

### FOREST RESERVES FOR OREGON

#### Interior Department Withdraws Vast Areas in Blue Mountains.

Much interest was aroused here by the publication of a recent press dispatch from Washington, relative to the creation of forest reserves in the Blue mountains. The impression generally prevails that it is the first step taken by some powerful syndicate to prevent individual filings, with a view to securing these valuable timber lands in large tracts. One of these dispatches, dated July 23, says:

Land Commissioner Hermann, Forest Superintendent Ormsby and the Geological Survey have united in recommending to the secretary of the interior the temporary withdrawal of three tracts of land in Crook, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Baker, Umatilla, Union and Wallawa counties, embodying the peaks and heavily timbered regions of the Strawberry, Blue and Powder River mountains, the total area being approximately 6000 square miles.

This withdrawal, if made, will be the first step in the direction of creating a vast reserve in eastern Oregon, where, in the opinion of the survey and land office, there is a crying need for protection of the timber and water supply, especially as it is contemplated to construct storage reservoirs in these sections.

The largest withdrawal recommended is roughly L shaped, the base of the L running north and south along the Blue mountains, and the upright running east and west along the Strawberry mountains. The latter section is approximately 120 miles from east to west, varying in width from six to eighteen miles. The Blue mountain section varies in width from sixteen to forty miles, and extends due south from the Umatilla Indian reservation for 100 miles, to its intersection with the Strawberry mountain withdrawal, the two forming a right angle. These combined withdrawals embrace about eighty townships, including the headwaters of the John Day, Silvies, Malheur, Crooked, Grande Ronde and Powder rivers and numberless tributary streams.

Another one, dated the 25th instant, says: The secretary of the interior today approved the recommendation made by Forest Superintendent Ormsby, of Oregon, for the withdrawal of a large part of the Blue mountains in Oregon known as the Strawberry mountain region, with a view to the establishment of the Blue Mountain forest reserve. The area involved is about 145 townships, aggregating 3,341,200 acres.

#### Rich Placer Ground Located.

Attorneys Geo. E. Davis and A. D. Deedy returned Tuesday evening from a trip to Meadow creek, in the North Fork country, in the extreme northeast part of Grant county, after an absence of two weeks, on which trip they were accompanied by ex-Sheriff Newt Livingston, of Willow precinct. These gentlemen made this trip to inspect the rich, undeveloped placer deposits known to exist on Meadow creek. This they found, but none too soon, for shortly after they arrived on the ground, parties came in from Sumpter on the same mission. While there they located 100 acres of ground in the name of the Meadow Creek Placer Mining Co., which company they will incorporate in the near future. The property they located is known to be remarkably rich, and prospects from the

grass roots to bedrock, which is an average of fifteen feet from the surface of the ground, and promises to rival some of the best placer mines that Grant county has known since the early sixties. They expect to return to their property at an early date and make arrangements to install a hydraulic on the ground in the spring.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

#### DIXIE MEADOWS ORE \$375.

#### Rich Strike in a Promising Quartzburg Property.

Per ton, \$375! These are the latest figures telephoned to Dr. V. C. Belknap, president of the Dixie Meadows Gold Mining company, by Frank J. Davey, the noted assayer of Baker City, on samples submitted to him some days ago from the rich ore body encountered at a distance of 125 feet on the north drift from the main crosscut tunnel. The average width of the vein at this point is twelve feet and from it have been taken, since Assayer Davey has been at work on the ore on which he made the last report, samples that easily assay double that amount. The members of the company are, of course, most happily surprised, as are also the people of the district, who have for some time been expecting big things of the Dixie Meadow mine.

The ledge has been crosscut in three places and has shown up excellently at every point. The general average of the many assays made is \$40 per ton, exceeding that of any other mine in the district. The famous Red Boy reached a general average of \$28, but it held that only for a short distance.

The main tunnel of the Dixie Meadows mine has been run 270 feet, from which the north drift has been extended 125 feet. The principal body of ore is crushed slate, through which run quartz stringers. The latest assays shows from forty to sixty per cent free gold.

The force is now at work exclusively on the third tunnel, recently begun, to reach an additional depth of 125 feet—at which another "surprise" is anticipated.—Prairie City Miner.

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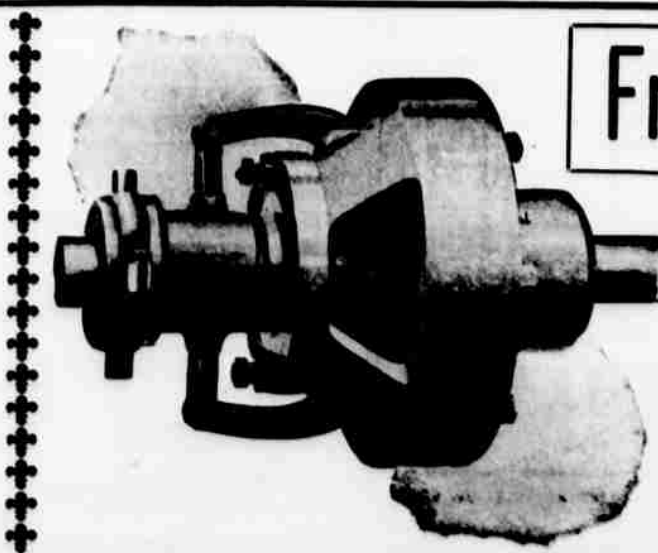
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