

Crook County Journal.

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NO. 42

SPECIAL SALES
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GREAT INCREASE IN TAX VALUES

Assessable Property Increases Nearly \$1,000,000 in Two Year's Time.

No better evidence of the rapid growth and development of Crook county can be found than the assessor's roll for this year which Assessor Johnson has practically completed. An increase in the taxable value of property in this county amounting to nearly \$1,000,000 is shown over the roll of 1902. This remarkable growth in the county's wealth when the fact is taken into consideration that it has been scarcely two years since the county first moved forward on the line of its recent development. The valuation for a three years beginning with 1902 are shown on the assessment records as follows:

1902	1903	1904
\$1,852,281	2,399,020	2,648,783.

Bearing on the rapid settlement and development of Crook county, no better evidence is obtainable than the above figures, and going into detail this immense increase in property valuations is directly traceable to the increased holdings of both tillable and non-tillable lands in the county, the valuation on non-tillable land alone having doubled during the last two years.

The increase during the years 1902-4 along lines of permanent improvement and substantial growth are best shown by a comparison of lands and values.

	1902	1904
Tillable acres	27,678	37,401
Non-tillable	553,273	752,386
Town Lots	118,729	143,202
Improvements on lands not deeded	\$21,802	\$41,603
Total Assessment On		
Tillable lands	\$149,378	\$194,626
Non-tillable	\$663,921	1,165,289

PORTAGE ROAD IS ASSURED

Right of way for the portage road has been secured over practically all of the distance to be traversed. The first great undertaking of the Open River commission has been accomplished with a celerity which has exceeded all expectations. The next step is the letting of the contract for the construction of the road, and arrangements for this will probably be made tomorrow, when the executive board of the commission and the members of the state portage board are to hold a joint meeting at Salem.

Terms of the right of way have been reached with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, with I. H. Taffe, and with Seufert brothers, so that all that now remains is to complete the negotiations with the Dalles Packing company. It is stated authoritatively that there will be no difficulty in dealing with the packing company, with which terms will be made as soon as a meeting can be arranged with its president.

The O. R. & N. company has agreed that where absolutely necessary the portage road may be built upon the company's right of way, and when it becomes necessary to change the location of the company's tracks, the expense is to be borne by the Open River commission. This will involve an expenditure by the commission of \$12,598.

One of the members of the Open River commission is authority for this information. He states that the negotiations with the O. R. & N. proved very satisfactory. The commissioners found Mr. Calvin a man of few words, but these were straight and to the point and easily understood, and while every detail could not be closed they feel that in dealing with him no technicality will stand in the way of carrying out the agreement, nor will there be any shifting of conditions. The discussion with him was confined strictly to right of way matters, and the consequence was the business was soon closed.

The agreement of the open river commission with the state required the portage railway to keep off the canal right of way, and as the south line of the canal right of way is at several points the north line of the O. R. & N., a considerable use of the company's right of way must be made. The company has agreed that where absolutely necessary, and where it does not interfere with its trackage or operating arrangements, the portage railway can be built on the O. R. & N. right of way. Where it does interfere with the company's trackage or operating arrangements, the builders of the portage railway are to pay the actual difference necessary to make the changes, which amounts to a total of \$12,598. This includes changing the track at Mass House curve for quite a distance, putting in a switch at Celilo, changing the track and building new grades for about 2,900 feet at Tumwater and putting in a switch at Celilo.

In arriving at the sum to be paid, the O. R. & N. company gave the open river association credit for work which the company had intended to do, thus reducing the amount which would otherwise have had to been paid by about \$40,000. The open river commission will also get the use of the grade where the track has to be abandoned and the changes made as above stated.

From this it will be seen that outside of the actual cost to the O. R. & N. company of making the necessary changes, no charge for right of way is made against the open river commission.

L. H. Taffe has executed an agreement covering the right of way over his property near Celilo, and Seufert Bros. have executed a right of way over their property. No charge was made for either of those rights of way. This leaves only the right of way over The Dalles Packing company, to be obtained as soon as the president of this company comes to the city.

A. J. McMillan, the engineer retained by the state board is engaged today and checking over the lines of the right of way arranged for the portage road, so as to report at tomorrow's meeting at Salem.—Journal.

YOUTHFUL HORSE THIEF ARRESTED

17-Year-Old Boy Must Answer Charge for Stealing Animal at Bend.

Melvin Hughes, a 17 year old boy who claims his home at Lebanon, was given a hearing before Justice Luckey Tuesday afternoon and will stand trial during the October term of the Circuit court on the charge of horse stealing. He waived an examination and was bound over to the grand jury, his bonds being fixed at \$250.

Young Hughes until a short time ago was at work on one of the irrigation crews near Bend. About a week ago he came into town from the river riding a horse which he claimed as his own. The day after reaching here he sold the animal to Dr. Belknap for \$18, and left the country.

Soon afterwards it was learned that the horse was the property of Arthur Taylor at Bend from whom it had been stolen, and the sheriff of Linn county was at once notified to arrest the boy should he make his appearance in Lebanon where the boy claimed his parents resided. He was taken in charge there the last of the week by the city marshal and returned to this city Sunday with Champ Smith who was sent to Linn county upon word being received that the prisoner had been taken into custody.

