

Crook County Journal

VOL. X

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NO. 32

Oregon Historical Society
City Hall

C. W. ELKINS

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This is the pattern shown by The Ladies Home Journal and is being sold exclusively by the largest store in the East, and is superior to any pattern published.

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A Mountain of Gold.

could not bring as much happiness to Mrs. Lucia Wilke, of Caroline, Wis., as did one 25c box of Busklen's Arnica Salve, when it completely cured a running sore on her leg, which had tortured her 22 long years. Greatest anti-septic healer of Piles, Wounds and Sores, 25c at D. P. Adamson and Templeton & Son Drug store.

AN EMPIRE IN ITSELF

Crook County a Young Man's Country.

GOOD LAND CHEAP

The Byways of Crook County
Visited by an Observing
Webfoot.

Crook county is an empire with in herself, and unappreciated by the ordinary traveler. In the past four years hundreds of Linn county people, as well as others have passed through portions of it, following the roads in canyons, and over low passes, never dreaming that just over the ridge lay fertile lands, designed to be the homes of hundreds of sturdy yeomanry. Of all these travelers perhaps not a dozen saw or passed through the Haystack country. Five years ago it was inhabited by a few solitary stockmen, and the inevitable few who go to the uttermost ends of the earth, but are finally overtaken by civilization, some few such are still in this district who have never seen a railroad, and one especially when gazing for the first time on an automobile, flatters himself that he was next, and remarked that he knew what it was for he had seen the picture of them. At that time the precinct containing almost 5 townships had hard work to rustle an election board, and so well known were the residents to each other that the board knew when the last vote was in. This same territory now contains three precincts, and this year cast 300 votes with the usual number of "stay at homes" representing a population of 1500 souls, with five postoffices within her borders, as many trading posts, and the town of Madras growing very rapidly and destined to be the metropolis of this fertile region, yet this particular section is only in its infancy, while thousands of acres are now in waving grain, wheat, oats, and barley. Thousands more are being brought into cultivation as fast as gang plows can do the work. The yield exceeds that of the Willamette valley, and owing to the stock interest, the lumber and developing of the desert lands our market is equal to Chicago and sometimes exceeds it.

But there are others. A short time ago I had business that took me to Remmah valley a different part of the county. There I saw the same conditions that were true of Haystack half a decade ago, a new country, just grass and sage brush, coyotes and a few settlers, who hope civilization won't overtake them, but the people have deserted the land and it is settling rapidly. To one who has seen a wilderness in four years change to a land of wealth, can prognosticate what this wonderful Remmah valley will be when tickled by the hand of industry.

It is a gentle undulating prairie, of large extent, on the west sheltering buttes and Mt. Mahogany; on the east, buttes and low hills, mighty forests of yellow pine; to the south, high grass covered buttes and ridges.

This valley will perhaps have railroad connections as soon as any portion of Crook county.

Still further south and west is the much noted Christmas Lake valley, at an altitude of perhaps 500 feet above Remmah valley.

Citizens of Oregon are familiar with the fame of this land, and Remmah valley is her counterpart except this advantage: being in the artesian belt and water is gotten at no depth exceeding 25 feet. So strong is this flow that the northern and narrow end of the valley that it breaks out into an immense spring, in a few miles it is a run-

ning stream 40 feet wide and passes into a narrow canyon in the hills.

The water below where it comes out of the ground has been confined by a dam, turned onto the land and natural meadows are the result. This immense reservoir is a wonder in itself and brings one close to nature. The tules and rushes grow in profusion and is the home of thousands of black-birds who nest in the tules above the waters, the wild duck nests there, likewise the wild goose and the curlew and plover. The bull frogs make music in several voices and the beautiful white swan circles over you.

The country is at this time a stock country, one farm alone has 1000 head, which wintered the past winter on 200 pounds of hay to the head and had no losses. 12,000 head of sheep winter in the valley as well as the immense band of horses of W. W. Brown, no one knows how many. When he is feeling rich, he claims 6000, but when he feels just ordinary, he says 4000 will cover his brand. He never sells a horse without venting the brand and makes the purchaser agree to not keep it within the borders of Crook, Harney or Lake counties. He delivers 500 head this fall for the Alberta market.

This valley, with its natural resources, equable climate, wood and water supply, with a soil free from rock, a volcanic ash, rich in nitrates, is essentially a young man's country, and in a few years will be a household word and one of the wealthiest portions of Central Oregon.

W. F. Hammer in Albany Democrat.

Turned Down by the State Board.

The Pilot Butte Development Company of Bend, has been turned down by the State Land Board. This company protested to the board against making a favorable report to an application of the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company for approval to patent 24,000 acres of arid land in the Deschutes basin, Crook county, upon the representation that it has been put under irrigation and reclaimed.

