

# FARMERS AND BUSINESS MEN MEET AT NYSSA

A most successful meeting of the Farmers and Business Men's League was held at the opera house Friday evening. In the absence of President H. S. Smith, Vice-President E. H. Dean presided.

It was in the nature of a re-organization meeting, and good feeling prevailed. Twelve new members were added to the rolls.

Several changes were made in the by-laws, the membership fee being raised to \$3, and the semi-annual dues to \$2, payable in advance.

L. Spier and C. C. Hunt were elected as new directors, the present board of directors being E. M. Dean, H. T. Francis, A. E. Wado, C. C. Hunt and L. Spier.

Several speeches were made, in which members made valuable suggestions as to how the organization could best serve the interests of the community. W. L. Gibson expressed the opinion that individual land holdings were too large and that the league should make an effort to attract buyers from outside points. John Emms of Iowa, outlined a plan for disposing of the surplus lands, and the president was authorized to appoint a committee to investigate his suggestions and to report at a special meeting to be held at the call of the directors.—Nyssa Journal.

## BIRDS DESTROY HARMFUL INSECTS AND WEED SEEDS

Birds Destroy Certain Insects and Weed Seeds, and are Very Useful to the Farmer.

How birds which destroy harmful insects and weed seeds may be used to the farmer is described in a new Farmers' Bulletin (No. 630) of the department entitled, "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer." This new publication has 27 pages and 21 illustrations (not colored) of the birds described. It contains much of the information included in one of the department's former publications entitled, "Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard." The department's copy of this latter pamphlet has been exhausted and it can now only be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., when it is sold at 15 cents a copy. It contains numerous colored illustrations of the birds mentioned. The new bulletin, "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer," will be furnished free to all applicants by the department.

Whether a bird is beneficial or injurious depends almost entirely on what it eats, says the introduction of the new bulletin. In the case of species which are very abundant, or which feed to some extent on the crops of the farmer, the question of their average diet becomes one of supreme importance, and only by stomach examination can it be satisfactorily solved. Field observations are at best but fragmentary and inconclusive and lead to no final results. Birds are often accused of eating this or that product of cultivation, when an examination of the stomach shows the accusation to be unfounded. Accordingly, the Biological Survey has conducted in some years past a systematic investigation of the food of those specimens which are most common about the farm and garden.

Within certain limits birds eat a kind of food that is most acceptable especially when their natural food is scarce or wanting. Thus they sometimes injure the crops of the farmer who has unintentionally destroyed their natural food in his improvement of swamp or pasture. Most of the damage done by birds and complaints of by farmers and fruit growers are from this very cause. The berries bearing shrub and seed-bearing trees have been cleared away, and the birds have no recourse but to attack the cultivated grain or fruit which have replaced their natural food supply. The great majority of land birds are injured upon insects during the period of feeding and moulting, and also feed upon young upon them during the first few weeks. Many species live almost entirely upon insects, taking vegetable food only when other subsistence is lacking. It is thus evident that in the course of a year birds destroy an incalculable number of insects, and it is difficult to overestimate the value of their services in restraining the great tide of insect life.

In winter, in the northern part of the country, insects become scarce and entirely disappear. Many species of birds, however, remain during the winter season and are able to maintain themselves by eating vegetable food, as the case of weeds. Here again is another useful function of birds in destroying these weed seeds and thereby lessening the growth of the next year. The new publication discusses the food habits of more than 50 birds belonging to 12 families. Many of the eastern forms which are represented in the West by slightly different species or subspecies, but whose habits differ they are not separately described. Among the popular ones included are the robin, bluebird, brown thrasher, catbird, lark, chickadee, crow, cuckoo, and the American sparrow.—U. S. Reports.

# JORDAN VALLEY

THE Enterprise has this week selected Jordan Valley to place before its readers. Much of the information has been furnished the Enterprise by M. N. Fegly. Mr. Fegly has been identified with that country for many years and has published the Jordan Valley Express, a weekly paper noted for its careful statements and truthfulness in connection with the advantages of his locality.

Mr. Fegly has been appointed Receiver at the U. S. Land Office located in Vale and has turned his paper over to Mr. Norton, for some time connected with the Caxton Printers, Caldwell. There are great hopes entertained by the citizens of Jordan Valley that the Boise-Winnemucca connection with the Western Pacific will be built through this section.

