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TO OPEN RESERVE

The following statement is sent the Examiner by Congressman C. C. Dill, representing this Fifth district in congress:

July 1, 1916, is the date set by Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, for opening the south half of the Colville Indian reservation. He has decided also that no further legislation regarding the reservation is necessary.

This action was taken a few days ago after a two hour conference with Senators Jones, Poindexter and myself. Cato Sells, the Indian commissioner, and Superintendent J. M. Johnson of Nespelem were also at the conference. They insisted upon certain legislation which they have been framing for the past month. This legislation would have kept one-half of the present reservation permanently closed as an Indian grazing reserve.

Both Sells and Johnson maintained there is very little valuable agricultural land in the reservation not allotted to the Indians. This I disputed most emphatically and the personal information I had secured by horseback trips over the land and various trips to points on the borders of the reservation last summer and fall, enabled me to meet these contentions effectively. If I had not been on the reservation in person repeatedly, my statements would have been mere hearsay.

Both Senator Jones and Senator Poindexter pointed out that if the unallotted land is worthless for homes, the white man will never patent it, so that this land would still belong to the Indians. We all insisted that the policy concerning these lands had already been settled by congress. After the fullest discussion Secretary Lane decided to open the lands July 1. It may be asked now, why was the plan to create a great Indian grazing reserve abandoned? There are a number of reasons:

First, public opinion in the northwest demanding the opening of the reservation, which was given such full publicity by the local newspapers during the past few months. When I came to Washington Nov. 1, I found both Secretary Lane's and Commissioner Sells' offices aware of this publicity and fully informed as to the agitation which had been carried on. I understand they had the clippings on file.

Second, my interview with the president and the repeated conferences with Mr. Lane and his assistants, demanding that the reservation be opened.

Third, the resolution introduced in the senate by Senator Poindexter the second day of the session calling upon Secretary Lane for an explanation of the delay. This resolution caused the immediate calling of the conference which resulted in the decision to open the reservation. Had this not been done, the senator in the senate and myself in the house were prepared to place the whole situation before those bodies. In addition to this I had just been assigned to the Indian committee of the house and was in a position to fight any legislation whatsoever making the unallotted lands a permanent Indian reserve.

All members of the Washington delegation are delighted over the results now assured and believe the opening will be a great benefit to northeastern Washington.

The magnitude of the result obtained by Mr. Dill, and the modesty with which he sets forth the simple result of his achievement, commend him to his con-

stituents as a man who is worth while. Mr. Dill's election campaign was partly made on the question of reservation opening. Before he went to Washington he rode horseback and traveled on foot and covered quite thoroughly the land in question. He had documents and statistics and references galore which he had accumulated for more than a year. He started early to Washington. He worked there a month before congress convened. He talked to the Indian commissioner; he went higher, to Secretary Lane; he had an interview with the president and secured the president's personal promise to investigate the matter of opening; he applied for membership on all the committees which had to do with this class of legislation—and was appointed on them.

When congress convened, he had everything in hand. With the backing of the other congressmen from this state, he met in a two-hour conference with the Indian office, and his own experience and his special knowledge and his accumulated fund of information won the day. He was a lone democratic congressman from four northwest states, the second youngest member in the house, yet he led all new members on committee appointments and landed the reservation opening. His party couldn't afford to reject his demand. He succeeded where all previous congressmen from this state had failed.

Eastern papers have picked up his victory and have given columns to his actions, even going into his early life, and bringing him into the light of a noted character.

The people of the Fifth district should begin to comprehend what the Colville opening means. When the Spokane reservation was opened, only 14 homesteads were taken in the first six months, yet there were 105,000 applications made by prospective settlers. The Colville reservation has a million acres, the largest reservation yet unopened. It has all degrees of climate, soil, and possibilities. The rancher, the orchardist, the farmer, the stock-grower, the timberman, the miner—all can find homes and lands for their particular avocations. Imagine if you can the hundreds of thousands who will register or try to gain homes on this great reservation. It means the up-building of this great northeast Washington. It means new towns, new industries, new markets, new fields of activity.

The Colville reservation will be opened. After years of unsuccessful effort by congressmen from this state, something happened in the national capital, and the Indian office was overruled by the secretary of the interior.

The Fifth district has finally found out how to get things.

The Spokesman-Review says regarding Senator Poindexter's effort to help in the reservation opening: "It is regrettable that Senator Poindexter had not sooner got his guns into operation. Methods of a character with those used in this case by procrastinating officials serve to bring the government into disfavor and provide material for the enemies of national conservation. With reasonable celerity this reservation should have been opened seven or eight years ago."

The democratic national convention will be held in St. Louis June 14, by order of the national committee made public last Saturday. A few days later the republican national committee decided upon Chicago, June 7, for holding the republican national convention.

LAW IS SUSTAINED

Washington's prohibition law was upheld unanimously in a decision rendered last week by the eight judges of the state supreme court before whom the case was argued. The effect of the decision also is to uphold for all time the validity of the initiative and referendum amendments to the constitution, and to forestall objections, on the ground of insufficient publication, against the woman suffrage and recall amendments.

The reasoning of the majority of the court is that since admitted technical irregularities in the publication both of the initiative and referendum amendment and the prohibition measure do not appear in any official record and are not matter of general notoriety, the court can not take judicial notice of these errors. The Webb-Kenyon act of congress, by divesting liquor of its interstate character, prevents raising the question of interference with interstate commerce, and privileges granted to pharmacists to sell liquor and denied to others, amount only to a classification of businesses, and not to such a discrimination between persons as to invalidate the act, the court further holds.

Governor Lister, who was present when the decision was handed down, issued a statement calling upon good citizens of the state, regardless of their personal opinions, to assist in seeing that the law is upheld in its enforcement.

On a technical basis, it was agreed by most of the lawyers of the state that the law could be thrown out. But, as pointed out in the Examiner some months ago, the expression of the wish of the people of this state was made so plain at the election that their decision should govern, and this was evidently the opinion of the supreme court.

The value of the new law will depend entirely upon the people. Although the law is called prohibitory, it does not in any sense prohibit, but prescribes how and how much liquor may be purchased by one person, leaving local sales in the hands of the druggists, and requiring all other sales to be made outside the state. The intent is to partially regulate sales—strictly regulating those made within the state, and trusting to luck that those made without the state will not be so numerous or so injurious as under the vicious local option plan.

If the genuine temperance people of the state will look to the enforcement of the new law, it should work well. But if those who are rabid either for or against the use of liquor are permitted to manipulate the enforcement of the law, trouble may be expected. The new law recognizes the right to buy, keep and use liquor, but stringent provisions are made against the sale or giving away of liquor by individuals. To make the law of any value, bottlegging must be vigorously prosecuted, and it is made the privilege of every citizen to aid in the enforcement of this law. Communities should see that this feature of the law is enforced for largely upon this feature rests the value of the entire law. If people want to buy liquor, they can do so legally, in sufficient quantity to remain drunk most of the time. But they should be required to buy legally.

Over-zealous efforts of "dries" are just as bad as petty law evasions by radical "wets" in handling a liquor law. Common sense in efforts to build up a contented community can bring out the best features of the law.

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DRUGGIST
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