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THE AGENCY PLAINS

Dalles Man Visits This Favored Spot.

It's Wonderful Fertility.

New Homes Springing Up on Every Hand—Grain and Grass Looking Fine

Timothy Brownhill, who recently returned from the Agency Plains, speaking of that country says the business men of The Dalles do not appreciate the possibilities of the Agency Plains and the country between Sherar's Bridge and the Plains, says The Dalles Chronicle. It is surprising to see the number of new homes dotting the landscape between Sherar's Bridge and Lake-oven. These homes are located on government land, once supposed to be worthless only for stock grazing, but now proved beyond a doubt to be fine grain land. The only reason that the settlement is not continued on through to the Plains is lack of good roads.

The Agency Plains as situated about sixty-six miles south of The Dalles, bordered by the Deschutes river on the west, Haycreek on the east, broken country and rim rock on the north and timber and hills on the south. The plains consist of nearly level country about eight miles wide and from twelve to fifteen miles long. All the land, except that near to the breaks, can be plowed and is free from rocks, the soil being from two to six feet deep. Bunch grass grows in great abundance, mixed with sage brush, which, however, is of the small variety and easily cleared. Mr. Calvin Fox, recently of this city, who has a claim on the Plains, has a few acres sown to wheat and has also planted a garden. Both the wheat and garden produce are making a splendid showing for being sown so late, and especially when you consider that the sod was broken late in the spring and the ground not harrowed at all, just smoothed over with a long piece of wood.

All of the good land is taken. A few quarter sections are vacant that would make good homes, and the settlers on the Plains, numbering into the hundreds, are nearly all of a permanent character. They are improving their claims, have built very neat houses, and though small, are substantial, and are now commencing work on fencing and digging wells. Water is of an unknown quantity there at present the wells being located on the wagons; but these conditions will be of short duration as the settlers are combining their capital and labor, and while some are making arrangements to bore, others are digging regular wells. The deepest one is now thirty-five feet with a good prospect of water. The nearest road to this country is via Tugh Valley, Wapinitia and Warm Springs, but parts of the road are so hilly and rocky that nothing can be drawn over them to advantage. A splendid road, however, is the one via of Sherar's Bridge, Antelope and Cross Keys to Heisters station, thence west through the gap to the Plains over a smooth, well kept road nearly all the way

and over which good loads can be drawn.

As the settlers located from the top of the hill on the other side of Sherar on to the plains are more than anxious to turn their patronage to The Dalles on account of the saving of railroad rates on freight, it will pay the business men of this city to co-operate with Mr. Sherar in building a nearer road to these new settlements, as Mr. Sherar assures us that he has already surveyed, what can be made a splendid road, and some twenty-five or thirty miles nearer than the one mostly traveled at present. The patronage to be had from the country mentioned will be no small item and why not make an effort to have the majority of it to come to The Dalles.

Oregon Crop Conditions.

The past week has been phenomenally cold, and wet. Heavy rains have fallen in all sections of the State, and the day temperatures averaged from 10 to 15 degrees below the normal in western sections and from 18 to 22 degrees below the normal in the eastern sections. Strong winds prevailed for several days in the Columbia river valley, and light frosts were reported, Monday morning, in the extreme eastern portion of the State.

The maximum, or day temperatures during the week in western Oregon ranged between 54 and 68 degrees, and the minimum, or night temperature between 44 and 55 degrees. In Eastern Oregon the maximum temperatures ranged between 50 and 76 degrees and the minimum temperatures between 38 and 52 degrees.

The damage by the rains consisted in lodging a great deal of fall wheat principally in the Willamette valley and in portions of the Umatilla wheat regions; some standing hay was also lodged and a large amount of cut hay has been injured. With favorable weather this week much of the lodged grain and grass will come up again, and considerable cut hay will be saved in fair condition. The rains have injured ripe cherries by causing them to burst and mold, and a second crop of weeds has started on summer-fallowed land, which will necessitate a second cultivation. The grain harvest also will be delayed about a week, on account of the cool weather.