Louis Hill is reported as at present making an investigation of the route and several parties have made the trip for engineering examination. It is quite certain that the branch will be constructed in the near future and the route will likely be determined on in a short time. In any event the section is sure to advance with great rapidity on account of the irrigation work now constructed and under construction. The scientific methods of dry farming are being introduced through the government permitting the taking of 320 acre homesteads and intending settlers cannot do better than give this section an investigation.

The inland town of Jordan Valley, one and one half miles from the Idaho state line, seventy miles north of the Nevada line, in the east central portion of Malheur county at an elevation of 4200 feet above sea level, and situated on Jordan creek some 12 miles from the entrance of that creek into the Owyhee river, is one of the most thriving communities in the west.

The town is incorporated with a population of about 600. It is the distributing point for an immense area of grazing and farming country. The climate is equable and the summers at this elevation, in all of the west and, particularly in this section are unequalled. Fishing is excellent and the location an ideal one for tourists who enjoy an outing away from the noisy whistle of manufacturing centers. There is a splendid weekly newspaper noted for its progressiveness and loyalty to its home town.

One of the most profitable banks in the country is located at this point and no better point can be found in the west for the loaning and profitable use of more capital. Two first class hotels care for the traveling public with true western hospitality. Harness and blacksmith shops, repair shops of all kinds, large general stores, hardware stores, barber shops, meat markets and in fact every necessity of the home and farming industry obtainable. Large stocks are carried and the business of one store amounted to over \$100,000 the past season.

A large public amusement hall is one of the pleasant features of the town. Adjoining the city is a large dairy of thoroughbred Jerseys furnishing the people with milk and dairy products.

There is a splendid opportunity for a flouring mill, as some 300 tons of flour were shipped in the past season by freight teams.

### Tributary Country.

The business of the country has been mainly stock raising. The beautiful valleys at this and higher elevations and the great plateau between the Owyhee and Malheur basins, together with the vast ranges in Idaho drained by the Owyhee are covered with luxuriant grasses the entire season. In the valleys a vast amount of wild grass is stacked for winter feeding. Alfalfa has been grown in many of the valleys and yields abundantly. Fruit of all kinds is raised for the home market. In all of the valleys corn will make splendid growth and reach maturity. In the basin of the Owyhee are many small irrigation ditches watering the rich silts of that basin and raising from 6 to 10 tons of alfalfa per acre.

The great advantages of the section as a farming country had not been well considered by the people until late. Many Bros. of Boise and Oklahoma were brought into the country and were so favorably impressed that they took hold of a Carey act project which will eventually water some 50,000 acres of the finest land in Oregon.

They constructed the Antelope reservoir to a height of 35 feet which will hold sufficient water for 20,000 acres. They have constructed a feeder canal into the reservoir and will put 7,000 acres under water this season of 1915. The dam has been well built along scientific lines. An increased height of 30 feet will enable this dam to hold 127,000 acre feet. There is no indebtedness on this property and it is offered to settlers and to no others at from \$30 to \$50 per acre on excellent terms. A deed is available for the land on the date of sale.

Irrigation in this section is more simple than in any other locality in the arid west. There is a greater precipitation in the way of rain and snow, and irrigation is a supplementary consideration. Where there is needed from two to four acre feet in other sections, in this country

from one to two acre feet is ample.

The vast area of grazing country and the comparative isolation from rail transportation is not detrimental as might at first be considered. The prices for hay and grain for stock feeding are always good and will never be below other localities. The lessened cost of wool production more than equalizes the slight additional freight charge. It is but a short drive for cattle to rail transportation and is negligible. Settling up the country will in no wise interfere with the ranges, in fact makes them more valuable. The proximity of the ranges and lack of possible competition insures a fair price for hay, increased population increases the demand for other products and therefore the situation is ideal. The price of beef, mutton and wool will not be below a high price for many years.

As a grain producing country it is doubtful if this section can be excelled. The elevation and fair amount of precipitation make a dry farming crop of grain a practical certainty and when settlers finally enter upon the scientific production of stock and sheep, feeding their own grain and taking both profits, the success of the country is assured. Railroad facilities will be a secondary consideration as a drive of only 40 miles is but a trifle.

From the vicinity of Jordan Valley is shipped annually some 1,000,000 pounds of wool. Thousands of cattle are turned out yearly and upon settling the newly irrigated lands and increased acreage of dry farming for grain, the production of both cattle and sheep will be increased many fold while the raising of hogs in great numbers will add to the values of the land and wealth of the producers.

The taking of 320 acre homesteads has induced the settling of a very large area and upon the inauguration of scientific dry farming methods much more of the lower lands will be taken.

