

Crook County Journal

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HOMESEEEKERS' INFORMATION

General Answer to Questions Usually Asked by Intending Settlers—This Great Empire Offers Homes and Cheap Lands to Thousands.



BONNYVIEW FARM, Property of J. H. Gray & Son, one of Crook County's Famous Thoroughbred Stock Ranches, Situated on Crooked River.

So great is the demand for information concerning this country that the Journal edition printed some time ago is exhausted. Orders for several hundred copies could not be supplied, so the matter has been corrected and brought down to date.

Crook County, Oregon, contains a large part of the remaining bodies of cheap lands and free lands now open to the person of moderate means who is seeking an opportunity to become an owner of part of the soil. The county is very extensive being 108 miles across from east to west and 84 miles from north to south. In round numbers it contains about 8,000 square miles. From this it will be seen that Crook county is six times as large as the state of Rhode Island, four times as large as Delaware and about as large as Massachusetts. It lies in the heart of Oregon and is a verti-

able unexploited empire in itself. This vast area in 1900, the date of the last government census, had a population of 3,896; today it has possibly 8,000. Were Crook county as densely settled as Rhode Island it would sustain a population of 3,500,000, surpassed only by the state of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio.

The county abounds in beautiful valleys and sagebrush flats, suitable for the production of almost any crop which will grow under dry farming methods. Much of the area is already under irrigation, there being nine reclamation projects either in operation or projected not to mention a probable United States reclamation project.

Water Supply and Irrigation.

The Deschutes river and its tributaries today furnish the water for existing irrigation areas the controlling company being the

Deschutes Irrigation Power & Co., Bend, Oregon, and in this reclamation belt lie Redmond and Powell Buttes, Laidlaw, and Sisters, west of the Deschutes river, have reclamation companies of their own. Madras, in the northern end of the country, is in the center of one of the richest dry farming communities in America.

In the great eastern half of Crook county lies the cattle belt, where hay raising and stock raising constitute the principal industry, making of this country one of the largest breeding places in the Northwest. Crook county cattle always top the Portland market.

The Deschutes river is inexhaustible, being fed by perpetual snows on the summits of the Cascade mountains. Many other streams run throughout the year, Crooked river, the Matoles and Ochoco creek being the more important. Water

exists in quantities below the surface, being obtained in the valleys at only a few feet depth and elsewhere at from 30 to 60 feet.

Soils and What It Produces.

All soil is exceedingly fertile, the natural growths being sagebrush bunchgrass and ryegrass. Juniper trees thrive in large quantities on the cultivable land, with heavy pine growth in the foothills and higher altitudes of the Blue and Cascade mountains. There are nine species of native woods. The valley land is easily cleared for cultivation, the earth being a rich alluvial and decomposed volcanic ash, which produces abundantly. Where water is intelligently used the results richly reward the husbandman.

Wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa, potatoes, carrots, beets, onions and all kinds of cereal and vegetable

Continued on page 2.

PRINEVILLE IS OUT OF DEBT

And So Is Crook County.

BOTH NOW ON CASH BASIS

This is Good News for Both City and County Taxpayers.

Prineville is out of debt, not only out of debt but has a cash balance in its treasury of \$750. Think of it; its registered indebtedness. Of course the city owes for the water bonds but they have four years to run before they become due.

Not in the memory of the oldest inhabitant was Prineville free from the curse of issuing warrants for current expenses. Sometimes these warrants sold as low as 75 cents on the dollar, some fifteen years ago, and at other times it was hard to dispose of them at all. Of late years the warrants have been discounted at 10 per cent, which together with the 6 per cent interest, have made them attractive as an investment. And yet it was sometimes hard work to find a buyer at this figure. When it was learned last fall that the warrants then issued would probably not be paid this spring a good many of them went abegging for buyers. Now this is all changed. With cash in the treasury Prineville will be able to run its governmental machinery at a great saving in cost.

This wiping out of the city's indebtedness of \$2500 in warrants was done on a 5 mill tax. This year the levy is 9 mills on an assessed property valuation of \$479,181. This will yield the city a revenue of \$4312.62, divided among the four funds as follows: Road fund, \$479.18; park fund, \$239.59; general fund, \$2875.08; fire department fund, \$718.77. We have now reached the point where much-needed city improvements can be undertaken. A new city hall with a good home for the fire department is badly needed. Street and park improvements must be looked after in order that Prineville may prove attractive to the homeseeker. Get busy, gentlemen of the city council.

Crook County Out of Debt.

Crook county is out of debt. This announcement was made by County Treasurer King yesterday, when he handed in the last call for warrants. This places the county on a cash basis again.

Tom Payne Suicides.

Tom Payne, an aged ranch hand and buccaroo, committed suicide on the Anderson ranch, near Post, several days ago. Just when Payne killed himself is not definitely known. It may have been Saturday or Sunday morning. The body was discovered Sunday noon by C. L. Ream.

The circumstances surrounding the suicide left no doubt in the minds of the coroner's jury that it was a case of self-destruction. The man had been drinking heavily for several days and in talks with travelers going by the place had carried on a disjointed conversation that showed plainly the man was demented.

