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SQUAW CREEK.

A Trip To Sisters And Its Results.

A Prosperous Country.

Where Blooming Fields of Clover Greet The Eye on Every Side.

Leaving Prineville on Wednesday morning we took the overland flyer for the famous Land of Pines in the shadow of the everlasting snows of the Three Sisters. Journeying down Crooked river we saw some of the finest wheat and other cereals that it has ever been our lot to behold, also fields of fine alfalfa. These productive lands show conclusively what water will do for the soil of this country when properly applied. All along the river from town to where the road leaves the valley to cross the "desert" to the Deschutes one encounters pleasant homes where not many years ago a broad expanse of sage brush met the eye. We firmly believe that what has been accomplished along their river may be had on the upland if the water can be had for the purpose. After leaving the valley we pass over about eight miles of table land that appears to be equally as rich soil as that along the river, which is contemplated being covered by some of the numerous irrigating ditches now being constructed on the Deschutes. The soil is a composition of sand and volcanic ash that has been found to be very productive and having great lasting qualities. In places there is nothing but stone and this is called "scab land," altho the writer has seen many German families living on much worse looking farms than these lands would make if properly handled under irrigation.

After dinner at the bridge on the Deschutes we ascended a gentle slope to another table land which stretches out for several miles and then down into shallow canyons which are now being settled upon. On every quarter section of this land almost, is room for a home for some enterprising rancher "when the water comes." That part of this land now considered refuse will in time produce fine bunch grass, if kept fenced and not overstocked.

About ten miles from the Deschutes we come to the section of country that is under the Squaw creek irrigation system, where we find a number of fine looking ranches along the road, but we are informed that the best ones are too far from the road to be discernable. This is the beginning of the famous Sisters clover district and the fields in all directions were red with blossoms. An occasional nice looking garden meets the eye in this section. There is still an abundance of land subject to settlement and plenty of water to irrigate it.

A short distance beyond the crossing of Squaw creek we find the nucleus of a future town in the store building of Smith Brothers, also several dwellings and stables, blacksmith shop and hotels. The proprietors of the store informed

us that the present year has been a good one for trade, as the population is increasing rapidly and they also supply a large number of the summer sheep camps.

For miles in all directions from Sisters the surface of the country is gently undulating and is covered with a growth of fine pine timber which being removed leaves the land ready for the plow. This timber is easily removed as all one has to do is to girdle the trees one year and the next they are dead and do no considerable harm and can be removed at leisure.

Rising above the forest and seemingly springing from the level plain, rises the towering form of Black Butte, one of the most symmetrical mountain peaks in the west. This peak is nearly seven thousand feet above sea level and is a prominent landmark for many miles around.

Some twelve miles to the southward are the snow clad summits of Mt. Washington and the Three Sisters, which furnish the storehouse for water to make this country a solid clover field. When most streams in this part of the state are drying up for lack of nourishment, Squaw creek and all other streams having their sources in these snowy mountains are at their best.

So far as gardening and small fruits are concerned this section of country is only in the experimental state, but where they have been tried small fruits seem to do as well, or better than on Crooked river. In the course of time, it is the writers opinion, all kinds of hardy fruits will be produced in abundance.

On Lower Squaw creek about fourteen miles from Sisters some of the finest gardens ever seen are said to be growing. Water melons as large as water buckets and pumpkins that will weigh seventy-five pounds are common.

Two crops of clover hay are produced annually and then the meadows furnish fine pasturage for stock until snow flies. Verily it seems that after the first few years of hard work the lines of the rancher in the vicinity of Sisters has fallen in pleasant places.

Baker City Republican: Just cause for complaint exists in the custom of some sheep buyers who drive their flocks leisurely through the country, devouring the pastures of residents. It is quite common for a buyer to start out with the purpose of ranging all summer and fall on the territory used by resident owners, and then take his stock beyond the reach of tax-gatherers. Thus, is a district made to support stock from which it gets no benefit, and the owners of the transient herds is skipped in the payment of taxes. Also the resident is eaten out of house and home, and the county loses a good citizen and taxpayer. The Lake County Examiner recently called attention to this injustice, which was made conspicuous there by the reveges of sheep estimated to number 50,000 being driven from Crook, Sherman and other northern counties, to California. Union county has complained of the same practice in the northern portions of her territory, and several districts might be named where like predatory habits inflict losses upon resident people, without any benefit being derived for the county.

OUR DESERT LAND

Its Transformation and Outlook.

From Barren to Fertile.

As Seen by a Disinterested Observer Who Tells of Its Bright Future.

Paul Delaney in Portland Telegram.

As long as hay is raised with no other labor than harvesting and has a ready sale at \$5 per ton, the tedious work of diversified farming will be neglected and kept back, though the prices of the products are good.

This will remain the case until the grazing lands are taken up on a more diversified scale and the bands of stock reduced in numbers, which will necessarily increase the number of men engaged in the business. While it will increase the demand for hay it will also increase the demand for farm products, as the population increases. As the lands under water supply at present are about all taken the prices of lands of a tillable nature are increasing at a rapid rate, and it will not be long until the lands will reach such a value that the small farmer will only be able to buy a small tract of land. He will necessarily engage in diversified farming on his small plot.

