

## GREAT RUSH FOR TIMBER

Over 12,000 Acres Filed on in  
the Last Two Weeks.

This thing of investing money is a curious study. It has its fads and its fashions, as varied and frequent as does the idle woman of fashion. And the crowd follows the leaders as blindly. At the present time throughout the Northwest investments in timber lands are absolutely the proper thing. People who pride themselves on being conservative are plunging in timber lands, are putting up their money like board of trade speculators. They are doubtless playing a sure thing game, but if this great rush were to buy mining stocks, it would be designated a craze.

The thing has been going on for six months over on the coast, gradually working its way eastward. About sixty days since the movement reached the interior of this state and since then 50,000 acres of timber lands have been filed on in Crook county, under the timber and stone act.

It was in its issue of June 25 that THE MINER published a story of a quiet effort to gobble up a big tract of excellent timber land on the Middle Fork of the John Day river. Since then about fifty claims have been taken up by individuals, amounting to 8000 acres. The fever is spreading and cruisers are at work in different localities. Already 4000 acres have been filed on in other townships contiguous to Sumpter, and in sixty days, it is predicted by those who are keeping the cases, that a vacant quarter of government timber land, not in conflict with possible mineral location, can't be found in a radius of thirty miles of this camp, the center, the throbbing heart of all such enterprises in eastern Oregon.

The scrippers are here here also, if not in such numbers, then in great financial strength. The government sells the land, 160 acres only to each individual, at \$2.50 an acre. In order to secure it through a scrip transaction it costs \$5.50 an acre, and is considered dirt cheap at the price. In this way one can secure all the land he can find unclaimed—and has the money to pay for.

### Eastern Men Will Bore for Oil.

A ripple of excitement was caused throughout Baker City today when it was learned that certain Eastern capitalists had decided to invest in the Baker-Malheur oil fields. They will send their expert here in a short time and put a rig in operation and bore for oil in the center of the district. They are men of experience and have plenty of money, and if the indications are borne out by results, there will be the largest influx of capital and people into this district ever known in the history of eastern Oregon. These people are well versed in all the peculiarities of the oil fields of Pennsylvania, Texas, Colorado and California and have such connections that it will be a simple matter for them to build up an entirely new country, new markets, new towns in eastern Oregon. They mean business and have representatives on the ground. The Malheur oil fields present the greatest attraction for capital at present, because the formation there indicates that when oil is found it will be of a very high grade paraffine base petroleum. Many have attempted to open these fields, but as they wanted to corral the whole country, the owners and locators of lands would not concede to their terms. Now, as there are those who are willing to take fair shares of profits

and do the necessary work, it may be confidently expected that results will be had before another year.—Democrat.

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### Timber and Homestead Filings.

Timber and homestead filings, as well as final proofs, can be made before Charles H. Chance, United States commissioner, office in First Bank of Sumpter building, Sumpter, thus saving applicants expense of a trip to La Grande.

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