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NO. 1

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WILL WATER 3000 ACRES

Sheriff Smith Buys Half Interest in Irrigation Scheme in Southern Part of the County.

An irrigation scheme which is likely to prove one of the most successful in the county, is the Buck Mountain system in which Sheriff Smith has recently bought a half interest. The district in question, which embraces an area of over 3000 acres, lies in the south-eastern part of the county just west of Buck Mountain, and includes parts of sections 4, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 14, 22, 23, 27 and 28, township 22, south of range 23 east and section 33 in 21-23.

Survey work was commenced over a year ago by C. T. Lillard and W. C. Jacobs, who promoted the enterprise, and was under the direct supervision of F. M. Jordan, of Burns. Sheriff Smith a short time ago bought out the half interest owned by Mr. Jacobs. He states that the land will be sold under the same conditions as that in other Carey act segregations, and if the plats and surveys of the appropriation are approved by the Interior department soon the district will be in shape for settlement sometime next year.

The character of the land which will fall under the company's canal lines is very similar to the sage brush area under the lines of the Columbia Southern segregation in the Tunnello basin. Two reservoirs will be built for storage purposes, and the natural contour of the country will and materially in this work. The two artificial lakes when finished will cover an area of 100 acres. Both of them lie at the base of the mountain in natural basins, so but little construction work will have to be done to wall in the waters. The reservoirs will be fed by two streams, Swamp and Bulger creeks, both of which find their sources on Buck Mountain. The slope of the country is just even enough to permit easy irrigation, the levels of the surveyor showing a fall of twelve feet to the mile.

At present the plats showing the segregation and surveys are before the department at Washington and it is expected that early action will be taken on them. Heretofore, selections under the Carey act have first been approved by the state land board at Salem, but a new ruling has reversed the order of things and now the seal of approval from the state is not made until the government signs the papers.

Sheriff Smith states that the segregation while small is one of the best in the county and that it is his opinion some interesting developments will take place in the vicinity of Buck Mountain in a year or two. "These little segregations of 3000 acres," he said, "don't rank very high with the 100,000 acre appropriations made by some of the larger companies, but the smaller ones will be opened quicker, and in the long run it's the little things that will count in this county's development."

MANY TEACHERS PRESENT

Institute Has Good Attendance and Was a Successful Meeting This Year.

The three day's session of the Crook county teachers' institute ended last Saturday. The meeting has been a successful one from all standpoints, was well attended, and more than the usual amount of interest displayed in the programs which had been arranged. Mr. E. F. Robinson, superintendent of the Multnomah county school, held the attention of the institute Thursday and Friday mornings with his discourse on

"Geography," which, aside from being instructive, was filled up with the recital of laughable incidents. Professors Strange and Orton of the Prineville schools, also contributed to the program with discourses on several interesting subjects.

The attendance this year has been large, only four teachers in the county being absent. The names of those who were here and the districts in which they teach are as follows: Warren Brown, Grizzly; Chas. Lewis, Sisters; B. E. Crowfoot, Madras; W. R. Cook, Haystack; C. B. Dinwiddle, Lamonia; Winnie Kidder, Haystack; Alice Clinkinbeard, Culver; Sarah Marshall, Montgomery; Marjorie Briak, Prineville; Lily Read, Hay Creek; Maude E. Kidder, Haystack; Maud Dobbis, Culver; Ada Taylor, Howard; Ada Foster, Prineville; Hattie Demsey, Claypool; Jessie Andrews, Rye Grass; Josephine Andrews, Johnson Creek; Ora Andrews, Newsum Creek; Belle Bannells, Powell Bottom; J. E. Beddingfield, Hay Creek; Lily Wilson, McKay; Patrick Rowan, Deschutes; Pearl Vanderpool, Prineville; Carrie Smith, Lower McKay.

The teachers attending the institute were entertained Friday evening at a reception given by Mrs. H. P. Belknap. The evening was enjoyably spent and considerable amusement afforded by the guessing contest at the "New England Dinner." Miss Demsey and Miss Wilson carried off the prizes for having the highest and lowest score.

DIXIE MILL IS OPERATING

Machine With Daily Capacity of 100 Tons Has Been Taking Ore from Mine Past Week.

The day for which many Crook County people, who own stock in the Dixie Meadows mine, have been watching for has finally come, and the big mill, capable of taking out 100 tons of ore a day from the mine, has been working for over a week. The Sumpter Miner comments upon the work as follows:

"C. O. Trowbridge, of Spokane, who has charge of the construction of the Dixie Meadows concentrator, left for Spokane this afternoon after having completed the plant. It has a capacity of 100 tons and Mr. Trowbridge thinks it is one of the best to be found in Eastern Oregon. He has, also, a most favorable impression of the mine. Speaking of this he said:

"I believe that the Dixie Meadows is one of the coming big producers of Eastern Oregon. This is the first mill I have ever built in this part of the state, and I have great faith in the section in general and the Dixie Meadows in particular. The fact that the property has a vein of good milling ore, averaging between forty and fifty feet, is evidence sufficient of its greatness.

"The management has cut an upraise of 140 feet between the middle and lower tunnels and every foot of it is in good ore. Tons and tons of ore are blocked out, and a large force is constantly employed doing development work."

