

LANDS WITHDRAWN ARE PRACTICALLY WORTHLESS

Description of Tracts Excluded From Blue Mountain Forest Reserve Now Made Public.

The Oregonian of yesterday published descriptions of the land withdrawn from the Blue Mountain reserve. Set in nonpareil type, they fill a column. The land is mostly in isolated tracts, of small area. V. R. Mead, who knows more about the land than any other man in eastern Oregon, says that released is practically worthless for all purposes; that only a few quarter sections included in the quarter of a million acres contains timber of any value.

The Oregonian also publishes the following special dispatch from Salem:

Governor Chamberlain today received from President Roosevelt an answer to his letter asking that final action be taken at once in determining the boundary lines of the Blue Mountain and Willows forest reserves. The president's letter merely encloses a copy of a letter written by the commissioner of the general land office, stating what has been done and will be done by that department in regard to the matters mentioned in the Governor's letter.

The principal points of the commissioner's letter have already been made public in the dispatches from Washington announcing that lands not suitable for inclusion in a permanent reserve will be thrown open at once to settlement.

One point not stated in the dispatches but which appears from the letter received by the governor, is that the department will take further time to consider the situation before taking the final action making the reserves permanent. How much time will be taken for further investigation is not indicated.

The letter also shows the amount of land in the proposed permanent reserves that is now in private ownership and will be available as base for the selection of lieu land after the reserves have been created. Thus it is stated that the original withdrawal for the Blue Mountain reserve consisted of 3,249,000 acres, of which 2,627,720 acres are recommended for a permanent reserve, and of this latter amount 101,235 acres are in private ownership. This amount of land, it is said, can be used as base for the selection of lieu land as soon as the reserve is made permanent.

In the withdrawal for a Willows reserve there was a total of 765,120 acres, of which 747,960 acres are recommended for permanent reserve. In this there are 18,000 acres in private ownership. Apparently, the statement of the amount of land in private ownership does not take into consideration the school sections, for there are some 146,000 acres of these in the Blue Mountain reserve. All the school lands in the Blue Mountain reserve have been sold, and are

in private ownership. According to these figures there are about 300,000 acres in the two reserves in private ownership and available for base if the reserve should be created. After mentioning the 240,000 acres which were excluded from the reserve and thrown open to settlement, the commissioner's letter says:

"Of these excluded lands an area of 207,300 acres, which was withdrawn from the proposed Blue Mountain forest reserve embraces numerous tracts selected by The Dalles Military Wagon Road company, and the secretary of agriculture recommended that this area be allowed to remain under temporary withdrawal indefinitely, or until such time as negotiations may be consummated whereby the selected lands may revert to the government without unwarranted sacrifice in the interest of the company."

Concerning the governor's request that final action be taken upon the retraction of the reserves, the commissioner says:

"This office desires to give further consideration to these cases before making final recommendation for the reserves."

The president's letter contains no comment upon the subject or upon the commissioner's letter.

THEY GOT GREAT GOBS OF YELLOW

T. E. Gilken and Sam G. Kershaw made a clean up at their Big Creek placers beyond Greenhorn, which is calculated to arouse the cupidity of those inclined toward placer investment. They were on the train this afternoon going to Baker with the product of their toil.

Mr. Gilkey had a pound pepper box half full of nuggets, several of which were worth over \$20 each, and his partner, Mr. Kershaw, had a buckskin bag stuffed with the yellow. The nuggets which they showed would in value reach in the neighborhood of \$1,000.

But this was not all. Probably only a small part of the clean-up. Stowed away somewhere in grips or somewhere else, they had other nuggets and the fine gold all of which they were taking to Baker City to deposit. They were very conservative in regard to their statements. By dint of questioning and guessing The Miner man finally succeeded in getting them to roughly estimate the value of the clean-up. They placed it at about \$8,000, and judging from what was actually in sight, this may be regarded as low.

Messrs. Gilkey and Kershaw own

three placer claims which they started to work June 15, with only one small giant. That they have been abundantly rewarded for their toil goes without saying. They are also the owners of several rich quartz claims in the Greenhorns.

QUEEN OF THE WEST SHIPS TO SMELTER

A shipment of ore from the Queen of the West mine in the Cornucopia district passed through this city last week to the smelter at Sumpter, this shipment being the third to date from that property.

