

HARNEY CO. CENSUS.

Enumeration Wrong; What Investigation Reveals.

Special agent of the Census Bureau, G. E. Bosworth, has returned from an official trip of investigation covering about a month's time into the southern part of Harney county. He went at the instigation of the director of the census to examine into some unsatisfactory reports as to the taking of the census in the isolated valleys of the Inland Empire of Oregon.

Mr. Bosworth, in the course of four weeks, drove by private conveyance some 700 or 800 miles, re-enumerated nearly the whole of the southern half of Harney county, met the cattle kings of the mountain ranges in that section and heard and saw so much of the immensity of the varied natural wealth of eastern Oregon that he comes back filled with amazement. He marvels that so much of eastern Oregon prospers in the complete ignorance of Portland, the logical base of supplies for the cattle country.

The census of Harney county, with her thousands of herds upon a thousand hills and valleys, her \$2,560,000 taxable wealth, her mines and her cattlemen has been retaken. The complaint against the enumerator of that district was that he did not do his duty and neglected and refused to make the returns more complete. A journey of a special agent was necessary to arrive at a correct summing up of the situation, on account of the slow mail service and isolated district. Mr. Bosworth says the trouble encountered was due to the man's misconception of the requirements of his position. He was perfectly willing to accomplish all that the department desired, but he failed to read his instructions and interpret them properly. The direct result of the visit of the special commissioner, it is said, will be to make a better showing in the column of totals for Oregon's domestic industries and wealth. Mr. Bosworth went over the precinct from Burns, southeast by Malheur lake, through Happy valley, Pueblo, White Horse, Alvord and Wild Horse precincts, traveling through 250 miles of almost wild country, until he was near the Nevada line.

Among other incidents of the trip was his meeting with Mike Devine, the king of cattle kings, in that country, whose herds are innumerable, and Jim Mahan, the owner of a great mule ranch.

By far the most important feature of the trip was the appeal of the business men and the officials of Harney county to Mr. Bosworth to plead their cause before the commercial bodies of Portland and ask that something be done to promote the trade with Portland.

Mr. Bosworth discovered a great borax works at Rose lake, in Wild Horse precinct. It is a busy manufacturing industry turning out over 40,000 pounds of crude borax every week. It is near the southeastern part of that county. The borax, which sells at 12 cents per pound, is hauled by 12 mule team wagon trains 160 miles to Winnemucco, Nevada. There the product is shipped by rail to California points, and the mule trains carry back to the region of miners and stockraisers merchandise, the profit upon which goes everywhere excepting the point where it should be—Portland. The same conditions prevail throughout that country.

"There is," he said, "a better road to Ontario, and the O. R. & N. and connections could give quicker and better service to all this shipping if once it was established. Harney people desire to trade with our city if they were given the chance. The stage road from Burns to Ontario is 180 miles across the country and the road is really better than the trail to Winne-

muca. The Nevada road is across alkali deserts and is bolstered up with brush. It is harder to haul over them than the Ontario road by far. At these borax works twenty-five Chinamen and five white men are employed, and the works are kept busy all the time. The mining camps in the southern part of the county are all supplied with goods and merchandise from California points. While I was in these places every prominent man appealed to me to lay the case before the board of trade. What I saw there opened my eyes to the great riches and the excellent opportunities of that section—if Portland could become the distributing center for the industries there.

"Burns will hold a blooded cattle fair on the 17th. It is expected to make a great showing of the cattle interests of that section. I was entertained in a princely fashion at Mike Devin's ranch. The cattle king has 40,000 acres in his possession and about 100,000 acres in a natural park. He has one of the finest places in eastern Oregon, and he grows all kinds of fruits, vegetables and berries in great profusion." —Portland Telegram.

Chinaman Stole the Cleanup.

In Mormon Basin the Lum Sing company, composed of eight Chinamen, has been engaged in placer mining for the past ten years. Last week Jim Sing, one of the partners who had charge of a two months cleanup, amounting to \$900, skipped out with the money, leaving the other Chinamen the sluice boxes and a lot of debts. The company has offered a reward of \$50 for his apprehension, but it is probable that the fleeing Celestial will make his way to China.—Democrat.

Bore for Oil Near Ashland.

A representative of the Waupaconeta Oil company, of Waupaconeta, Ohio, was in Ashland for several days during the past week, and devoted some time to prospecting favorable formations for oil boring, with promising results. Before leaving he gave out the information that his company would begin operations in the sand strata about one and one-half miles this side of Wagner's Springs. The machinery for boring, according to his statement, will be here within a week or two.—Valley Record.

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