

The River Press

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FOREST RESERVES.

The decision rendered by the supreme court a few days ago, in Colorado suits brought to determine the status of forest reserves, is of interest to a large number of residents of western states. The authority under which these reserves were created was questioned, but the court decided in favor of the government. The power of the secretary of agriculture to regulate the grazing of livestock on forest reserves was sustained.

While northern Montana is not affected to a large extent by the forest reserve proposition, it is quite a serious problem in some other parts of this state. In northwestern Montana, for instance, forest reserves cover the greater portion of the country.

The biennial report of the Montana bureau of agriculture, labor and industry, just published, contains interesting information in regard to forest reserves in the state. It seems that the total area of the state contained in national forest reserves is 20,389,696 acres, which is more than one-fifth of the total area of the state. These have been laid out arbitrarily without consultation with the state authorities and with no regard to the wishes of the residents of the communities nearest to them.

The opinion prevails in Montana, according to the commissioner, that the national forests, as now constituted, contain much land valuable for fruit growing and farming whose withdrawal from the public domain has retarded the development of localities. For instance, 68 per cent. of the total area of Flathead county lies within forest reserves, and 90 per cent. of Lincoln county is in such reserves. It is claimed that the development of the state is being hampered by making it the field of experiment for the fanciful ideas of theorists who live in eastern cities.

The founders and builders of the great states lying west of the Ohio river were not held back by bureaucratic control from Washington from exploring and settling upon any part of the great public domain to which the Indian title had been extinguished, while Montana is confronted with the fact that more than one-fifth of its area is practically taken away from it.

IN AGRICULTURAL MONTANA.

Montana was born in 1864 of sturdy, robust western stock. There wasn't much ado over the event because there weren't many people interested in it. The mother, Mrs. Idaho, soon realized that she wasn't as large as her buxom daughter, but she went along about her business, and after a few years forgot all about Montana, so busily was she engaged in shaping her own destiny.

Meanwhile young Montana grew and attracted the attention of men in the east. She invited them to come and partake of her bounty and they came—they came over the Walla Walla, the Bozeman, the Boise and other trails and up the Missouri river to pay their respects to the promising debutante.

While yet in her swaddling duds and denim rompers, Montana yielded to the argonauts millions of the yellow dust that allures men to the farthest corners of the earth. Her stores of precious metals seemed to be inexhaustible, and so the pilgrims continued to brave the danger of the long, overland journey in the hope of gleaming the golden sheaves that lay beneath the greensward.

For years the bull train and the mule train wended their tedious ways over mountains and across valleys, carrying supplies to the pioneers. There was no thought of a more rapid system of transportation—so long as the people got all they wanted to eat and wear they were content. The aristocratic passenger stage coach with its natty driver, its champing steeds, its big boots and its canvas curtains was welcomed in the genuine western spirit—the arrival of the coach with the mails and passengers was an event.

The majority of the people in the states regarded Montana with expressions of awe mingled with compassion for the misguided souls who made up its population. Who in New England thought Montana would ever be more than a wilderness, an outpost, a neglected frontier? There are in this state today men who, 45 years ago, frowned upon the suggestion that Montana was worth while as a home place. But time and experience have wrought the most marvelous of changes.

The conquest in the placer gulches led men on to campaigns in other fields of endeavor, with the result that gold ledges were discovered. Stamp mills loomed in many districts. From the gold vein to the silver lodes was but another step. Then more mills were erected.

The fateful days of 1893 were sad ones for the silver industry, and Mon-

tana was blue. But the veins did not end in silver—they merged into copper as depth was attained, and copper was just beginning to gain popularity in the world of industry and manufacture. So instead of Montana falling a victim of silver's downfall, it received a boost from copper, after all the biggest boost up to that time it ever got.

From 1895 to 1909, copper was king in Montana. The last two years have witnessed the dethronement of King copper and the rise to the exalted position of Queen Agriculture.

Years ago Colonel W. F. Sanders, in a public address at Butte, said in effect: "Montana, a mineral-productive state, will some day, not far away, invite the world to inspect her farm and orchard products. From the agricultural districts will come the lawmakers to revise and amend our statutes. Montana's destiny—agriculture."

What was then dimly written on the wall stands out today in letters aflame—Montana today is among the agricultural states. Her gold, her silver and her copper served a magnificent purpose—they brought the best lot of farmers out this way that ever wielded a hoe, or smoked a corn cob pipe.—Red Lodge Picket.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

The latest news from Butte, Mont., is that the town has elected a socialist mayor and council. Of course everybody knew that Butte would eventually do something, but nobody could exactly forecast what direction its activity would take. Its record didn't exactly justify inferences, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

When Butte first came into real public notice it was the producer and sponsor of the early experiences of Mary MacLane. Mary MacLane lasted Butte for a long time. It was seemingly content to rest on its laurels.