The mine comprising seven claims is located about two and a half miles from the Cornucopia and has been developed by over 1,000 feet of shafts, tunnels, and drifts. The vein, showing an average width of five and a half feet of fine concentrating ore on the surface for a distance of 6,000 feet. An incline has followed the ore body to a depth of 115 feet. At the fifty-foot level drifts were extended north and south, the former being run 155 feet, the latter fifty feet. Through this distance of 200 feet the vein held an average width of five feet, with values of \$20 per ton across it.

A crosscut tunnel is now being driven to cut the vein at a depth of approximately 300 feet and is expected to reach it within the next two weeks. The property is equipped with a Huntington mill vanners and settling tanks and is treating about eight tons of ore daily. The present plant was installed primarily for testing purposes and will be replaced later by a more modern plant of large capacity. The management has fully determined the character of the plant necessary for the treatment of the ores to the best advantage.

Power for the new plant will be created from water rights of 600 inches which can be given a fall of 700 feet by the construction of a ditch approximately 2,000 feet long. The mines are owned by a Minneapolis syndicate, with Chas. F. Soderling general manager, and are being developed under the supervision of Bert A. Smith, the well known mine superintendent.—Herald.

STOCK COMPANY TRAINS PEOPLE FOR SOCIALISM

In the stock company we have a school for training citizens who will be capable of reorganizing society upon a more equitable and less wasteful industrial basis. In fact, the idea of the stock company is incipient socialism. Composed of a large number of people voluntarily associated for the attainment of a common end, the stock company is at the same time a creature of the state and controlled by the state. The success of a stock company, industrial or commercial, depends largely upon the wisdom and energy of the individual stockholders. If they take the same active interest in the affairs of the company that they do in their private business; if they keep themselves informed regarding their company's needs and possibilities and are ready at all times to spread this information whenever it is to the advantage of the company; if they act together in first securing and then aiding a competent and honest management, they are on the highway to wealth. Such stockholder will in the course of our in-

dustrial development become the rule rather than the exception; and having been trained in the methods of collective action in industrial affairs on a comparatively small scale, they will be prepared for the successful application of the same methods to industry under the direction of the city or state. As the methods are the same and the stock company is furnishing not only the training but the machinery for naturalized and municipalized industry, no abrupt change is to be expected. The progress should be gradual and no more rapid than is justified by the increase in the individual capacity for collective effort. Any excesses are bound to be followed by reactions and consequent losses of time and energy.

Practical socialism at present should have for its chief immediate purpose the development of the principles and the extension of the field of operation of the stock company. Along this line are to be attained not only a more nearly perfect industrial organization of society in the future, but also provision for the material welfare of the greatest number in the present. The stock company is the instrument by which all classes of investors, large and small, may share in the profits of largest undertakings. The choice offered all investors ranges from the safest to the most daring of ventures. Having made their choice their chances of success will depend upon their active and wise participation in the affairs of their company.—Western Miner.

Another Irrigation Project.

A recent special dispatch from Washington says that the government engineers have found another irrigation project in eastern Oregon that seems to offer attractive features. At their request, about 200,000 acres of land on the Owyhee river in Malheur county, have been temporarily withdrawn, pending a detailed examination to determine whether this land can be irrigated by the government at a reasonable cost. Townships 31 and 32, range 41 and 42, lying upon the Owyhee river, twenty miles west of the Jordan valley, constitutes the withdrawal. The other tract is on the Lower Owyhee river, near the town of Owyhee, and east of Cedar mountain. It embraces townships 21 and 22, range 45, and townships 21, 22 and 23, range 46. These lands are all subject to restricted homestead entry.

Case Postponed.

A hearing of the Equity-Keystone case at Canyon has been postponed till Tuesday of next week on account of the sickness of Attorney Richards who was to appear for the Keystone people. Attorney Deady, of Portland also interested in the case, returned from Canyon today, and Rev. W. J. Hughes, managing owner of the Equity passed through to Baker on this afternoon's train.

Will Do Assessment Work.

J. T. Addoms, of Baker City, brother of Dick Addoms, of the Alpine mine, came up from the county seat today and is headed for the Cable Cove hills, where he will do assessment work on a group of seven claims adjoining the Baby McKee. Mr. Addoms has closed out his paint business in Baker City. He says times are pretty dull at the junction.

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