This is the latest move in the long-drawn-out controversy between the rival irrigation companies of Eastern Oregon which are fighting for the right to appropriate water from the Deschutes River for irrigation and power. If the Pilot Butte Company follows its line of attack it will now have to appeal to the Department of the Interior at Washington.

The position taken by the Pilot Butte Company, which is represented by A. M. Drake, of Bend, is that the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company allowed its filings on water rights on the Deschutes to lapse and their rights were immediately seized upon by the Pilot Butte Company. The Deschutes Company has gone ahead with its ditch and canal work and recently made application to the board for approval of the reclamation of 53,000 acres that it might receive patents on the land.

The State Engineer made an investigation of the work accomplished and reported to the board that there was water sufficient to irrigate and reclaim 24,000 acres of the selection. The Pilot Butte Company protested, on the ground that the dispute between the two companies over the priority of water rights was now the subject of litigation.

The State Land Board takes the position that it is not within its jurisdiction to adjust water right disputes.

Annual Teachers' Institute.

Notice is hereby given that the session of the Annual Teachers' Institute at which all teachers will be expected to attend will be held July 30, 31, August 1, 2, 3 at the High School Building, Prineville, Or. No teacher will be excused from attendance unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances.

C. B. DINWIDDIE,
Co. School Supt.

Loggers Wanted.

The Grizzly Lake Lumber Co. wants loggers. Good wages paid. Grizzly Lake Lumber Co., Lamona, Or.

FACTS ABOUT ALFALFA

Something Every Farmer Should Study.

IT MEANS MONEY

In Your Pocket to Farm Intelligently—What the Government is Doing.

A great difference of opinion exists as to the best time to cut alfalfa. Some farmers claim the best time is when the plant commences to blossom, others insist that the period of full bloom is the proper time, and some allow the plant to stand until the seed is well formed before making hay of it. The Texas experiment station at Brazos has issued a bulletin on alfalfa culture from which the following is an extract:

The quantity of any seed which is necessary to be sown to the acre depends obviously upon several factors, the principal of which are the number of plants desired upon the land and the number which will germinate in a given sample. In the first place, alfalfa plants should be rather thickly set. Allowing one plant to every six square inches of surface, there would thus be 174,240 plants upon an acre.

A sufficient quantity of seed must be sown to supply this number, after allowing for all that do not germinate and for those which are destroyed by insects, animals and other means.

Estimating the number which will be sown in twenty pounds per acre by actual count of several ounces, the average is 2,200,000 seed. This number will allow about twelve seed to fall upon every six-inch square of ground in one acre. This is apparently greatly in excess of the actual need.

To those not acquainted with this plant, the facts will seem incredible. The penetrating power of the alfalfa root is equaled only by that of the desert sagebrush of the western plains, says F. D. Coburn. Under favorable conditions of soil and climate, the roots will have penetrated to a depth of five feet in six months. Many instances are on record of roots having been dug up or otherwise exposed, some of which showed a length and penetration of 38 feet, while even the greater depth of 50 and 60 feet and more are recorded. Many times the failure to secure a stand of alfalfa is attributed to a hard subsoil; this is not the fault if there be enough moisture in the soil to support the young plant until it once establishes the root system.

At the Kansas Agricultural College a trench was dug through an alfalfa field for laying a water pipe. It was late in the fall, following a favorable season, and the alfalfa had yielded three crops. In the greater portion of this trench it was necessary after removing a spade's depth from the top to use a pick to loosen the soil, which was so hard that the men ordinarily did not at one blow drive the picks into it more than two inches; yet, notwithstanding the hardness of this clay soil, alfalfa roots had penetrated the depth of the ditch, 5 1/2 feet in the deepest place, where the roots appeared little smaller in diameter than they were a foot below the surface.

When the alfalfa is once established, if there is sufficient moisture to maintain the plant, it sends its roots in quest of permanent moisture and is only prevented from reaching it by stone itself. The roots have a strong and well developed power of passing around obstacles such as stones and boulders, and no crevice is so small as to escape them in their downward journeyings.

Charles W. Irish, chief of "irrigation inquiry, United States department of agriculture," in an article on "Alfalfa and Where to Grow It," makes the following interesting observation: "The writer had an opportunity to observe the great depth to which alfalfa roots will penetrate in search of moisture while making a survey of a mining tunnel in Nevada a few years since. The tunnel was driven into a rock known to miners as 'rotten porphyry.' It was much shattered and seamed, and

be necessary to carry on some experiments; we should cut at different times and run feeding experiments. Experiments of this sort cost little to the progressive farmer other than a little work and there is a 25 per cent profit or loss some where in this alfalfa cutting business to be picked up by the wise, or cast aside by the man who already knows it all.

The Quantity of Seed to Sow.

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It is plain that if we want the best kind of hay it should be cut when the blossoms appear. If we want the maximum amount of hay we should wait until the plants are in full bloom. If we want to produce the maximum amount of nutritive matter per acre, it will

(Continued on 4th page.)

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