INDUSTRIES and INDIVIDUALS

Men and Businesses With Whom Prosperity and Success are Associated in This County.

By E. G. H.

Most city folks who attend the musical shows think that the farmer's life in one big joy—just dancing the barn dance with pretty country girls in pink ginghams and French shoes, and drinking cider from tin cups. Farming today is the serious concern of some of the brainest men of the world. "To get the most out of the soil with the least expense and not deplete the soil, is the vital issue," so Perry Holden told me not long ago. Waving grain is only Nature's way of beconing us to work. Man must evolve what Nature suggests. She meets us only one-fourth the way. We know that this is so because when we dig, build and change the earth, we get more than we ever dreamed of.

Last Tuesday afternoon I took a little journey to the Wightman Bros. ranch, commonly known as the Alfalfa Lawn Dairy, which is a mile and one-half west of Heppner. Here is a fifteen hundred and fifty-three acre ranch which will compare favorably with any ranch of any size in the state. This, understand, in general productiveness, diversity of crops and products raised, and idealness of farm life.

A word about the Brothers is not out of place. The three boys, Robert, Peter and John came here from Pennsylvania. They are young fellows yet and as two of them are not married we will not state their ages more than to say that they have voted in the last four or five elections. They worked a short time in the Middle-western states and then came to Oregon. They worked for wages a few years and five and one-half years ago they cashed in their experience, good health, ambition and what little cash they possessed for their present ranch.

There was not much on the place when they took possession, its chief assets being close to market, on a good road, a flowing spring and almost virgin land. Every dollar that could be spared was invested in some kind of an improvement on the place. Among the improvements was a modern cow-barn. It is safe to say that a better barn can not be found in this county. In dimensions it is 40x100. It is located north of the main set of buildings, which are, with its exception, on the south side of the road. It is a two-story structure, the upper story holding one hundred tons of hay. There is a runway extending the entire length of the ground floor with a cement floor. Twenty-eight James Stanchions are arranged on each side, set in cement and of the latest design. I happened to arrive at the barn at four o'clock in the afternoon, when the cows were coming in the barn. They seemed to know where they belonged and I counted fifty milch cows, twenty-five one and two-year-old heifers and a half-dozen calves.

Milking started at once. Milking is done by hand, the way it should be done, and the milk was placed in cans which were placed in long tanks into which the cold spring water flowed continually. The machinery which the boys are now installing makes their dairy one of the most up-to-date establishments in this part of Oregon. A bottle-filling and washing machine, a patent cooler, all operated by steam, makes dairying a thing of pleasure.

Almost the entire town of Heppner is supplied with milk and cream by the Wightman brothers. When I asked them if they made butter, they replied that they couldn't furnish milk for the needs of the town and had no cream to make butter. Milk sells for eight cents per quart, full measure, delivered in bottles at your kitchen door.

In regards to the purity of the milk, nothing is left undone which will add to the purity and safety of the customer. The cows are grade jerseys, the best breed for quality of milk that we know anything about. They are inspected frequently and let it be known that there has never been a diseased cow found intheir herd. Also, there are only seven cows over five years old on the place. The barn in which they are kept complies with the state laws and has always passed a high examination. The Alfalfa Lawn Dairy is so far behind the times that they haven't heard of diluting the milk as yet.

My interest being aroused concerning cows, I asked the boys what they fed the animals. They said that they fed them alfalfa and rolled barley the year 'round. In the spring they run on bunch grass which they claim is the finest feed in the world. When the bunch grass is gone they run them on rye which serves as a later summer pasture. Alfalfa and barley are always on hand, however, in case of a shortage of bunch grass or rye. Spring water is constantly at their command, and good water is no small asset to any farm in any state. The boys raise fifty acres of alfalfa yearly and they claim that more feed can be raised on one acre of Oregon land than in any state back East, something which needs no argument to demonstrate.

This county is eminently adapted to the dairy business. On the plains tuberculosis is unknown and it is rarely found among cattle to any serious degree. The latest reports published by the state claim less than two per cent. On pasture alone their cows averaged more than $8 a month, with feed they made $10. A cow will produce 300 pounds of butter fat yearly, the boys claim, which sells for an average of 30c per pound. Many cases are on record in the community where cows made much more than 300 pounds of butterfat, but 300 is a fair average. George Bleakman, in Hardman, has sold an average of $11.80 worth of milk each month for some time, this from one cow and after furnishing enough to supply a family of five persons, all lovers of milk. Fifteen dollars a month is no over-statement of the possibilities of a cow when properly cared for.