In the Owyhee range are great possibilities for the prospector. Another era of mining development is upon us and the high and well broken hills are full of mineral awaiting the careful search of the prospector and capital of the real miner.

Not being a commercial fruit country land has not reached the high prices noted in other sections of Oregon and Idaho. Land that will produce from 6 to 10 tons of alfalfa in the neighborhood of Nyssa will bring easily \$200 or \$250 per acre as its proximity to transportation makes possible the raising a more valuable and concentrated crop.

The land in the Jordan Valley section capable of producing the same crops can be had from \$25 to \$50 per acre, with a good water right and well improved otherwise. Hay at Jordan Valley will bring more per ton than will hay in other localities near railroads for the reason that there is vastly more of it available near the roads and stockmen from the high ranges on the Malheur and in northern Harney have reduced their stock through taking advantage of the recent high prices.

Jordan Valley was a busy place in the days of the Owyhee mining excitement.

The new potash discoveries are but a short distance from Jordan Valley.

Jordan Valley has furnished the foundation for several Malheur county fortunes.

The increased price of wool adds many thousand dollars to the circulating medium of Jordan Valley.

Many inquiries come to the Enterprise in re land in the vicinity of Jordan Valley.

Those desiring 320 acre homesteads can do no better than to investigate through local Vale or Jordan Valley agents.

Jordan Valley people welcome strangers with open hands and hearts. They want real developers.

Jordan Valley has the distinction of having one of the few Carey act projects successfully put on its feet without legal complications. Deeds can be given the day of sale.

The Catron company are determined to sell their holdings to settlers. They make prices to suit each separate piece of land.

The U. S. Land office can give general information in re land to entry in Jordan Valley or elsewhere, but the information as to quality of specified parcels of land must come from investigation or through individuals acquainted with it. Malheur county has over 6,000,000 acres, almost as large as Belgium.

Considerable movement is noted into the mining section of the Owyhee and Jordan Valley hopes for another mining boom in their locality.

Large numbers of horses are raised in the Jordan Valley section.

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Abstracts of Title to all farm lands and town lots in Malheur County.

## NYSSA CHEESE FACTORY IS MAKING GOOD

Nyssa, Feb. 20.—The Alfalfa Cheddar Cheese company of Nyssa has made approximately 372,000 pounds of cheese since the factory was established here, Feb. 3, 1913. During the first year of its operation this cheese factory distributed among the farmers \$15,000 for milk, and \$22,000 the second year. The highest single day's receipts of milk at the factory the first year were 4250 pounds, and the highest single day's receipts the second year were 7550 pounds of milk.

**Better Cheese Market**  
Aubert S. Smith, operating manager of the Nyssa factory, stated the cheese business is better than it was last fall and early winter. A month ago this factory sold a carload of cheese to the coast market, and now it has an order for another carload of cheese for the coast market. When this order is shipped out it will clean up all the cheese here up to the February made cheese. There are about 20,000 pounds of cheese to the carload. This factory is now making about 400 pounds of cheese daily, but its average since it opened two years ago is about 500 pounds per day. More cheese will be made here by spring when more of the cows freshen.

**Will Co-operate March 1, 1915.**  
The Nyssa cheese factory will become a strictly co-operative institution beginning March 1, 1915. It is believed this will doubly assure the future success of this plant. Real success in the cheese making business lies in co-operation. At Tillamook, Ore., the greatest and most successful cheese making district in the entire west, co-operation is carried on not only among the farmers who operate the cheese factories there, but the different cheese factories have formed a co-operative association. These co-operative cheese factories hire one general inspector, who inspects all the cheese in all the factories in his district, and one general salesman is employed to sell the cheese for all the factories belonging to the association. This plan has proven and is proving eminently successful for the whole cheese-making industry at Tillamook. It is believed by those who have given the matter much thought that this same co-operative plan would prove very successful for the cheese factories at Meridian, Parma, New Plymouth, Letha and Nyssa. Through co-operation it is believed these five Idaho and Oregon cheese factories would be successful in obtaining better markets and better prices for their products.—Staff Correspondent Capital News.

### SHORTSTOPS

If there were a minimum wage in your field of endeavor, would you have to work for it?

Variety is the spice of life, which probably explains why a lot of men grown older have stomachs that can't stand spice.

Certain publications are already figuring how Austria is going to be divided, but that seems to be somewhat premature, even if Austria has not yet succeeded in whipping Russia.