The soil in this section of country is noted for its fertility. Water is only needed to make it produce anything that can be grown in this latitude. The supply of water is being increased by artificial means in different ways, and every means will be exhausted, so long as it offers successful farming, and this will be as long as there is an available acre left in the fertile sections. Artificial ditches are now the principal means of supplying the water for irrigation purposes, but storage by means of mountain reservoirs is being advocated and built in some instances, as well as successful prospecting for artesian water in many instances. Where there is such vegetable-producing soil and water going to waste sufficiently to utilize it, it is safe to say that the enterprising American will find a means of uniting the two elements with profitable results.

It is a remarkable coincidence of nature that within reasonable distance of all of these fertile sections there are belts of fine timbered lands in the mountains, where material can be had for improving the lands. It is a fine grade of timber and in sufficient quantities for all purposes. These timber lands and the farming lands, in many instances, can be had from the Government for the mere price of filing and locating fees, and a small acreage price in some cases, and are being taken up at a rapid rate. And this will naturally continue until all are taken up. Several Government surveying parties have been at work in this section during the past summer, and as fast as the surveys are completed the industrious homeseeker is on hand to make his selections. While the best is being taken as fast as it is surveyed, and in many instan-

ces prior rights have been acquired by previous settlement on the best before the survey was made, many good plats now suitable for homes are being culled over, and many remain vacant for years to come. Yet every foot of this land will be taken sooner or later, and the vast empire of Eastern Oregon eventually settled up by the industrious husbandman, added to the already great and thickly populated Western Oregon, the state will indeed increase in magnitude and in power as a factor in this Government.

To the stranger life on the "Oregon desert" would seem monotonous and lacking in interest. The sagebrush-covered plains, the barren, rockribbed mountains of wastes, the dust whirlwinds and the mournful howls of the coyote at night, the isolation from railroads and the imaginary lack of society, all seem repulsive to the person from "civilization." But there are points to break this monotony. Aside from the romance connected with life in the country already described, there are many things to occupy the mind and give contentment. The first of all of these is the confidence of success from the start inspired by the universal success that surrounds one here. Give one confidence in success for every blow of labor performed and for every cent of money expended and contentment is sure to follow. But there are other attractions here. The scenery of Eastern Oregon is independent of any in any other part of the state. In nearly every county numerous not springs, with a temperature sufficient to boil an egg in a few minutes, gush from the earth. Tall rock pillars are to be found at many points extending high toward the heavens, as straight and uniform as if chiseled by human hands. Wild game, bear, deer antelope and the smaller species roam the plains and foothills and mountains, and fish are abundant in the streams. The wild life and daring riding of the buccaroos also have interesting features. Telephones connect this section with the outside world, and the punctual mail service brings the daily papers to the most remote point ere they are three days old. There are also many historic points to visit, where noted battles were fought with the Indians and where forts and camps were occupied by the soldiers.

These are, of course, aside from the industries of the country, but go to make up its features. Most of the population is made up from men who formerly settled in Western Oregon, and while they still love their old "Webfoot" home they will tell you that they would not give the exhilarating life of the dry "desert" for the easy life in "wet" old Webfoot.

And they will tell you another thing—that, while Eastern Oregon is now known as a stock country almost exclusively, in a few years she will rival her Webfoot sister as a producer of nearly everything that grows on the farm, and still raise stock and wool on a large scale.

An Eugene agricultural editor saw a hay baler at work and proceeded to say in his paper that threshing was in full blast throughout the country.

GENERAL NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week. Timely Topics.

This week the Baker Republican will commence using its new Mergenthaler typesetting machine, which has been installed ready for use. This linotype is of the very latest pattern, and cost, laid down, about \$4000.

John and Tom Considine, charged with the murder of Chief of Police Merideth, were arraigned before Judge Emory, in the Superior Court, and both having plead not guilty the trial was set for September 15th.

Timber fires have been raging for nearly a week on Butte creek and Thirty-Mile, near Fossil. The Butte creek fire was started by one Grant, who was burning a log and let the fire get beyond his control. Grant lost 1000 posts and quantity of cordwood.

Fish Hawk, chief of the Cayuse tribe, died of consumption at his home on the Umatilla reservation last Sunday. He was a son of the famous war chief of the Cayuses, Young Chief, who was conspicuous in the wars of the tribe during the 50's and 60's.

Baker City has more labor unions than almost any other town in Oregon. It has a plasterers' and a masons' union, a plumbers' union, a carpenters' union, a painters' union, a typographical union, and steps are being taken to organize a cigar makers' union.

John Winters, who was arrested for the Selby smelting works robbery, has confessed the crime, and so far \$130,000 worth of the bullion has been discovered from the way, where he sank it. Winters' confession saves him from punishment, according to promise and he will receive \$25,000 offered as a reward.

The state has brought suit against Sylvester Pennoyer, George W. McBride and Phil Metschan, ex governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, respectively, during the period between September 890, and January 1895, to recover the amount of the defalcation of George W. Davis, clerk of the school land board appointed by them.

When the old cows on the mountain range look down and see the big stacks of winter feed that are punching holes in the atmosphere of Harney Valley the aforesaid cows lie down in the shade of a pine tree and laugh till their tallow gets all out of shape, says the News. And the little wether lamb that don't know anything about hay, is sleeping away the summer that is giving him a big start towards \$2.30.

We hope that the Democratic bolters in Ohio will take warning and lasso their only unescaped candidate before he can also get away.