

mad waters into the Deschutes a few miles below the junction of Crooked river and Deschutes.

Passing over the Deschutes northeasterly, raised above the river about three hundred feet is the country called the "Agency Plains." It is a continuation of the Haystack country, northward, but cut off from it by the Willow Creek canyon, a very deep, ugly, rocky gorge. These plains are devoid of water, from sixty to eighty square miles in area, very level and soil very good, but little sage brush, but little stone, one vast stretch of waving bunch grass. Water is available from the Deschutes river, but the cost would be immense. Once there, in proper shape, it would be the "garden spot" of Crook County.

As the reader has noticed, the county has many high hills, buttes and mountains, with productive valleys of various lengths and widths. Upon many of the hill and mountain sides "away up," there are orchards that seldom fail bearing fruit. Melons, tomatoes and kindred plants mature to perfection, causing wonder and admiration of those who behold them. These orchards and gardens are in the isothermal belt, that obtains on all mountains.

The climate of Crook County is variable; the altitude being great, the air is nearly always cool and dry, being devoid of humidity, it is not oppressive when it is "a hundred in the shade." The nights are always cool, never has exceeded five nights in one summer that a person sleeping would not enjoy two pairs of good blankets. The winters are sometimes very cold for short periods, but seldom lasting over a week; for the three winters last passed, the ice houses have not been filled for the want of ice, and at this time (December 12) the people are fearful there will be none this winter.

But twice in twenty-one winters has snow fallen to the depth of one foot. Five winters have been what we call rainy winters; the others have been cool, windy, chinook winds, snow squalls, with a little rain occasionally.

Last June, 1900, the only destructive hail storm ever known in the county, passed from southwest to northeast, about four miles northwest of Prineville. It destroyed crops, broke windows, and killed chickens and turkeys. It was very narrow. Did damage for about twelve miles, then wasted its fury in the timbered mountains. The northern part of the county is the abiding place for cloud bursts, called water spouts. They come in the hottest weather, accompanied by lightning and thunder. The water falls so fast and furious, and runs off so quickly, that they do but little good in the way of irrigation.

Although high winds are common here, they seldom attain a destructive velocity. Cyclones, tornadoes, tourbillions, and "twisters" are absolutely unknown here.

#### PUBLIC LANDS OF CROOK COUNTY AND HOW TO ACQUIRE THEM.

Outside of the Cascade Reserve, Crook county contains over 6,000,000 acres of land of which at least 5,000,000 acres are vacant public land. Each sixteenth and thirty-sixth section is state school land, the remainder being government land. School

lands are sold by the state at \$1.25 per acre, one-third of the purchase price being required to be paid down and the remainder to run at six per cent, or the whole may be paid down and a patent obtained at once. Sales are restricted to 320 acres to one purchaser, but the amount of school lands purchased does not in any way interfere with a person's right to enter government land.

Government land may be acquired in several ways, the direct method being under the Homestead, the Timber and Stone, and the Desert Land Acts. There is one restriction which applies to all these acts, viz.: that the amount of land which any person can obtain title to under any or all of these acts combined, is limited to 320 acres, filed upon or entered since August 30, 1890. It follows, of course, that lands entered or filed upon prior to that date are not included in the 320 acres that the person may take. For instance, a person prior to August 30, 1890, having had the benefit of the Homestead act, is still entitled to 320 acres under the desert act or 160 acres under the Timber and Stone act and 160 acres under desert act. No person is allowed the benefit of the Homestead law but once, but if for any reason he lost or forfeited his right, or if he commuted a homestead entry prior to June 30, 1900, he is entitled to a second homestead entry of 160 acres, requiring five years residence upon and cultivation of, and a total cost of about \$40 fees and commissions to perfect title, or a residence of fourteen months and a cash payment of \$1.25 per acre.

Desert entries may be taken in tracts from 40 to 320 acres by any citizen of the state, either male or female, over the age of 21 years. Twenty-five cents per acre must be paid down and \$1 per acre at time of final proof, which may be made at any time within four years after the land has been reclaimed by conducting water thereon, and an expenditure in money or labor of \$3 for each acre of the tract. Residence is not required on desert lands, but one-eighth of the land must have been cultivated at least one year.

Under the Timber and Stone Acts a person may purchase 160 acres, valuable chiefly for stone or timber, at \$2.50 per acre, to be paid down after publishing notice of intention to purchase.

In addition to the above methods, lands may be purchased in quantities limited only by one's ability to pay, by the location of School Land Indemnity, Forest Reserve or Railroad scrip, which is worth from \$3.50 to \$5 per acre, and may be located on any unoccupied government land.

Under some one or more of the above methods any person of limited means may acquire a home in Crook county which will make him an independent livelihood. Improved farms range in price from \$5 to \$25 per acre, according to location, amount of tillable land and adaptability to the purpose for which it is intended.

Alfalfa and natural meadow lands are the most valuable. Irrigation projects now under way will add tens of thousands of acres of alfalfa and clover lands to our tillable area, and the person who is fortunate enough to get these at first cost will have laid the foundation for a fortune.

The proprietor of this paper has full and complete maps and official plats of the

entire county, is a U. S. commissioner, and as such is empowered to take all kinds of land filings, final proofs, etc., and can furnish any information desired by intending settlers or those already having land claims here. He has had large experience in land matters and guarantees all information and work to be reliable and correct.

Address or call on,

A. C. PALMER,  
Journal Office, Prineville, Oregon.

#### PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE MINING IN CROOK COUNTY.

Crook county embraces a territory in extent larger than many of the states of the Union, being about 108 miles across from east to west, and about 84 miles north and south, and is now undoubtedly the greatest field comparatively unexplored for mines now extant. The geological conformation is the greatest of all, and is bewildering to the casual observer. On the eastern slope of the Cascade mountains we find a country from the southern boundary of the state as far north as the range of mountains known as Mutton mountain, that indicates great volcanic action and is entirely covered with lava and volcanic sand and ash, consequently is devoid of all mineral indications, either coal or the more precious metals, but rich in forest and with a soil noted for fertility, having an abundance of water easily obtainable for irrigation purposes.

Miners speak of what they term mineral belts. My opinion is that a mineral belt is only some point where the original mineral formation has been pushed up through the more recent formation, or some point of original high elevation that has had its base covered by a more recent action.

Therefore, believing that this country at some period was all seamed with mineral veins, all that we have to find is the points of upheaval or the points of original high elevation to find mines. Yet there may be mines found at other points where breaks in the new crust occur, letting up mineralized waters sufficient to change the walls of the fracture by deposits of silica impregnated with copper, gold, and silver in quantities to pay for working. In the northern portion of this county we find the most western spur of the Blue mountains, out of which flows the creek known as Trout creek, coming toward the west, upon which is situated the group of mines known as the Oregon King Company mines. These mines project themselves to the surface on the low hills immediately north of this creek, and seem to be in original position and but recently, so far as time goes, have been uncovered from the baser or barren rocks above. The original apex has not suffered any great erosion, consequently the minerals these mines carry have not been scattered or shed down into the stream below, offering a clew for their detection by the wary prospector looking for prospects. Otherwise the mines might have been found years ago. The formation uncovered and exposed in which these mines are found cover a territory in extent about four miles wide and twenty miles long, reaching from Trout Creek to Currant and Cherry creeks. In this mineral formation have been found gold, silver, copper, lead, and antimony. The Silver