Two games of baseball between the local team and Antelope will be played on the diamond in this city next week. The first game will be played Saturday, October 8 and another game on the day following. The Antelope team will come down determined to win back the glory which it sacrificed to the Prineville ball tossers during the tournament held in the former city a week ago.

The size of the purses has not been named as yet, but there will be enough to stimulate good playing and some lively contests will be witnessed.

These will be the first matched games between the two cities which have been pulled off in a number of years and interest in the coming struggle is already being manifested. The close games played between Antelope and Prineville during the recent tournament make certain the fact that two of the best games ever played in this city will be seen on the local diamond next week. Both teams will be represented by their best players and Antelope will in all probability bring down a good sized crowd to help along with the rooting.

SHEEPMEN HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Sheepmen from all over Eastern Oregon were in attendance at the annual meeting of the Oregon Wool Growers' Association which held a two days session at Shaniko last week. Questions pertaining to the sheep interests were given a breadth of discussion and many important measures were acted upon. The association will hold its next annual meeting at Portland.

The fact that the Blue Mountain forest reserve will probably be permanently created before the next meeting of the association caused the question of range partition in that vast area to take leading place in the discussions, half the time being occupied in talking the problem over. While the method of handling the range in this reserve will lie with the Department of the Interior, the representations of the association are expected to have considerable weight in determining it.

Officers and members were loath to talk of the conclusions reached, but it is understood the association will recommend a division system similar to that in vogue on the Cascade forest reserve, with a little broader scope. The Blue Mountain partition, however, is a much bigger affair than the Cascade leases. On the latter reserve only 220,000 sheep are allowed. A million and a quarter sheep now range every Summer in the territory to be included in the Blue Mountain permanent withdrawal, while the disposition of this range affects a majority of the members of the association.

A system by which the depleted grass of the Blue Mountain withdrawal will get an opportunity to resume its one-time profusion was unanimously favored by those present. It was argued that to give a big sheepman an annual, or longer term, lease on a certain tract would mean that he would refrain from overstocking his portion; and would use every endeavor to build up the range. Under the present system, with a horde of sheep pouring in from half a dozen outside counties, adding hundreds of thousands to the large holdings of Grant county owners, the Blue Mountain withdrawal range is in wretched condition before Summer is more than half gone, unless the season is unusually favorable. This year it has been favorable.

The second most prominent feature of the meeting was the desire expressed by the big sheep-owners present to secure the enactment of legislation which would soothe the irritation of home sheepmen in the Summer range districts, who feel that the outside stock, which crowds their smaller holdings, is usurping their prerogatives. This applies particularly to Grant county, in which lies a large portion of the Blue Mountain withdrawal area, and where the home stockmen have been in a ruffled state for years against alleged trespassing foreigners from such counties as Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam and Wasco.

The method proposed was to allow the Summer range county a portion of the taxes on sheep. Thus if a Gilliam county band of 2000 head were to range in Grant county from June 1 to October 1, one-third of the taxes on that band would be allowed Grant county. It was not made quite clear whether this should apply to both state and county assessments, or only to the state tax. The executive committee is to attend to the drafting of a measure to bring this about. The association members declare their motives are sincere in talking of this legislation.

THROWN OPEN TO ENTRY

The Secretary of the Interior has ordered restored to entry a portion of the lands in Skagit and Whatcom Counties, Washington, that were temporarily withdrawn in December, 1902, with a view to enlarging the Washington forest reserve on the west side. These lands were examined by the Forestry Bureau and found unsuitable for forest reserve purposes. Some are agricultural in character, some grazing lands, but a considerable area is valuable for its timber. The reason the timber lands are to be turned back to the public domain is because they are isolated tracts, located among lands now in private ownership. It would not be practicable to reserve them without reserving the adjoining private lands, and this policy is not favored.

In restoring these lands to entry the Interior department is adopting a new policy. These and all other lands hereafter restored to entry will not become subject to settlement immediately, but will be advertised for 90 days. This is to give every one an equal chance to take up newly-opened lands, and to prevent any one getting unfair advantage. This was not done in the case of the Blue Mountain lands restored in Oregon, but the rule will hereafter apply to all lands eliminated from withdrawal, as well as lands which are cut out of established reserves.

ANTELOPE WILL PLAY BALL HERE

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MITCHELL HAS SECOND FLOOD

S. P. Conroy and son were in the city from The Dalles yesterday on a sight seeing tour. They had driven from The Dalles to Mitchell arriving there last Sunday morning where they encountered a flood of proportions nearly as great as characterized the high water there in July. Mr. Conroy stated a waterspout occurred in the foothills surrounding the city and that business houses and residences were flooded, the waters leaving mud a foot and a half deep in the stores and buildings. The flood rushed down the canyon at 3 o'clock in the morning, the roar of the water awakening the people who rushed to the foot hills for safety. Mr. Conroy and his son arrived at the outskirts of the village a short time before the flood occurred, but a heavy black cloud in the distance gave them warning. Mr. Conroy stated that he thought at once of the accounts he had read of last summer's flood there and he and his son camped on high ground instead of going into the valley as they had intended. The move was all that saved both of them from drowning for had they camped in the canyon a wall of water 15 feet high would have swept over them.

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