

# Crook County Journal.

VOL. VI.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, MARCH 6, 1902.

NO. 12

## GREAT RESOURCES

### Developed and Otherwise in Crook County.

#### Information for Settlers

Answering Many Questions Asked  
By Those Intending Locating  
Here.

In order to answer the many inquiries that are being received here almost daily we have compiled a short synopsis of the resources of this county. This county was set off from Wasco in 1882 and a liberal slice of territory was added to it in 1885 from Grant, making it as large or larger than many of the eastern states, in fact it is larger than Massachusetts, New Jersey or Vermont and contains in round numbers 1,000 square miles or 6,400,000 acres of land. Under the same conditions of development as obtain in many of the densely populated states east of the Mississippi it would support a population of no less than 2,000,000. It now contains about 4,500 which is being constantly increased by a steady influx of immigrants. The general topography of the county is rolling hills and gently undulating plains rising abruptly into snow crowned peaks at the western boundary, where the Three Sisters rise majestically above the evergreen hills of the Cascade range. A "desert" thirty miles wide traverses the entire width of the county. This large area of soil will be in a large measure reclaimed during the next few years by means of a system of irrigating canals which are contemplated being taken from the Deschutes river, a mountain stream rising in the extreme southwest corner of the county and flowing in a northerly direction into the Columbia 250 miles distant. This is one of the finest trout streams on the continent, many specimens of that gamy fish three feet in length being taken. This desert is not a desert by any means as it produces fine hay and vegetables without irrigation in many places.

The town of Prineville contains nearly 1000 inhabitants and the usual complements of stores etc. Last year there was handled in this place over 2,000,000 pounds of freight which will be increased when the railroad gets here.

As to the general outlook for the county we can do no better than to quote from the Shaniko Leader's write up of the county as follows:

"Near Prineville the waters of Crooked River are to be diverted and a tract of sagebrush land that now supports one sagehen and a dozen jackrabbits to the square mile will be made to yield in stock feed as much per acre as it does now to a half a township. From the Deschutes several big ditches are projected that of the Three Sisters Co. being nearly completed. These will bring under cultivation thousands of acres of sagebrush land, the most prolific soil known, and southern and southeastern Crook, practically non-productive, will be the banner portion of the county. This section offers the most attractive

inducements to settlers, for as has been demonstrated all over the Coast, irrigation makes crops sure and wealthy. It will be but a short time until railroad transportation will be within reach of all this section, and lands that can now be had under government conditions will be worth more per acre than the average man can dig up.

The writer hereof remembers back in the fifties, when the Mormons were leading the waters from the mountain canyons over the barren sagebrush plains of the Salt Lake Valley. Years ago their intelligence and labor were rewarded with abundant returns, and today the desert they found fifty years ago is a "garden of delight." He also remembers when at Riverside, California, the horn-toad and the rattlesnake were the principal products of the soil. When the big ditch was brought in the land below underwent a decided change. The land above the ditch still produces a good crop of toads and snakes, while that below is covered with orchards and gardens and is worth from \$500 to \$1700 per acre. Like conditions produce like results, and we predict that ere many years have passed the famous "desert" of Crook County will be a "witchery of green." Orchards will make the air heavy with perfume, alfalfa and clover will bloom purple and red, and nod sleepily to the breeze; and fields of billowing grain, green and gold, will delight the farmer's eye, and fatten his goodly wallet.

Just think of the possibilities for this great area! Today each man, woman and child within its borders has two sections of land to turn around in. There are 1147 school children in the county. Now if the county was evenly settled, this would give one to each 9 sections, or four of the township. With an average of 36 to the school, this would make the district eighteen miles square. You see, there is room for more people to crowd into the corners, at least. Imagine Rhode Island with only four school districts in it!

There are 6,400,000 acres of land in the county, and they have running over them, and living principally from the natural pastures (we give round numbers), 12,000 horses, 22,000 cattle, and 180,000 sheep. This would give to each animal 30 acres to eke out an existence in. Clearly there is room for another cow or two, and a few more sheep. Yet the county makes a good showing financially, in spite of its sparse settlement and undeveloped wealth. With cattle and horses valued at \$10 each, and sheep at \$1.75, it showed at the last assessment, \$1,790,388. There are 530,000 acres of non-tillable deeded land, and 30,900 acres of tillable deeded land in the county, and nearly 6,000,000 acres yet open for settlement.

The county also gives promise of being rich in precious metals. At Lookout Mountain, cinnabar carrying six per cent quicksilver has been found. At Ochoco, 30 miles east of Prineville, mining has been going on for several years, and at Ashwood, in the northeastern part of the county, there is much active development work being done, with at least one mine, the Oregon King, proved to be a permanent mine and of great value.

The county is out of debt, and when Wheeler county was cut off three years ago it paid \$15 as its portion of the entire indebtedness.

With the area of a state; with incalculable water power; with vast bodies of magnificent timber; with great areas subject to irrigation and abundance of water for the purpose; with hills waving with bunch grass and meadows green with alfalfa; with the earth itself generous with precious metals, who is there who shall say to what proud place among the jewels of Columbia's crown Crook county may not aspire?

#### From Lamonta.

Livestock of all kinds looks well having passed through the winter in good condition. Col. Smith and some of the other ranchers are still feeding their stock.

Quite a heavy shower accompanied by a high wind is falling this afternoon and the indications point to its lasting for several hours, which will delay seeding.

J. H. Grant was a visitor in our community a couple of days last week. He leaves the impression with us that he devotes his spare moments to self culture, self improvement and growth of character.

Mrs. Joseph Weigand's mother, a sister and brother arrived about ten days ago from Missouri. They are very much pleased with the appearance of this part of the country and the mother and daughter have taken homesteads near Lamonta. They seem to have money with which to commence operations.

