

dustry, and thus add largely to our wealth-producing elements. It will also be seen that the culture of this plant is destined to materially change the present aspect of the county in regard to population. For, with twenty acres of land set to alfalfa, yielding annually 100 tons of the very best quality of hay, with a reasonable amount of outlying pasture land, no man of ordinary industry and care can help but sustain himself and family. When the vast amount of available lands are considered which are adapted to the raising of alfalfa within the limits of Crook county, it is apparent that this once sparsely settled region is soon destined to sustain a heavy population. With a population doubled and trebled, comes the necessity of one or more railroads. With the railroads, come the modernized ideas of living and trade, quicker and smaller profits, a more ready yielding to the regulations and conventional ties of society, cheaper living and lower wages—on the whole, a new era, a changed lot. Is it for the best? Yes, in the aggregate. No, for those who were first here.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Crook County is divided into forty school districts. Each district is under the control of a school board consisting of three directors and a clerk chosen by the patrons and taxpayers of the district, the directors to serve three years and the clerk one year. A director and a clerk are chosen each year.

These school boards are under the supervision of the county school superintendent.

The revenue for school purposes is derived from the following sources:

1. From the irreducible state fund,

which is kept up by the sale of school land.

2. From a tax of 5 mills on all taxable property in the county.

3. A special tax may be voted by the taxpayers in a district upon the real and personal property in that district.

The school funds are apportioned to the districts on the first Monday of January, April, July and October of each year, ac-

cording to the number of children drawing school money in each district. There are 1068 children drawing school money at present in this county.

The schools of this county are now being graded, or classified, according to the course of study issued by the state board of education. Prineville, the county seat, has an excellent graded school of 165 pupils, which is now under the management of Prof. F. M. Mitchell and three assistants.

The schools are all very well supplied with apparatus and a number have started libraries, consisting of books of reference and supplementary reading.

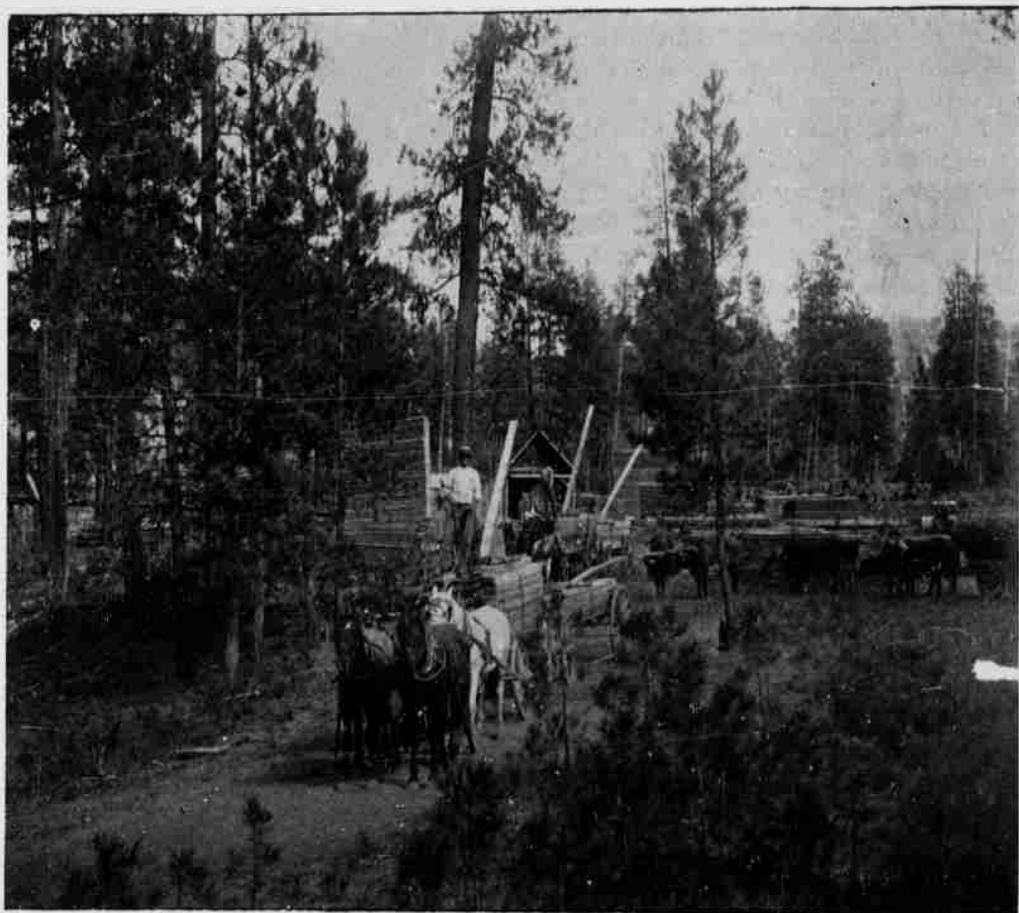
Crook County has 42 teachers, nine of which hold state certificates or diplomas. A more progressive band of workers could hardly be found in any part of the state. They, as well as the majority of Oregon, are striving to place their state in a position second to none in educational work in the West.

