

The citizens of Burns should have known better than to appeal to the little clique of golf players who constitute the Portland chamber of commerce, for aid in preventing the consummation of that gigantic fraud, known as the Blue mountain forest reserve. It was the same outfit that a few months since passed a resolution opposing the bill now before congress, restricting Chinese immigration. The Miner will not waste words in accurately portraying the character of the Portland chamber of commerce, which would be considered by the uninformed as rank calumny. After discussing the question at length and displaying much pretended ignorance of the subject, the committee decided in favor of the reserve.

This was to have been expected for the chamber of commerce was never known to oppose any graft in which its members might see a chance for a "cut up," and it is known that several of them are in timber grabbing business themselves. But, if not surprising, it is really nothing less than irritating to note with what unanimity the Portland papers fail to enter the slightest protest against this action of what claims to be a representative body of business men.

The Telegram goes further. It publishes a long, laborious editorial, practically endorsing this action. It seeks to bedazzle the mind of the reader, by injecting into the discussion matter entirely foreign to the issue, and so carefully avoids all pertinent points involved that one is forced to the conclusion that this is not through ignorance, but is the fallacious, insincere pleading of a special counselor, seeking to deceive the public and shield a criminal client.

The truth of the whole thing is that no individual or institution in eastern Oregon favors the reserve except one, or perhaps two big lumber companies, that have logged thousands of acres of timber lands within the limits of the reserve, rendering it entirely worthless, and for which they will receive scrip that can be exchanged for valuable timber land, elsewhere.

The scheme was concocted by outsiders who have a pull with the interior department who have planned a wholesale rape of our forests, depriving individuals of the chance to take up claims and earn a few hundred dollars. The pretext that it is for the purpose of conserving the water supply, to be used for irrigating purposes, is too flimsy to deserve comment. The source of our water supply is not found in vast stretches of level land, nor in the broad valleys, but is high up the mountain sides.

The whole proposition is a gigantic job, a selfish steal, which statement time will prove to be a fact to even those who now refuse to see itself evident truth—and it looks as if it will be successfully consummated. The Telegram is knowingly prostituting itself by defending the nefarious design—Sumpster Miner.

Representative Moody's good work in Congress continues to crop up. Last year the geological survey of the mining region of Eastern Oregon was made by Professor Lindgren, and the report published by the Interior Department. It has proved, already, of inestimable value to that section, and has done much toward attracting capital to the Eastern Oregon mining belt.

Now comes another report on the artesian water areas, which have been examined by the Government expert, Professor Russell who says that the arid regions of Southeastern Oregon are largely subject to reclamation through the underground water supplies.

The Lindgren survey is to be continued through Union county probable this season, and next year additional examination will be made of the artesian water areas. In connection with the Lindgren survey will be a party, or parties, appointed by the department, to ascertain the character of the temporary Blue mountain forest reserve.

Without making any comparisons, it might be stated that Eastern Oregon had a congressman for several years previous to Mr. Moody's election, but it remained for him to get these important measures adopted. His term of office will expire next March, but the good he has done will live after him. He has been a quiet, unobtrusive, but tireless worker and the esteem in which he is now held will deepen as the years go by and his work is more fully understood.—Portland Journal.

HYDROSCOPES FOR ANGLERS.

The Traits of Fishes Revealed by an Inspection of Their White Under Water.

A useful implement in a fisherman's kit is a hydroscope. There are very few anglers probably who, as they have waited with more or less patience for the fish to bite, have not longed to get a peep into the water just to see if there were any fish about or not.

Basin especially congenial in certain localities where the food supply is good and there are rocks to play ground and as a rule remains there all day long. It is an immense convenience, therefore, for the bass fisherman to be able to look down into the water and survey the prospect.

A simple means of surveying the bottom of the lake has been successfully tried here. A pail with the bottom knocked out or a narrow box open at both ends or furnished with a stout pipe of glass at the end in this water has been found to answer fairly well.

Those who use the box or pail plan to get a good deal of fun out of it and learn unsuspected things sometimes, as when an angler saw a big bass deliberately drive away smaller fish from, and stand guard over his carefully baited hook. Whether it was solitude for the bass's young companions or an ordinary case of dog in the manger policy, he could not make out.

On another occasion he noticed a couple of blue bass remain rept in contemplation of his bait for some time and make no sign nor exhibit any feeling when an ugly big catfish proceeded calmly to swallow the whole dose, hook and all.

When the big cat was drawn toward the surface of the water these two accompanied it as far as they could, whether in sympathy or in derision, could not be told.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. The state of New Jersey has been the leader in the good roads movement in this country. In the year 1900 treatment was provided in London hospitals for nearly 15,000,000 persons. Crude spirit made from potatoes is coming more and more into use in Germany as a cheap fuel. What was probably the first public library in the United States was started in Charleston, S. C., in 1749. Civic courts have sustained the right of the city of Columbus to charge its citizens for water by the meter system.

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