Excellent progress has been made in farm work in the country immediately surrounding Lamonta. Many of the farmers have commenced their spring seeding. Ernest Weigand began last week, Lee Moore, J. R. Bennett and others will begin the first of this week. The acreage of spring sown grain will be almost double that of last year. The fall sown grain has passed through the winter without injury and now looks well. A large yield from fall sown grain is confidently expected.

J. C. Rush is making a special effort towards beautifying his residence by way of planting trees and shrubbery. He also has under construction a wire-netting fence around his hay pasture. He is going quite heavily into the hog industry, because it is a very profitable way to dispose of his large grain crops. An unfailing sign of prosperity is improvement in farm lands. The whole country seems to be awakening from its lethargic condition and assuming an air of business activity. We read of improvement and advancement in every direction. I predict that as soon as the people are assured of regular and profitable marketing of their products, they will branch out in their ventures, and more homeseekers will buy homes and take land and a fertile country will soon assume the importance that should attach to it.

JENNIE B.

LAMONTA, Or., Feb. 23, 1902.

#### Boy Wanted.

The JOURNAL would like to make an agreement with a bright boy who wants to learn the printers trade.

Onion sets and everything else in seeds. See Bee Hive.

## OUR ARID LANDS

### In the Deschutes Valley Being Reclaimed.

#### Under the Cary Act.

The State Land Board Will Regulate and Fix the Amount of Lien.

The state land board has decided upon a form of contract for the reclamation of arid lands that is expected to be acceptable to all concerned. The state is to make the estimate of the cost of the reclamation works, thus governing the amount of the lien to be established under the contract, and for this purpose will appoint an engineer to act for the state. The applicants, it is understood, interpose no objection to this course. They have contended that the estimates of cost must be adopted in the beginning, or it would be impossible to finance the enterprises, and this seems to be provided for now. The estimate of cost will be made in advance, so there can be no future quibble about the amount of the lien, and it is to be made by a representative of the state, and not left to the unquestioned estimates of the applicants. Applications to reclaim more than 250,000 acres of arid land are now on file in the state land office, most of it being in the Deschutes valley.

In brief, the board has decided that it will give an applicant a contract for the reclamation of arid land at a price to be estimated by a civil engineer appointed by the state land board. This price will be the amount due the reclamation company, and the amount for which the company will have a lien upon the land. The state engineer will also fix the rate the company may charge per year for use of water by settlers upon reclaimed land.

The state land board has reached this decision after consulting with a number of well-known attorneys in this state. A difference of opinion has existed concerning the proper interpretation of the law, and this difference has caused the delay.

The board has been advised by its attorneys that the amount due should be fixed in the contract, and that in determining this amount the board may adopt such means as it may deem best. Contracts will therefore be drawn according to this view. Applicants will be required to furnish the state land board with maps and plans and specifications of the work that will be necessary in order to reclaim the land. The board will submit the plans to an engineer appointed by the board, and will require him to furnish an estimate of the cost of constructing the ditches, flumes, etc., and also the annual charge per acre which should be allowed for the maintenance of the irrigation system. The compensation of this engineer must be paid by the applicant for a contract. All the expenses of reclaiming the land and securing title thereto must be paid by the company reclaiming the land, and the company must look to settlers who wish to purchase land for repayment for the cost of reclamation.

The law provides, in brief, that any person who desires to reclaim arid land shall make application therefor to the state land board, submitting at the same time maps and plans of the proposed irrigation system. The application must also contain an estimate of the cost of constructing the irrigation system, and the annual cost of maintenance. The land board then make a contract with the applicant for the reclamation of the land, and the state land board makes an application to the secretary of the interior for a contract binding the United States to convey the lands when reclaimed. The irrigation company is given full and exclusive possession of the land from the time the contract is made. The company must begin work on its ditches within six months after the contract shall be made with the secretary of the interior, and by the end of the first year 10 per cent of the necessary expenditures must be made, and must complete the work within such reasonable time as may be fixed in the contract. After land has been reclaimed, any citizen of the United States may secure title to 160 acres thereof by paying the holder of the lien the proportionate amount due on the tract desired, provided the state land board shall designate the proportion of the amount of the entire lien which the desired tract bears to the whole tract subject to the lien. The deed to the land is to be executed by the state land board and will be in the form of a quit claim.

The most important application is that of the Pilot Butte Development Company, for a contract for \$6,000 acres on the Deschutes river, in Crook county. The company estimates the cost of reclamation in that case at \$10 per acre.—Oregonian.

#### Notice of Appointment.

Mr. Clay A. Simpson, formerly special for the New York Life Insurance Co., wishes to announce to his many friends and the public generally that he has accepted the management of the Interior Department of Oregon for the Washington Life Insurance Co., of New York, and will probably establish a branch office for the company at Prineville. The Washington Life, "The Old Defender," is 42 years old, and has a record and financial standing excelled by none, is up-to-date and has some new special policies that are well worth careful consideration.

#### Dissolution Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between Frank Elkins and J. H. Wigle, under the name of Frank Elkins & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, J. H. Wigle retiring. All accounts owing said firm will be collected by Frank Elkins and all indebtedness of said firm will be settled by said Frank Elkins.

FRANK ELKINS & Co.  
PRINEVILLE, Or., Feb. 8, 1902.

#### Dissolution Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the firm of Collins & Davis is this day dissolved by mutual consent, Arlington Davis retiring. All bills will be paid by the new firm, Collins & Sloan, who will also collect all accounts due the new firm.  
COLLINS & DAVIS.  
Dated March 4, 1902.

Our success last fall was enormous. Everybody satisfied. If you want a suit made to order give us a trial. You will also be satisfied. See Bee Hive.