When C. L. Ream and a stranger went to the place where the old man lived alone they found that the stock had not been fed for several days. This fact led to an investigation as to the cause. The premises were searched but nobody could be found. After a while Payne's dog was seen lying on an underground cellar at some distance from the house. On looking into the cellar Payne's body was

seen lying at the bottom with two bullets from a 32-calibre Colt's revolver in the right temple. The men did not attempt to remove the body but telephoned Sheriff Elkins. That officer ordered a local justice of the peace to empanel a jury and investigate the case which was done.

Hogue Payne, a brother of the deceased, an attorney of Dayton, Wash., was notified by the sheriff of the suicide. He instructed the sheriff to give the body the best burial possible, that he would bear the expense.

Hill Interests to Buy All the Road Lands

C. C. Lundy, resident agent for the western division of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Wagon Land Grant, came in the first of the week from Portland, where he had been for a conference with Col. C. E. S. Wood, attorney for the company. When asked by a Journal reporter if there had been a transfer of the company's 800,000 acres of land to the Hill interests, Mr. Lundy stated that there had not, as yet, but that a sale of these lands was pending.

The holdings of the company, which are under negotiation at this time, consist of some 800,000 acres which extend from Albany on the west to the eastern border of the state. This strip in most places extends six miles on each side of the survey, the alternating sections belonging to the grant. Of the entire acreage there are more than 400,000 acres of tillable land, according to estimates of the company. The remainder is divided between timbered and grazing land. The original tract contained almost 1,000,000 acres, but 200,000 was canceled by the government. This immense grant is valued at \$7,000,000 and with railway development along its entire length it is conservatively estimated that its price will be doubled.

The road company's acreage in Crook county amounts to 357,969 acres, divided between timber, agricultural and grazing lands; Lincoln county has 138,220 acres, mostly in timber; Harney has 338,436 acres, timber and agriculture; Malheur 88,560 acres, almost entirely agricultural land.

160 Acres Land for Sale.

120 acres rich bottom land; good for grain or alfalfa; stream of water running through it; all under good fence; good barns and corrals; small house, good well and force pump. Price \$16 per acre; 120 can be irrigated. Address Med Vandervoort, Prineville, Oregon.

For Sale.

A good stock ranch; dairy ranch and 250 acres of good timber. Dairy stock goes with the ranch. For particulars address J. H. ZEVELY, Howard, Ore. 2-24-2m

Eggs for Hatching.

From prize-winning Rhode Island Red; \$1.50 per setting. Apply to Clarence D. Rice, Prineville, Or. 3-10-1mp

Choice Seed Potatoes.

Choice dry land Seed Potatoes raised at Powell Buttes, for sale at J. E. Stewart & Company's. 3-10-1mp

Prineville Steam Laundry.

Have your clothes washed at the Prineville Steam Laundry. Special attention given to travelers. Laundry is located in the McCallister building, near the Ochoco. 3-10-1mp JAMES EWING, Prop'r.

GEO. ESTES KILLS A. F. RANDALL

Trouble Arose About Sheep Range

NO WITNESSES SAW SHOOTING

Estes Thought Randall Was A. P. Jones Until Twelve Hours Afterwards.

A. F. Randall was shot and instantly killed by George Estes, seven miles north of Prineville, at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening.

There were no witnesses to the shooting. A man in the employ of Estes was several hundred yards distant during firing, but on account of his location could not see the men. Estes used a 25-calibre rifle and shot at a distance of sixty yards. Randall was shooting at him with a 38-calibre revolver.

As near as the facts can be ascertained at this time it seems that Randall was in the employ of A. P. Jones as a herder; that there had been disputes between Jones and Huston & Estes about sheep range in the vicinity. All parties concerned, run sheep. The young son of Randall, who is working for Jones, states that he had seen Estes the day before the shooting occurred and had some words with him, and was afraid to go back to his work for fear of trouble. His father took his place, and according to the story of Estes, Randall began to shoot on sight when the two men met on the top of a ridge. Randall fired two shots, according to the story told by Estes, before the latter began to shoot.

"His bullets whistled past me," said Estes, "and I saw that I would have to act and act quickly." Estes then commenced firing, inflicting mortal wounds. One bullet grazed Randall's right wrist and glancing struck the neck. The other bullet lodged in the breast.

Estes told the physicians whom he summoned that he could hear the wounded man groan when he fell but that he thought he had shot A. P. Jones and was afraid to go near for fear that he was not dead and would shoot him.

Estes did not know for twelve hours that the dead man was not Jones and was greatly surprised when told of his mistake.

The body of the dead man was brought to Prineville and an examination will be held.

Estes came to Prineville and gave himself up to Sheriff Elkins, and will be held pending the preliminary examination.

JUST ARRIVED

ELEGANT SPRING MILLINERY
NEW SUITS AND COVERT JACKETS
LINEN SUITS --- LATEST FOOTWEAR

Free to Someone! Value 300 Dollars



Would you like this beautiful piano as a present? We shall positively give it to some of our customers. Don't fail to find out about it.

Come to our store, see and try this splendid instrument. We will tell you about our plan of giving this piano away. This is a present worth having. This Piano is of the celebrated UPTON make. It carries the manufacturer's Ten Year Guarantee. We cordially invite your inspection.

Do you need a plow, harrow or buggy? Get our prices on these. Oliver and John Deere Plows and Implements.

C. W. ELKINS COMPANY

Absolutely Pure...

Royal Baking Powder Improves the flavor and adds to the healthfulness of the food

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure