

THE PROXIES OF STOCKHOLDERS

The investor of today is taking keen interest as to the rights of minority stockholders, says the Wall Street Journal. By minority stockholders is meant practically all stockholders. As a matter of fact, corporations are usually controlled by those persons who own the largest, minority interest. Sometimes they are controlled by persons having the smallest possible ownership in them. Instances have not been rare of control by men who have actually sold all their stock, but who are still able to control and perpetuate their control through various expedients. Thus the directors in control are usually able to secure re-election by obtaining proxies for a majority of the stock, though they may own very little stock themselves. Moreover these proxies may not always represent bona fide stockholders. They may represent merely temporary holders of the stock, such as speculators, or brokers acting for speculators. The real investors in the stock may be numerically in a majority, but practically in a minority. Thus in a large sense the rights of minority stockholders includes the rights of all stockholders and of investors as a class.

We print elsewhere a letter from one of our subscribers, asking us to use our influence to abate "the evil of sending proxies, for the asking, to men who probably have been using their official positions for the accumulation of 'graft', and not for the benefit of shareholders."

This is an evil for which the shareholders are themselves in large part responsible. There would be less corporate mismanagement and corruption if more stockholders would attend annual meetings and insist upon asking questions so as to be able intelligently to vote. As a rule corporation meetings are much better attended in England than in this country. Here the use of proxies has become an abuse. As the citizen indifferent to his rights of suffrage is responsible by his indifference, for the election of bad men to office, so the negligent stockholder is largely responsible if bad men find it easy to obtain and maintain control of corporations. Whether it would be possible to frame a fair law to prevent temporary holders of stocks from giving or selling proxies may be open to dispute, but there can be no question that if legitimate investors in stocks would exercise a larger vigilance and zeal they might be able greatly to diminish the evils of corporate management.

But in order to be able to exercise this vigilance, several things are necessary which could be provided by law. The first and most essential of these is publicity. No stockholder can vote intelligently for his own interests who has no means of ascertaining the condition of the company of which he is one of the owners.

The Wall Street Journal is becoming more and more convinced that the solution of all these questions lies in the direction of a national corporation law. As James B. Dill has said:

"We can look for no effective publicity, no effective restrictions, or regulation of corporate power

under a system of diverse state legislation."

We believe that a national incorporation law could be framed on the lines of the national banking act, which provides for reasonable publicity and an excellent system of federal examinations and regulations.

Such a national incorporation act, we think, might include a cause providing for a minority representation in boards of directors. This might be secured through some system of cumulative voting. The minority stockholders who would take the trouble to get together and organize, could secure representation in the direction and see that their rights were fully sustained. Of course, if they didn't organize, they could not complain if things went wrong. An indifferent minority always makes a bad majority. Corrupt directors make inefficient and dishonest officials. Dishonest officials mean fraud for investors and consumers. It has been said that "an honest man is the noblest work of God." It may also be said that an honest corporation is the noblest work of man, for nothing can more surely and quickly advance prosperity and increase wealth. But a dishonest corporation is a worker of iniquity, a breeder of wrong.

It is understood that Charles Raht, of Baker City, will establish an assay office here in a short time. Mr. Raht was formerly in this line of business here, but left to engage in mining in Mexico. He will probably move back at once if a suitable building can be secured.

SPECIAL NOTICE

If you want to read a free and independent paper, devoted to the interest of mining and current events, which is not controlled by any promoting concern, such as most of the papers in the east are, send for a free sample copy of

NEW YORK BANKER

23 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE.

Sumpter, Baker county, Oregon,
July 21, 1904.

To A. P. Jones and John T. English:

You and each of you are hereby notified that I have expended during the years 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars in labor and improvements upon the Astoria and Bond quartz mining claims, situate in what is commonly known as the Cracker Creek (unorganized) mining district in the county of Baker, state of Oregon, and being situated on Little Cracker Creek, adjoining the Sampson mine and about two and one-half miles northerly from the town of Bourne in Baker county, Oregon, in order to hold said claims under the provisions of Section 2324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and amendments thereto concerning annual labor upon mining claims, being the amount required to hold said claims for the years ending respectively December 31st, 1900, December 31st, 1901, December 31st, 1902, and December 31st, 1903.

And you, A. P. Jones are hereby notified that if within ninety days from personal service of this notice upon you, or within ninety days from the publication thereof, you fail to contribute your proportionate

share of such expenditure as a co-owner, which amounts to one hundred dollars, or twenty-five dollars for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903 from annual labor upon the said Astoria mining claim, your interest in said claim, which is a one-fourth interest, will become the property of the undersigned, E. E. Hauser, your co-owner, who has expended on said Astoria claim for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903, the sum of one hundred dollars or a total of four hundred dollars.

And you, John T. English, are hereby notified that if within ninety days from personal service of this notice upon you, or within ninety days from the publication thereof, you fail to contribute your proportionate share of such expenditure of four hundred dollars on said Astoria claim, as a co-owner, which amounts to one hundred dollars, or twenty-five dollars for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, for annual labor on said Astoria claim, your interest in said claim, which amounts to a one-fourth interest, will become the property of your co-owner, the undersigned, E. E. Hauser, who has made said expenditure of four hundred dollars on said Astoria claim, or one hundred dollars for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903.