The teachers of Crook County receive better salaries than ever before. In 1897 the average salary paid a male teacher was \$34.25; a female teacher, \$25.15; in 1898 we find this raised to \$38.40 and \$33.50; in 1899, to \$41.65 and \$34.60, and in 1900 to \$42.20 and \$38.66. This shows that an interest is being taken in educational matters, and that the people of this county appreciate the work of good teachers.

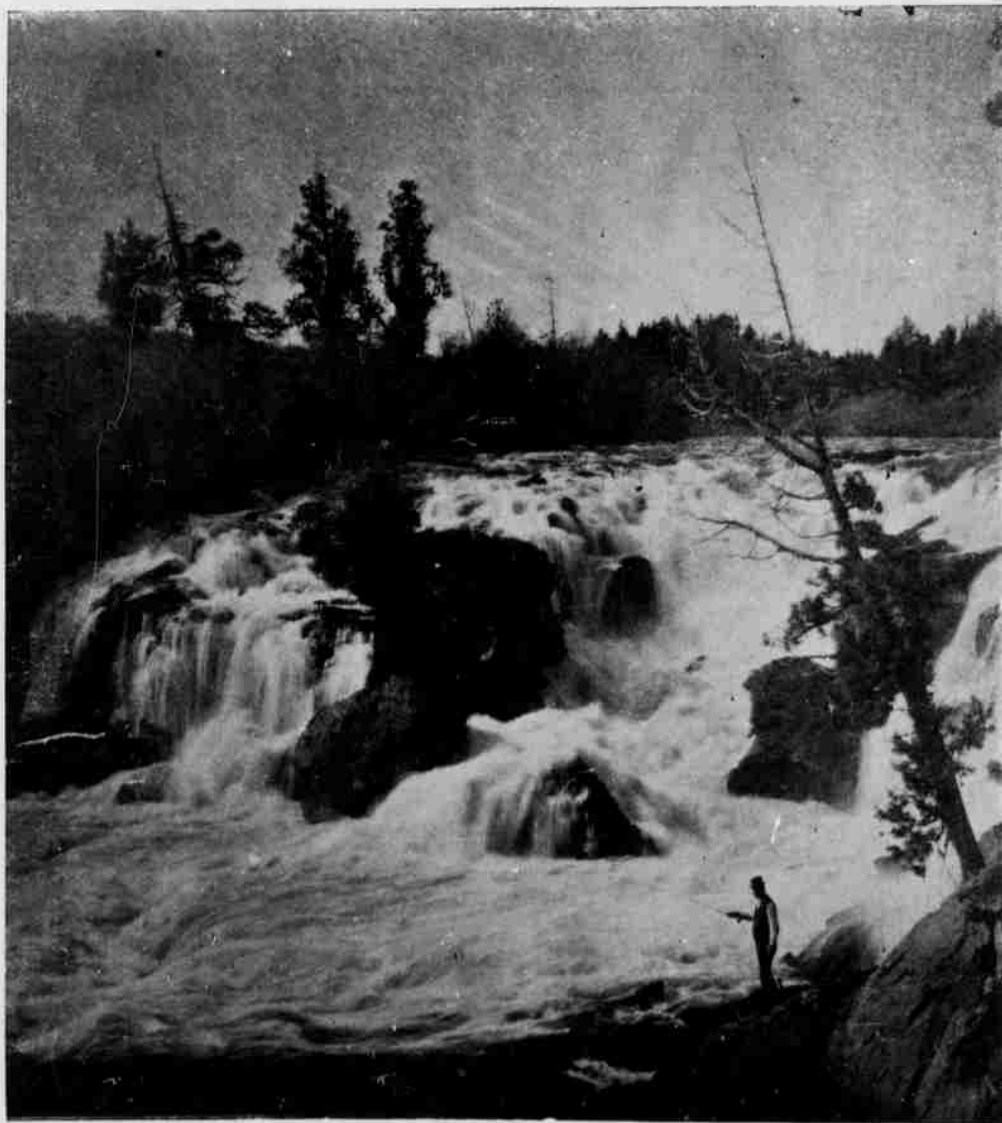
An annual institute for teachers is held each year, and a great interest is also being manifested in local institute work.

ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION.

An examination of the books of the treasurer of this county shows that there are warrants outstanding not called in to the amount of about \$8000, and it is estimated that there remains on the delinquent rolls about \$2000 that is collectible and that will be collected. The rate of taxation for the year 1899 was for state purposes 6 3-10 mills. The year previous it was 5 7-10 mills,



HAWKINS BROTHERS' SAWMILL.



CLINE FALLS.