

# Crook County Journal.

VOL. VIII.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

NO. 3

## WURZWEILER & THOMSON

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*Odds and Ends  
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## Central Oregon, Crook County and Prineville.

### STOCKMEN ENCOURAGED

Mild Winter Weather and Little Feeding Makes the Prospects Good for Next Year.

The mild winter which so far has been experienced in Crook county has caused general rejoicing among the ranks of the stockman. Little feeding has been done, and as a result prospects are bright for good markets in the spring. Not only in Crook county is this the case, but generally throughout the interior portions of the state are reports coming that the stock interests are gaining daily by the prevailing fine weather. From different exchanges the following digests have been made.

The stock and sheepmen of Baker county are jubilant over the long continued spell of fine weather. This is perhaps one of the mildest and most pleasant winter openings Eastern Oregon has seen in many years. When a little flurry of cold weather comes in November and a few inches of snow fell, stockmen were depressed over the prospect of a long feeding season on top of a small hay crop and the high prices then prevailing. During the past two or three weeks the grass in the pastures has become green and stock again turned out. Little or no feeding has been done and it is now stated that regardless of what kind of a winter may follow this there will be plenty of feed and no particular hardships are expected in any part of Eastern Oregon.

Representative E. H. Test, who is also cashier of the First National Bank of Ontario, in regard to live stock conditions in Malheur County says the outlook is encouraging. The open winter that is being experienced now is the salvation of the ranchers in that part of the state.

"Grave fears were entertained in the earlier part of the season by cattlemen generally," said Mr. Test "because there was not enough hay apparently to do through a moderately severe winter, but the danger has almost passed. Usually feeding has been carried on for sometime before Christmas, but as yet little has been used this winter. The stock on the range is in very good condition, and it seems that there will be much hay left over when spring comes.

"The trouble in Malheur County is that people are not raising enough hay. Hay is the most profitable crop in that country and other things must be secondary to it."

### WANT THE ROLL PUBLISHED

Movement Is on Foot to Have Assessment List Published Before Taxes Are Collected.

It is highly probable that the next regular session of the state legislature will see a bill introduced providing for the publication of the assessment roll in each of the counties in the state as soon as the list is completed and ready for collection. The steps being taken by different organizations, especially in western Oregon, are the outgrowth of shrinking tax rolls. Assessable property as listed by the assessors apparently is on the wane in the face of the fact that the state is rapidly increasing in population and wealth and in consequence should have a greatly increased amount of assessable property. The effort to better these conditions is general throughout the state, but the most active steps are being taken in Salem.

The Salem Press Club is taking an active interest in the movement in favor of the enactment by the state legislature of a law similar to that in force in Illinois making it obligatory upon the part of assess-

ors to have the assessment roll published before being equalized, and thus give every tax payer an opportunity to examine it thoroughly. The plan works very successfully in Illinois, and inasmuch as only one line is required for the assessment of the property of the tax-payer, the burden falls lightly upon all. The passage of the law in Illinois has resulted in largely increasing the amount of taxable property on the roll, so that in reality it is an important source of revenue, rather than of expense.

### COYOTES ARE TROUBLESOME

Baker City Democrat Thinks Repeal of the Scalp Bounty Law Was a Bad Move.

Deputy Stock Inspector for Baker county, William Parker, was in the city yesterday and reported that the first of the year he would begin a thorough and systematic inspection of all the livestock in Baker county, with a view to the condition of the health of the animals and the general state of the business. Conversing with a Democrat representative, Mr. Parker said:

"The repeal of the scalp bounty law has worked a great hardship upon the stockraisers of this part of Oregon. The coyotes have already increased perceptibly and are becoming very bold. I noticed the other day 37 of them in one field, and they have killed 19 pigs and innumerable chickens that I know of upon one ranch alone. If something is not done these pests will soon overrun the whole country. In the opinion of myself and other stockmen the repeal of the bounty act was a mistake.

"I start out in a few days to make a detailed inspection of the flocks and herds in Baker county. I expect to find the most of them in a healthy condition all through the county. The mild weather up to the present time has lengthened out the fall pasturage and I believe there is now a plentiful supply of hay to carry all stock through the winter in good shape.

### WILL LEVY 2 1/2 MILL TAX

School Voters Hold Session Monday and Make Arrangements for Increase of Funds.

A meeting of the school voters in this district, No. 1, held a meeting at the court house Monday afternoon and voted a 2 1/2 mill tax to meet the interest on the bonded indebtedness. This was practically all of the business transacted.

The assessable property in the Prineville school district was figured in at \$270,000 which would bring the amount received from the assessment to \$675 which is somewhat in excess of the amount needed.

Another striking example of the necessity of a revision in the present handling of the assessment roll, which was commented upon editorially in The Journal last week, was brought to light at the meeting. It was clearly shown there that the amount of assessable property in district No. 1, is far below what it should be. Instead of levying on \$270,000 facts were displayed showing that there is practically \$325,000 worth of property which should have fallen under the levy. In consequence the district was assessed. A two mill tax on \$325,000 would have netted \$750, or \$75 more than will be derived from the present levy of 2 1/2 mills on \$270,000.

