city is well supplied with patriarchs—to Abrahams 19 Isaacs and 600 Jacobs. And of Solomons there are 110. There are 15 Darlings and but two men whose name is Kill, and there is a total of 90 Loves, but not a Lover, although there is one Mormon. The most abbreviated name is Re. Some of the other odd names are Papa, Morningstar and Paradise. The only man in Chicago, who, according to the directory, is a Fake, is Fred L., one of the assistant state's attorneys. It seems that, after all the men in Chicago are divided in about the same proportion as the men of the world, according to the New Testament inferences. There are 25 Hopes, 7 Faiths and one poor, lone Charity among the names. There are 8 Pains and only one Well.—Chicago Journal.

See Lunaberg & Dalton's ad this week.

BURIED AMERICAN HISTORY.

Old Williamsburg in Virginia That Was Intended as a Chartered City Under Royalty.

Even in a country so recently conscious of the past as our own, there are buried cities awaiting the pickaxe of the historian. Of these, none is perhaps more interesting, certainly none more picturesque, more colonial and—even to-day—more English than old Williamsburg, in Virginia—the "middle plantation," which in 1822 was "laid out and platted," to become a chartered city, the capital of a great colony under king and crown.

Its three streets of the reign of William and Mary are its only thoroughfares and two "back" streets, hardly more than grass-grown lanes of to-day. Duke of Gloucester street, broad and genially hospitable, stretches leisurely from the foundations of the ancient capitol building on the east (of whose walls not one brick is left nor one white pillar of its portico) to the iron turreted gates of William and Mary college grounds at the western extremity of the town.

On the right, as one enters the college gate, is a charming mansion, the residence of the president of William and Mary, and upon the left, across the campus, stands the old Bradford building, the earliest school for the education of Indians erected on American soil. In the time of Gov. Spotswood, says Country Life in America, it was necessary to resort to strenuous efforts to insure attendance, for the students were mostly hostages, the sons of chiefs of neutral or friendly tribes during Indian warfare.

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