And you, John T. English are hereby further notified that if, within ninety days from personal service of this notice upon you, or within ninety days from the publication thereof, you fail to contribute your proportionate share of the sum of four hundred dollars expended by the said E. E. Hauser on said Bond claim, or one hundred dollars for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903, your interest in said Bond claim, which amounts to a one-half interest, and which proportionate amount of said expenditure of four hundred dollars amounts to two hundred dollars, will become the property of your co-owner the said E. E. Hauser, who has made said expenditure of four hundred dollars on said Bond claim or one hundred dollars for each of the years 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903, all by the terms of said statutes.

First publication July 27, 1904.
Final publication October 26, 1904.

E. E. HAUSER.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE.

Sumpter, Baker County, Ore.,
July 29, 1904.

To Otto Unzicker, Menno Unzicker, J. R. Burns, R. L. Coleman, R. S. Cates, Alliene Case, John Arthur and J. F. Crisman:

You and each of you are hereby notified that I have expended during the year 1903, the sum of one hundred dollars in labor and improvements on each of the following described quartz mining claims situated in the Cable Cove mining district, in Grant and Baker counties, to-wit:—The Rob Roy, the Sunset, and the Snow Shoe, situated in Grant county, Oregon, and the Black Dwarf and Midnight, situated in Baker county, Oregon, the location notice of said Rob Roy quartz mining claim being recorded at page 183 of Volume G of the public records of mining claim location notices of said Grant county, the Sunset claim location notice being recorded at page 183 of said volume G of said records, and the Snow Shoe claim location notice being recorded at page 184 of vol-

ume G of said records; the location notice of said Black Dwarf claim being recorded at page 189 of volume J of the public records of quartz mining claim location notices of said Baker county, Oregon, and the location notice of said Midnight claim being recorded at page 191 of said volume J of said records of Baker county.

And you, the above named Otto Unzicker, Menno Unzicker, J. R. Burns, R. L. Coleman, R. S. Cates, Alliene Case, John Arthur and J. F. Crisman, are hereby notified that if within 90 days from the date of the personal service of this notice upon you, or within ninety days from the publication thereof, you fail to contribute your proportionate share of such expenditure, which amounts to sixty-six and two-thirds dollars for each of the following named claims, to-wit:—the Sunset, the Snow Shoe, the Black Dwarf and the Midnight, and the sum of seventy seven and seven-ninths dollars for said Rob Roy claim, your interest in said Sunset, Snow Shoe, Black Dwarf and Midnight claims, which amounts to a two-thirds interest in each of said claims, and your interest in said Rob Roy claim, which amounts to a seven-ninths interest, will become the property of your co-owner, Robert O. Deming, who has made the expenditure of one hundred dollars on each of the above named five claims, during the year 1903, for the purpose of holding said claims for the year ending December 31, 1903, in accordance with section 2324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

R. O. DEMING.

First publication August 3, 1904.
Last publication November 2, 1904.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. (Isolated Tract.) PUBLIC LAND SALE.

U. S. Land Office,
La Grande, Ore.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That in pursuance of instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under authority vested in him by Section 2455 U. S. Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of Congress approved February 26, 1895, we will proceed to offer at public sale, at ten o'clock a. m. on the 27th day of September, 1904, at this office, the following tract of land, to-wit: NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 24, T. 10 S Range 37 E. W. M.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described land are requested to file their claims in this office on or before the day above designated for the commencement of said sale; otherwise, their rights will be forfeited.

Dated August 11, 1904.
E. W. DAVIS, Register.
A. A. ROBERTS, Receiver.

TIMBER LAND, ACT JUNE 3, 1878.—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office,
La Grande, Oregon, June 9, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892,

JOHN C. HILLMAN,

of Sumpter, county of Baker, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 1124, for the purchase of the N 1/2 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 NW 1/4 and lot one (1) of Sec. 30, in Tp. No. 11 S, range No. 38 E. W. M., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before Charles H. Chance, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Sumpter, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 11st day of August, 1904.

He names as witnesses: William A. Green, Ralph Mead, Van Rensselaer Mead, Eric P. Bergman, all of Sumpter, Oregon.
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 11st day of August, 1904.
E. W. DAVIS, Register.

DESERT LAND, FINAL PROOF.—NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land Office,
La Grande, Oregon, June 30, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that Joseph Wham, of Unity, Oregon, has filed notice of intention to make proof on his desert-land claim No. 296, for the 5 1/2 sec. 30, ne 1/4 sec. 31, tp. 12 s. r. 37 e. W. M., before the County Clerk of Baker County at Baker City, Oregon, on Wednesday, the 24th day of August, 1904.

He names the following witnesses to prove the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land: Gene Yeager of Unity, Ore., Thomas B. Boyer of Hereford, Ore., Thomas Thompson of Unity, Ore., Alfred White of Unity, Oregon.
E. W. DAVIS, Register.