

News Of The Day Through Idaho's Busy Domains.

NATION'S FOREST RESERVE POLICY.

Senator Heyburn Says He Proposes to Carry This Question Into Congress.

EXPERT GIVES HIS OPINION.

Idaho's Heavy Business in State Lands—Big Creek Wagon Road Completed.

Special Correspondence.

BOISE, IDAHO, Aug. 4.—The forest reserve policy of the general government, so far as Idaho is concerned, is apparently but little understood, by the people at large in this state. There is a general feeling of antagonism when it is known that the reserves at present comprise more than 22 per cent of the total area, and that much of this land would be in immediate demand for homes if the reserves were not closed to settlement.

The position of opposition, occupied by the governor and other members of the administration, is not clearly understood. Gov. Gooding is not opposed to the preservation of the forests or the conservation of the water sheds, but only desires that the reserves be so managed as to make a home that the opportunity shall be left open to him.

The recent statement of Senator Heyburn that he expected to carry the question of the establishment of excessive reserves in Idaho into Congress at the coming session will be productive of some good, if no more than to commence the education of the people as to methods by which forest reserves are established and the underlying reasons why their establishment is regarded as valuable and necessary by the selfish advocates of this governmental policy. A recent statement by a public man relative to this matter is of sufficient importance to demand publication, as the opinion of an expert, who is in a position to know the truth. He says:

EXPERT'S OPINION.

"In the first place, but few if any of the forest reserves established under the authority of the interior department, but what the boundaries embrace a large area of public land grants, which is particularly true of the reserves established along the lines of the Northern Pacific Railway company. A regulation intended for the benefit of the land owners having holdings in forest reserves would permit them to retain so much of their lands as might be necessary for their use, and relinquish the balance to the government, accepting therefor the right to make valuable timber reservations. This has proved to be a veritable legal graft for the owners of worthless land who could induce the government, through themselves or through the timber companies, to include the same in forest reserves. In this way the Northern Pacific Railway company has been enabled to secure immense values from an immense land grant, which was primarily made immense because of the general worthlessness of the whole. If less selections could only have been made in the state where granted, the result would not have been so serious in Idaho, since it had only two forest reserves within its borders until very recently.

SCRIP INTERESTS ACTIVE.

"While the forest reserve people of the interior department were keeping out of Idaho, however, the scrip interests based on the worthless lands of other states were getting in so that when the reserve forest reservations occurred within our borders, the scrip, timber and stock interests had already secured control of almost every stream now in the forest reserves which is capable of floating sawing, thus securing to these interests very cheap stumpage at their own time and practically without competition. The government now protects these interests by keeping fire down, and all but the favored livestock are excluded from the reserve. Moreover, the legal steps looking to patent of scrip lands, I am informed, are suspended by the forest reserve act itself, thus denying to the state a valuable resource, and still permitting a tentative ownership to the scrip holder. It has also suspended the common school interests in sections 36 and 38 within the boundaries of the reserve, and out of which it was proposed to make selections for the various educational and other state institutions. This exclusion of the state's interests has been done notwithstanding two appropriations by the state, to the amount of \$50,000, to cover the expense of making such surveys, and moreover the expenditure of much larger sums in constructing wagon roads to open up these prospective resources of the state. To be cut off from these selections now would certainly work a serious hardship on our taxpayers.

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Another serious feature of this matter is where can the state's 700,000 acres of land be selected that the selling price will attain or exceed the minimum price of \$10 an acre required by law? All the lands in the lower altitudes suspected of having an irrigable future, have been withdrawn from entry by the reclamation service, thus limiting the state in making its selections to the foothills below the timber and above the farms, and in doing so it must avoid the settler and still get ahead of a million acres of outstanding scrip.

IDAHO FOREST RESERVES.

"I have not yet seen official descriptions of all the forest reserves in Idaho, but the present area, according to the newspapers, is about 11,000,000 acres, and a million or more to be added in the near future, which is about 22 per cent of the total area of the state. Forest reserves, Indian reserves, military and naval reserves and withdrawals for the reclamation service, will ultimately comprise an area about equal to that of the six states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

"No such withdrawal of any state's possible wealth and authority was ever before demanded in the name of benefits to future generations of the federal government and of the state, on the one hand, and for the enormous amount of future generations of corporate interests on the other hand.

"If forest reserves are to prevail in this state along the lines of their present magnitude, the scrip holdings should be forced to title, that they may bear their just proportion of the burdens of taxation, and the state should be allowed to retain its valuable timber and the same as any other land grant or claimant."

STATE LAND BUSINESS.

The aggregate business of the state land department since the first of the year has been of extraordinary magnitude. A summary of the business transacted in the land department during the six months ending June 30, 1905, as prepared by Register C. S. McConnell, makes the following showing:

There were 75 deeds issued, conveying 5,324.91 acres, the consideration being \$1,394.56; agricultural leases 55, for 4,503.77 acres, consideration being \$4,503.77; grazing leases 145, conveying 20,703.71 acres, the consideration being \$5,216.82—total receipts from rentals, \$10,614.52.

Number of entries under the Carey act, 1970, embracing 71,168.06 acres. State's proportion of receipts therefrom, \$25,255.33, received and held in escrow, \$25,255.33. Total cash received from sales since Jan. 1, 1905, \$414,211.22. Total cash receipts, \$449,466.48.

Investments repaid, bonds, farm loans and state warrants, \$75,457.53. Investments since Jan. 1, 1905: Bonds, \$171,130; state warrants, \$108,652.52; farm loans, \$7,000—a total of \$371,182.52.

The above investments much the following:

General school fund, \$57,550; university endowment fund, \$5,605.02; public buildings endowment fund, \$39,255.33; Soldiers' Home land endowment fund, \$31,000; insane asylum endowment fund, \$20,000; penitentiary endowment fund, \$1,250; school of science endowment fund, \$10,315.62—total of \$371,182.52.

Amount of investments repaid, \$75,457.53.

New investments, \$371,182.52.

Fees for months of March, April, May and June (not including Carey act), \$591.60. Total fees, including Carey act, for the six months, \$25,850.13.

MONEY ON HAND.

The amount of money in the various endowment funds on July 1, 1905, was as follows:

General school, \$1,980.70; university, \$1,473.67; normal schools, \$2,387.16; school of science, \$229.30; agricultural college, \$1,230; academy of Idaho, \$506.43; industrial school, \$1,426.43; insane asylum, \$250.44; penitentiary, \$1,017.90; Soldiers' Home, \$1,250; public buildings, \$1,506.70; charitable institutions, \$551.74; north Idaho insane asylum, \$254. This makes a total of \$18,125.38. This is in addition to the large amount of money now held in escrow on account of Carey land entries.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS.

Mrs. W. N. Shilling of Rupert, Ida., and Mrs. S. P. Fairweather of Wallace, Ida., have been appointed hostesses for the Idaho building in Portland, during the month of August.

Word comes from the camp of the contractors for the Big Creek wagon road that something over six miles of the road out of Warrens had been completed and was easily passable by loaded teams by the last of the week. The contractors have a large force of men at work in sections 36 and 38 within the boundaries of the reserve, and it is the evident intention to push the work through to completion at the earliest possible time.

The following delegates have been appointed by the governor to attend the Irrigation Congress to convene in Portland, Or., on Aug. 21, and closing on Aug. 24:

Nathan Hicks, Rexburg; C. E. Wright, Montpelier; W. S. Chaney, Pocatello; F. A. Monroe, Blackfoot; Ross Davis, Caldwell; A. B. Moss, Payette; E. M. Marton, Weiser; D. R. Hubbard,

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