The rains have been of vast benefit to spring grain, receded fields of wheat, potatoes, corn, gardens, pastures, and all late crops. In the Grande Ronde valley and in southern Oregon they have been especially beneficial as the preceding droughty conditions were beginning to cause alarm, and spring wheat that it was thought would have to be cut for hay will now make a heavy crop. Wheat is filling nicely, but in Umatilla county much spout is reported.

Hope, corn, and gardens are thriving, but backward and need bright, sunny weather. The outlook is favorable for a good crop of apples. The condition of prunes remain unchanged, and from a half to a third of a crop is all that is expected. Peaches are doing well and an average crop or better will probably be harvested in southern Oregon.

OUR COUNTY COURT

Regular Session for the Month of July.

New Officers in Charge

County High School Located at Prineville—Other Business Done.

On Wednesday, the second day of July, the County Court met in the court house, there being present, commissioners Healy and Templeton, Judge Wills being absent, and the sheriff and clerk, the following proceedings were had.

In the matter of the claim for damages of R. V. Jenkins: Ordered that claim for \$178.59 be allowed in full of all demands.

In the matter of the report of D. W. Barnett et al, viewers of the Lave-ham road, report being favorable, said road is declared a public highway and ordered opened and platted on road records of this county.

In the matter of the report of the viewers of the C. E. McDowell road. Viewers failing to meet, new viewers were appointed in the persons of R. M. Templeton, I. W. Spear and J. E. Callahan and C. A. Graves, surveyor to meet at the place of beginning of the fifth day of August, at ten o'clock a. m. of said day.

In the matter of the report of C. W. Elkins, road master, on the cost of bridge on the Forest road. Report read and approved.

In the matter of the apportionment of the road fund and warrants for road supervisors; the following amounts were ordered paid to the respective districts and supervisors. District 14: Road master ordered to settle account of \$36 and charge same to road fund of said district. District 18: Road master ordered to settle account of \$18 and charge to fund of said district. District 14: ordered that warrant be drawn in favor of said district for \$5.50. Account of W. H. Kinder; ordered that Road master settle account of \$88.80. District 6: ordered that road fund be raised \$2.45. Clerk ordered to draw warrant in favor of George Osborn for \$2.45. Ordered that Road master pay Ed Kutcher \$65.50 out of road fund for district 23. Ordered that road fund for district 23 be raised \$2.45.

In the matter of the supervisors bill: Ordered that clerk draw warrant in favor of C. A. Leveling for \$11. Ordered that Road master settle account of I. Shaddock for \$9 and charge to road district 18. Ordered that Road master pay to E. E. Hollis \$41, this being the balance due district 18. Bill of road supervisor of district 5, returned by the Road Master for correction and continued for the term.

In the matter of the bill for Simpson & Wilson, for \$1.70; allowed and clerk ordered to draw warrant for same.

In the matter of location of County High school, continued until July 9, for full attendance of the county court. Court here adjourned until the 9th day of July, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

Court convened at 10 o'clock a. m. July 9, there being present, County Judge W. A. Booth, commissioners Healy and Powell and sheriff Smith and clerk Smith, the following proceedings were had:

In the matter of locating location of County High School: On this day the consideration is given to the location of County High School, the city of Prineville named for the location of said County High school.

In the matter of road district 19, clerk ordered to draw warrant in favor

of Joseph Street for \$75 on road fund.

In matter of account of road district 5: Ordered that the Road Master settle with J. N. Quiberg, supervisor of district 5 to the amount of \$30, being all the money due said district July 9.

Ordered that the clerk draw warrant in favor of C. Montgomery, in the sum of \$111.00, being all the money in road fund belonging to said district July 9; said money to be expended for road work and vouchers for the same turned over to this court.

Ordered that the Road Master settle with H. Grimes, supervisor of dist. 7 to the amount of \$49.30, out of road fund for that district.

Ordered that the Road Master settle with E. G. Bolter, road supervisor of district 10 to the amount of \$4, out of the road fund.

In the matter of the petition of James McMeen et al, for a bridge across Crooked River on Forest road, continued for the term.

In the matter of order to road supervision to remove obstructions in county roads: On this day after due consideration in regard to many complaints made to the court in regard to parties fencing up or across county roads: It is ordered that the Road Master be and he is hereby ordered to notify all road supervisors to move, or cause to be moved all fences that now obstruct any county road in their respective road districts. Dated this 11th day of July, 1902.