### HARD ON TIMBER INDUSTRY

Secretary Hitchcock's Recent Orders of Suspension Looked Upon as a Detriment.

"The lumber and timber industry of Oregon has been stopped as a result of the actions of Secretary Hitchcock," said F. A. Hoberg, of Portland, who is an extensive dealer in lands. Mr. Hoberg has been making a trip through the eastern part of the state and into the timber belts looking after his interests.

"Eastern capital, which would have invested in Oregon timber have now been withdrawn. It is the general impression that the people should be permitted to make timber locations and sell their rights rather than to have large bodies of men use in corraling all of the choicest timber by lien land scrip.

"There is a well defined understanding that the present forest reserves made by the department of the Interior are being explored, and thoroughly cruised and platted by syndicate employes and that afterwards when the reserves are open before anyone else has a chance to survey the lands these syndicates, having their maps already made will scrip thousands of acres at a time and thus will secure the cream of the timber lands of Oregon.

It is easy to see how the scheme is worked. John Doe has made a location somewhere in in the hills. A reserve is made in his neighborhood and his land included. The land may never have been any good but he gets his lien scrip for it and sells it on the market for so much an acre. This scrip can be used in any locality in any state regardless of where it was originally issued. A syndicate with a little money, can easily pick up many hundreds of acres of this scrip and the rest is easy.

"The determination of President Roosevelt to take a hand in this land business may make a change, but it is pretty well demonstrated that for the present very little Eastern money will go into Oregon timber other than in the tying up of lien land scrip in any state where it can be obtained and held for future use in the north-west."

### WILLIAMSON LOSING HOLD

Eastern Oregon Claims He Has Betrayed Them and Broken His Promises to the People.

The recent action of Congressman Williamson in throwing his support to the Portland ring in the matter of establishing an assay office there, after promising the people of Baker City and vicinity that he would use his efforts to secure the federal building in the latter city, is not looked upon very favorably by Mr. Williamson's former supporters in that district. The Baker City Democrat voices the sentiments of the people of that section in the following terms:

It is a deplorable fact that Eastern Oregon has been thrown down and badly injured in its mining interests by action in congress of the representative from the Eastern Oregon congressional district, J. N. Williamson. It transpired a few days ago that Mr. Williamson, forgetting the votes of the people east of the Cascade mountains that put him into office, stood pat with Senator Mitchell in the recommendations for the establishment at Portland of a United States assay office, when all the facts relative to that office showed that its location should be at Baker City. Here is where the great producing mines are and the need of such an office has been felt for years and the lack of it has been a great drawback to the development of the mining interests in this camp.

The Oregon delegation in the last congress was divided as to the location of an assay office as between Portland and Baker City. Representative Moody was the only man who was able to secure from the house committee on coins, weights and measures a favorable report for the location of an assay office in Eastern Oregon. Even after this Mr. Moody secured the passage through congress of a bill providing for the purchase of a federal public building in Baker City. The site has been selected and paid for. A bill for the establishment of an assay office in Baker City was favorably reported upon but never reached the stage of passage. When it comes time to erect the federal building here it can be made to cover the United States assay office.

Williamson has deserted the people who are his constituents and has gone over to the Portland ring, presumably for political purposes to the detriment of the Inland Empire.

A few days ago a certain republican organ in Eastern Oregon undertook in a column or more of editorial matter to excuse Williamson's actions, but the mining men and the voters of this district cannot see that his methods were excusable by the facts in the case and his unwritten promises to those who put him in office.

It can be safely stated that the next representative to congress from Eastern Oregon will be the man who has already done more for this section of the state than any other representative who sat in a chair in that august body during the past decade. M. A. Moody will stand for the interests of the people of this section as in the past. This is the prediction of the most conservative republicans and democrats in Eastern Oregon. The representative under present conditions, at least, will undoubtedly be a republican, but the man will be one who will stand for the welfare of this portion of the state.

### COAL NEAR THE DALLES

Anthracite Discovery Along the Columbia Causing Considerable Interest in That Section.

Eastern Oregon is constantly giving out signs that sooner or later it will be the largest coal producing state in the west. The Heppner fields, which have passed the experimental stage, the discoveries along the John Day river, and now the opening up of a vein near the Columbia in the vicinity of The Dalles give considerable foundation to the assertion.

The Oregon Mining Journal says: "Much interest is centered in the prospecting for anthracite coal now going on at The Dalles. E. L. Kretzer is driving a hole in search of the commodity. He has a lease on 800 acres of land west of The Dalles, and is using a core drill. The hole has been sunk 1000 feet and he has passed through a 11-foot layer of lignite coal of a good quality.

"Anthracite has been cut at a depth of 1400 feet in that locality, but it is not a superior quality, being too heavy in ash.

"Mr. Kretzer reports that a hole was driven about 500 feet from where he is at present working, but on higher ground, and at a depth of 1400 feet the core showed a very good grade of coal."

Coal in the above mentioned district was first discovered several years ago when a well was being drilled. Considerable excitement was caused at that time, but this gradually died. Now, however, it appears that prospecting has been carried farther and interesting developments may be expected.

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