Only 80 acres of the entire 1553 are devoted to the dairy. The rest is mainly wheat land. To show how the boys have branched out, I next went through the garden. Here I found all kinds of fruit trees, garden truck of every description and flowers of many kinds. Coming out of the garden I stopped to see the hired man feed some shoats, there were probably forty of the little fellows. The boys told me that they learned how to raise pigs back in Missouri. I remember seeing pigs in Missouri but they didn't look like those pigs. Back there they feed them acorns, at least they do in the Ozarks. I saw five full-blooded sows that were prize winners and three boars that they were raising to sell to their neighbors. The best hogs on the place, however, consisted of one two-year-old boar which weighed 600 pounds, one yearling animal weighing 350 pounds and one 300 pound boar just ten months old.

In the stables were 15 head of work horses, 15 mules and 7 colts. I also saw their two prize bulls, which are as good as you will find in the state. Over at the chicken house we saw 300 or more Barred Rock chickens and if I am not mistaken, there were a few geese, I remember of counting 40 turkeys on the feed lot.

And all of these possessions the Wightman Brothers have accumulated in the short time of five and one-half years. Well has it been said that the farmer is the only man whose feet are not on the "shifting sands," meaning of course, the Oregon farmer. The Wightman brothers are examples of the modern farmers who mix brains with the soil. It used to be said that the farmer's work is never done. This is not so today. The other day I happened in the country to see a subscriber but on arriving I was told that he had gone to town to collect his store rents. I prophesy that the Wightman Brother will soon be doing likewise. Farming is the greatest industry in this county, aye, the world. The farmer is in partnership with Nature and we are strong only as we live close to Mother Earth. In one of his essays Aristotle says this: "I have noticed that land that produces beautiful flowers and luscious fruits, and golden grains, also produces a very intelligent and able class of men and women." All of which is true of Morrow County and Oregon.

Section of Wightman Bros.' Model Dairy Barn

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Don't guess—read the Herald and know.

C. B. Sperry came up from Ione, Tuesday.

George Peck was up from Lexington on Tuesday.

Mrs. Wheery left the city on Tuesday morning.

Glenn Wells has been bitten by the auto bug. Look out.

Bazel Collins registered at the Palace from Echo last Tuesday.

Rev. Edwin Beach and wife were up from Lexington the first of the week.

M. C. Fuqua was in Heppner from Lexington the first of the week on business.

Rev. Orr left for Milton on Tuesday's train after a pleasant stay here of two days.

Among the good things that you mention to your friends, don't forget the semi-weekly.

Hebert W. Copeland
EYESIGHT SPECIALIST
Morrow County Dates For August

Aug. 20, 21, 22 at Palace Hotel Heppner... Aug. 23, 24 at Beymer's, Lexington...Aug. 25, 26 at Carle's, Ione.

"The window of the soul"—THE EYE,
Most precious gift to man!
As the busy years of life go by,
Preserve it while you can.

School children needing glasses should be fitted at this time. Do not start the boy or girl into school work this year with defective eyesight uncorrected. It means misery and bad lessons for the child.

Lawrence Reaney and son, from Lexington, spent Tuesday in Heppner on business.

Charley Smeet left Heppner for Lexington where he will work on a welldrilling machine.

L. E. Gay, one of the popular young men of Rhea Creek, was in the city during the early part of the week.

A. L. Hudson, a prominent business man of Hardman, was in Heppner the first of the week and made this office a call.

George Missildine left Heppner for Lewiston, Idaho, where he says that he will work. There's plenty of work here George.

Father Brongeest and Father Cantwell, both of The Dalles were visitors at Father O'Rourke's home in Heppner over Monday.

L. A. Florence, a prominent rancher living near Heppner, left for La Grande on Wednesday to attend to business interests.

Blanch and Carrie Ward, from Hardman, came in on Tuseday and left for Eugene the following day where they will attend school. Mrs. J. B. Lierfl was also in from Hardman with them.