In the matter of the wrongful assessment of E. L. Johnson: Ordered that W. C. Congleton, sheriff, be credited with the sum of \$3.59 on tax roll of 1901.

In the matter of the double assessment of W. C. Congleton and rebate allowed on taxes of 1901: Ordered that the sheriff be credited in the sum of \$933.90 rebate on taxes and the sum \$14.30 on double assessment.

In the matter of penalty and interest of W. C. Congleton, sheriff: Ordered that sheriff be charged with the sum of \$129.58.

In the matter of the sheriff's assessment: Ordered that the sheriff be charged with the sum of \$2236.10.

In the matter of uncollected taxes: Ordered that C. Sam Smith, sheriff, be charged on the roll of 1902 in the sum of \$763.08 and it is further ordered that the clerk attach a new warrant returnable in sixty days.

Ordered that the sheriff be charged with the balance uncollected taxes on the roll of 1900 in the sum of \$418.26 and that clerk attach a new warrant returnable in 60 days.

Ordered that sheriff be charged with the sum of \$761.83, amount uncollected on the roll of 1899 and clerk ordered to attach a new warrant to said roll returnable in 60 days from July 11, 1902.

Ordered that sheriff be charged with amount of uncollected taxes on roll of 1898, on July 1, 1902, in the sum of \$600.05 and it is further ordered that clerk attach a new warrant returnable 60 days from July 11, 1902.

CHICAGO, July 12.—Renewed activity in completing the surveys of the proposed line of railroad to Coos Bay, with an extension probably to Portland, Or., and the acquisition of options on properties at the former place that will be valuable only in the event of the completion of the road, have started speculation as to the interest behind the proposed line. It is being pointed out that the railroad situation west of the Rocky Mountains is largely by the construction of a new line from Salt Lake to Coos Bay and the Eastern Oregon country. Such a line would give the Goulds a route through to the Coast.

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week Timely Topics

The crop of wild black-berries in Western Oregon is said to be short.

The supreme court has decided that the barber's Sunday closing law is valid.

Surveying has commenced on the proposed new railroad from Grants Pass to the coast at Crescent City.

Walter Lyon, private secretary to Governor Geer, and Guard Carson of the Walla Walla penitentiary, are going to try again to follow Tracy with the hounds.

The Amalgamated Sugar Company, embracing the factories at Ogden and Logan, Utah, and La Grande, Or., has been finally formed, with a capital of \$4,000,000.

The Columbia Southern in 1900 carried only 7599 passengers; in 1901, 50,656, and for the first six months of the present year, 26,877. Freight traffic has increased in a corresponding ratio.

The surveyors for the Salt Lake Coos Bay Railroad now have stakes set and tacks driven from Empire City nearly into Marshfield. They have also run a trial survey into North Bend.—Marshfield Mail.

At a meeting of the executive committee the sub-committee on the location of the big Lewis & Clark fair site at Portland reported in favor of the City Park, with Hawthorn Park as second choice.

The Cheyenne Indians near Calumet, O. T. are reported holding a war council, being angry over an order of the Indian agent prohibiting them from practicing the lectures incident to their sundance.

O. C. Applegate has been recommended for re-appointment as Indian agent at Fort Klamath by Senator Mitchell and Representative Tougle. They have also recommended W. F. Arant of Klamath county to be superintendent of Crater Lake National Park.

Preparations are making for the storage of petroleum to be utilized as fuel by the Columbia Southern on its locomotives. A 6000-gallon tank will be erected at Shaniko and two at Biggs. Each of the latter will have a capacity of 20,000 gallons, and will be made of redwood. The tanks will be filled and drawn from, by the process of gravity.

A delicate and skillful operation has been performed at Astoria on the 10-year-old child of Mrs. Colman Friend of Ashwood, Crook county, Oregon. Her mother, poor the boy, 3000 miles to get the benefit of a surgeon and the operation was successful. The child was in a very bad way and the operation was performed in the hospital at Astoria. The operation was successful and the child is now recovering.