The Monday before leaving the Dixie Group Kinkad mill, which was just installed, had been started. Manager Ray had succeeded in getting the necessary pipe for his power plant, and had the mill waiting for this feature. A full force was at work, ore being chuted down from the main adit to the mill bin, a distance of more than 100 feet. As this property has a vein 62 feet wide, which the management believes all may be milled, the matter of reserves is not troublesome.

OPINIONS DIFFER WIDELY

The Extension of the Columbia Southern Is Looked Upon Locally as a Big Myth.

The report concerning the extension of the Columbia Southern to Bend next year has created quite a difference of opinion locally. Nearly everyone treats the matter as such incidents have been treated in the past—with a smile of skepticism. But there are a few who seem to be willing to stake on the truth of the report, and the result has been many bets as to the future operations of the railroad in question.

The first of the week several wagers were made. Hats, money, cigars and several other articles figured in the stakes. The bets ranged from one to three years and the conditions were that no railroad would enter Crook county in that time. A number of bets on the two year limit went begging for acceptance and are probably still on the market.

In the meantime, however, real estate over at Lytle, the objective point of the proposed extension, apparently is enjoying a period of prosperity. J. L. McCulloch, who is agent for the townsite company's city property, sold five lots to Portland parties last Thursday. The purchases were made over the telephone on the strength of Oregonian's article stating that road would be built into the interior part of the state next year.

SHEEP IN GOOD CONDITION

Owners in Grant County Have Plenty of Feed and Are Not Obligated to Sell.

Crook county can voice the statements made by Stock Inspector J. W. Ambrose who has just completed an inspection of the sheep in Northern Grant county, and is now making a tour of the upper John Day valley. He states that never before has he seen conditions and prospects more favorable. In the northern part of the county, where hay is scarcest, there has been the largest outward movement of all stock, and especially of sheep. Many sales were made, and numerous herds have been driven out to winter feeding grounds. In the John Day valley, so as he has investigated the situation, he finds an abundance of feed and the best range for years. Besides, the sheep are generally stronger, better fleeced and in every way better conditioned to meet the winter than for several years past.

When asked regarding a published statement that thousands of sheep are dying on the range, he said it was probably made by a man who wanted to buy sheep. Also, that the buyers have come into the section since the publication of the statement, expecting to buy sheep at their own figures. When such buyers were informed that owners here have plenty of feed and sheep are in fine condition, they would make no offer for the sheep.

"Lastly," said he, "one buyer who came into the valley with the avowed purpose of purchasing 10,000 to 12,000 went away without having bought a single head."

COLLECTS ENTIRE TAX ROLL

Sheriff of Lake County Makes Record in Collecting Everything on 1902 Assessment.

One of the best records ever made in Eastern Oregon in the matter of collecting taxes, and one without a parallel in Lake county, has been performed by Sheriff Dunlap of Lakeview. Last Tues-

day he returned the assessment roll for 1902 to the county clerk of Lake county, having collected all amounts legally due. No property was sold nor any advertising expense incurred in establishing the record feat which is laid in most part to the untiring efforts of the sheriff in the performance of his duties, the effectiveness of the old tax law, and partly to the fact that Lake county residents have enjoyed a continuous stretch of prosperity for some time past. The Lakeview Herald says:

"This is the best record ever made by any other sheriff of the county. The result is largely due to the effectiveness of the old law relative to the collection of taxes. It is an excellent law, one that works like a charm in Lake county, and we see no good reason why it should not be re-enacted at the special session, with the possible amendment of changing the time of payment of taxes from the spring to the fall season, or at least allowing one half of the taxes to fall due in the spring and the other half in the fall after ranches have received their returns on wool, mutton and beef sales. We hope we shall not be accused of partisanship when we heartily approve of the untiring efforts of Sheriff Dunlap, a staunch republican, while we generally advocate the democratic faith, in collecting delinquent taxes. We had a contract for the publication of the delinquent tax roll, but we willingly forego the small pittance we might have made from such publication, when collection can be made without it. Sheriff Dunlap has enforced the law to the letter; he has fully performed his official duty. We are glad to be able to rise above partisanship and commend his actions as an honorable and efficient officer."

OUTLET MAY BE FROM SOUTH

Deschutes Timber May Move in That Direction if Klamath Lake Road Is Extended.

With all the talk and bluster concerning the extension of the Columbia Southern and the opening up of the Deschutes valley timber belt by that road, there are at present brighter prospects and greater activity going on in the vicinity of Klamath Falls than in any other direction.

The extension of the Klamath Lake railroad to Pokeyama, which was completed last summer, brings that line within 38 miles of Klamath Falls, and preparations are now being made to push the line to the latter place and into the lake region during the coming season. The railroad in question has been built from Lairds station and is a direct feeder to the Southern-Pacific. The extension which is proposed would cover an immense timber belt in southern Klamath county besides tapping a rich stock country. The road has already shown its enterprise by pushing up within a few miles of the Oregon line, and once within the borders of the state is likely to shove northward until the entire district of yellow pine, lying at the eastern base of the Cascades, is within its control.

It is a recognized fact that California draws the trade of almost the entire region lying south of Silver Lake, and a railroad cutting into the heart of the district would seal the trade and lumber traffic of that region for all time to come. The extension of the Klamath Lake road means an additional tonnage to be handled by the Harriman system on the south and greater freight traffic to and from San Francisco. The road, too, would be capable of reaching into a much larger timber district than would the proposed extension of the Columbia Southern beside being built over an easier grade and into a more accessible section of country.