And then came whispers in traveling dramatic circles that Butte had turned its attention to other things. The manager of a road show first revealed Butte's later activity to the writer of these lines. He affirmed, with tears in his eyes that it was almost impossible to get through Butte with a good looking chorus, so prone were leading citizens of Butte to detain the ladies as their wives.

Why this should be he did not pretend to state. Perhaps the scarcity of women in the town accounted for it. Perhaps the metropolitan glamour of the traveling chorus ladies was what led the heart of Butte's leading citizens captive. But he was sure of the main facts. A show that wanted to keep a good looking chorus simply had to skip Butte.

What Butte did to keep up its interior excitement and outside reputation immediately after the leading citizens quit riding the road shows of their fairest flowers does not exactly appear on the record. However, it is safe to say that Butte was not idle. The echoes may not have reached quite so far as Chicago, but that there were echoes no admirer of Butte will doubt.

And now here Butte is again—right in the lime light with a tale of politics instead of tempestuous affections. It has gone socialist just as it once went for Mary MacLane and the flowers of the road shows, by a large and comfortable majority. It will try this new experiment and then, no doubt, pass right on in search of newer sensations.

What next? Ah, there is the great charm of Butte to the disinterested foreign observer. You can't tell into what new channels the stream of its wild impetuosity will flow. It may react toward literature and produce a type as distinct and sensational as Mary MacLane. It may turn its attention to emulation of metropolitan wickedness or become a simple life colony. It doesn't know itself what it is liable to do.

But as long as it remains on the map those who find the uniform conduct of most cities a trifle tiresome will always look toward Butte with a feeling of hopefulness—with the inspiring thought that some day Butte is pretty sure to break out again.

Pointers on Cement Work.

Don't guess on the amount of material you are using. Measure it all. Cement work that is to meet considerable strain should be well reinforced with barbed wire.

Cement work expands and contracts in about the same ratio as iron or steel, and in close work the same allowance should be made.

A thin slash of pure cement applied with a plasterer's trowel makes a good coating to give a cistern cave or cellar wall. Two coats ought to be used on wells and cisterns.

Woven wire fencing is a good material to use in re-enforcing cement where a large amount of work is being done.—Missouri Ruralist.

Now is the time to get rid of your rheumatism. You will find Chamberlain's Liniment wonderfully effective. One application will convince you of its merits. Try it. For sale by all dealers.

TIMELY BREVITIES

New York is America's publishing center.

About 212,000 persons see moving picture shows in New York each day. Norway, Sweden and Finland combined have a population of 10,030,000.

The postponed Japanese world exposition will probably be held in 1916. The United States exported structural iron and steel amounting in value to \$7,000,000 in 1910.

St. Petersburg, Russia, has twelve commercial schools, the admission being restricted to boys.

Traveling from one place to another in Turkey without a tessereh (local passport) is now permitted.

More coal is mined per person employed in the United States than in any other nation, with Australia ranking next.

British India, with a population of over 252,000,000, still has more than 104,000,000 acres of cultivable land uncultivated.

The Japanese manufacture much of their paper from millet stalks. Manchuria furnishes about 245,000 tons of pulp a year.

According to the government reports, there are more than 9,000,000 persons in the United States who have accounts in the savings banks.

Silk cocoons to the weight of about fifty-four tons and worth over \$100,000 are exported from the British island of Cyprus in the course of a year.

Game birds have almost disappeared from the sections of France most frequented by aeronauts, which seem to have frightened the feathered fliers away.

Buenos Aires is the fourth city in the two Americas, and 20 per cent of all the people of Argentina live within a radius of twenty miles of the capital.

The island of Margarita, on the north coast of and belonging to Venezuela, has a population of 60,000, who subsist principally by its pearl and other fisheries.

German sugar sales have been increased in Morocco through an installment system of payment. A shopkeeper buys \$1,000 worth on the payment of \$100 a week.

On account of its great length drawn glass is being used for many purposes. It withstands sudden changes of temperature, resists fire to a great extent and is very strong.

An English economist has evolved the theory that the writing and printing of superfluous books form a serious item in the deforestation problem of the civilized world.

There are forty mines being worked in the state of New York. There are twelve iron mines, thirteen of gypsum, eight of talc, three of graphite, one of salt and one of pyrites.

There is nothing better than lime-water to drive white worms out of the soil in which pot plants are growing. A good many people fail because they use air slaked lime instead.

Tranent colliery in Haddingtonshire, England, which has just been closed, had been operated for nearly 700 years. For many years women were employed in the mine as well as men.

The tunnel under the Seine for the Metropolitan railway of Paris when completed will be the largest subriver tunnel in the world. The work is being done by American engineers.

Students in the technical school at Northampton, England, one of the manufacturing centers for boots and shoes, are given a thorough course in leather and footwear manufacture.

Ten years ago the total number of passengers carried one mile in the United States was about 13,333,000,000. In ten years' time this has increased over 120 per cent, reaching a total of 20,500,000,000.

The whistles on the new ocean liner Olympic are the largest ever made. They consist of three bell domes, measuring nine inches, fifteen inches and twelve inches in diameter, respectively.

