

BIG TIMBER LAND DEAL ON.

No Truth in Published Reports of Frauds in This District.

V. R. Mead returned yesterday from Michigan, where he had been for three weeks, negotiating the sale of a large tract of timber land to a syndicate of lumbermen. These gentlemen will come out and inspect the land as soon as the snow disappears, when they can travel through the country with more ease than now. This land is all "deeded", the United States government having issued patents.

In speaking of the sensational report of alleged frauds having been perpetrated here by timber cruisers and land locators, which was published in the Baker City Democrat Sunday, under a Sumpter date line, Mr. Mead says he has never heard of anything of the kind having been done in this land district, and feels sure that there is no truth in the report. He thinks, as does every honest man, that a newspaper when giving publicity to such statements should give the facts; especially mentioning the name of the cruiser who has been guilty of the dishonest acts, instead of a lot of noisy, indefinite, exaggerated generalities, thus casting suspicion on honest, conscientious men engaged in the business.

He says that he has heard much of fraudulent locations,—that is showing tenderfeet good timber land and giving them the description of a worthless quarter section on which to file—being practiced over on the coast and to a less degree in Idaho; but he knows of no such instance in this locality or land district. While coming west he met a gentleman on the train who had been buncoed by an Idaho cruiser.

There is no citizen in Sumpter who stands higher, so far as personal integrity is concerned, than Mr. Mead; nor is anyone in eastern Oregon better posted on timber lands than he. All of his time is devoted to the business of keeping himself posted and he doubtless locates more applicants on claims than any other half dozen cruisers in the district, he having earned the reputation of being thoroughly reliable, both as to integrity and judgment.

There is still a great deal of timber land open for entry in this district, notwithstanding large areas were some months since withdrawn by the forest reserve order. As was published in these columns last week, the officials of the La Grande land office announced that on April 15, two townships will be offered. They are in the Cornucopia district.

ADOPTS STANDARD OIL TACTICS

Amalgamated Copper Veils all its Business in Dense Secrecy.

John Stanton, president of the Copper Producers' association, made the announcement that hereafter there would be no more copper statistics issued by the organization.

The suspension of statistics of production, as is generally known, is due to the withdrawal of the copper mining companies that sell their output through the United Metals Selling company, from the Copper

Producers' association. They sent in their resignations the second week of last month, and they will probably be accepted at the next meeting of the association.

"In view of the fact that the United Metals Selling company, as selling agent, represents such a large percentage of the copper produced in this country," said Mr. Stanton, "it would be useless to put out the statistics available. I cannot talk about the future of the Copper Producers' association."

In certain quarters it was said that there would be no formal dissolution of the association, but it would be continued more as a social than a business organization.

The Amalgamated Copper company, which, being the largest patron of the United Metals Selling company, is pursuing Standard Oil tactics in withdrawing from the Copper Producers' association and its refusal to submit its statistics of production to the public.

Very little is known concerning the workings of the Amalgamated Copper company, and less will be known hereafter. Its sales and stocks on hand will be closely guarded. The New York Stock exchange demand a comprehensive statement from the corporations making applications to list their securities, but, strange to say, when the Amalgamated Copper company applied for admission it was left off with a statement bare of facts and figures.

In fact, the public was already acquainted with the contents of the Amalgamated Copper company's statement to the Stock Exchange, the most important statement therein being the capital stock of the respective subsidiary concerns. No explanation was ever given as to why the Amalgamated Copper company was allowed to list its stock on information so meagre and meaningless.

The monthly statistics have been looked forward to with great interest by the metal trades in general, and naturally the action of the copper companies that sell their copper through the United Metals Selling company, which represent something like 75 per cent of the total output of copper of the United States, has created considerable unfavorable comment.

It is said that the resignations of the companies were due to the fact that there were not sufficient reciprocal arrangements with the foreign companies in the matter of furnishing accurate statistics such as are published by the Copper Producers' association.

There is a copper association in London, but the figures published by it are meagre. The Copper Producers' Association has been in existence for many years, its original purpose being to promote harmonious relations between the various producers of the country.—Exchange.

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