A life buoy with an electrical battery which comes into play only when the buoy is taken from its rack on the vessel is a new device. A brilliant light is given by two lamps above and two below water.

The principal telephone company of Spain, with stations in Madrid, Barcelona and seventeen other cities, has only 3,795 subscribers. The city of San Sebastian has a municipal telephone service.

The plant introduction bureau of the department of agriculture has secured for distribution seeds of the yerba mate tree from the boundary line of Brazil and Paraguay. This tree is a member of the holy family, Ilex paraguariensis.

A municipal councilor of Paris has introduced a proposal to tax all cats in the city. The proposal has not met with popular approval. A large number of women who own cats have written him, threatening to make things unpleasant for him if he persists.

Louis Regis Rome, better known as Romette, an itinerant newsboy and bootblack, who has just been elected to the municipal council of Le Puy, France, has astonished the citizens of that place by his work in the council. He has already introduced many new and better ideas in the matter of municipal legislation.

Several temporary bridges are being erected over the Tiber at Rome to connect the two parts of the grounds of the exposition to be held in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the kingdom of Italy. One of these structures will be 1,000 feet long and will have two decks, one for pedestrians and the other for a moving platform.

SETTLERS GET WATER.

Lower Yellowstone Project Will Soon Be In Operation.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Secretary Fisher tonight notified Senator Dixon that he had decided to grant the concessions asked by settlers on the Lower Yellowstone irrigation project, Montana, and will permit them to have water for irrigation this season if they will agree to pay 25 cents per acre on or before May 24, and \$1.25 per acre additional in December. He also agreed to graduate payments for the next two years so as to enable settlers to get on their feet. Settlers will be required to pay \$1.50 per acre in December, 1912, \$2 per acre in 1913, and thereafter \$4.50 per year, until a total of \$45 per acre has been paid.

Secretary Fisher, after a conference with the attorney general, imposes one condition, that 80 per cent of the land owners on the Lower Yellowstone project, on or before May 24 must pledge themselves to make payments as above stated, or else this relief cannot be granted to any. From the conference which he had with settlers when in Montana recently, Senator Dixon predicts that more than 80 per cent of the settlers will meet this agreement in the time specified, for they are generally desirous of having water this season.

Senator Dixon says Secretary Fisher has granted everything the settlers asked, and he is thoroughly pleased at the outcome of his negotiations with the department.

Lindsay is Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The senate today confirmed the nomination of William Lindsay of Glendive, to be United States marshal for Montana to succeed Mr. Merrifield, whose term has expired. Lindsay's nomination was brought up in the judiciary committee today at its first day of the present session, and was promptly reported favorably. The confirmation followed in the executive session of the senate this evening.

Hearings On Reciprocity Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The senate committee on finance today decided to devote the time between now and Saturday to hearings on the Canadian reciprocity bill. Immediately after that date, it is expected that the bill will be reported to the senate.

While there is no intention to permit the hearings to involve the free list bill, so as to delay consideration of reciprocity, witnesses will be permitted to make incidental arguments bearing on the bill. The first expressions to be made by representatives of the shoe interests will be devoted principally to contention against the free list bill.

Wholesale Charges of Bribery.

COLUMBUS, O., May 2.—The Franklin county grand jury met today to consider the wholesale charges of bribery involving about 40 members of the Ohio legislature. The matter was taken before the grand jury instead of a legislative probe committee on the advice of Governor Harmon and others, in order to prevent any accused members from escaping punishment through the immunity bath. Scores of witnesses have been summoned and it is said the jury may make a partial report some time tomorrow.

Officials of the state organization interested in legislation before this assembly have been summoned to tell what they know of efforts to hold them up by members. They include officers of such bodies as the state board of commerce, the anti-saloon league, the personal liberty league and heads of large corporations.

Battleships Start South.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1.—Provisioned for a long cruise and heavily supplied with ammunition, the battleships Minnesota and Vermont sailed from the Philadelphia navy yard today for the Gulf of Mexico, Pensacola, Fla., Mobile, and Galveston. The battleship Mississippi will sail on Thursday and the Idaho on Friday.

The warships constitute the third division of the Atlantic fleet and are manned by nearly four thousand men. The division is under command of Rear Admiral Ward.

Bryan Sees Democratic Rainbow.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 1.—Declaring that the outlook never was brighter for the success of the democratic party and that the party had exceeded the wildest hopes of the enthusiasts in the election of a large majority in the lower house of congress, W. J. Bryan tonight delivered an optimistic address to the members of the Des Moines Jefferson club at its annual banquet here to night. He pointed out that there was not only a large majority in the lower house of congress, but that it was a united majority battling for progressive democratic principles. He also stated that the success of the democrats in the senate was greater than expected and also declared that while the party was in the minority there, that with the aid of the progressive republicans it would pass much good legislation. Mr. Bryan predicted many good things for the party in the campaign of 1912.



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