

The Hill Party

Continued from a first page.

Yesterday I talked four hours up in the court in the presence of the judge, the bailiff and the opposing attorney, no one else, so you did not come here to hear me talk. So, I thank you.

Toastmaster Williamson in introducing the next speaker, said, "We are now coming to the real feast of the evening, so I will not detain you by talking myself, but will introduce to you Mr. Louis W. Hill.

Hill Likes the Country.

Mr. Hill said: "I can assure you that it is a great pleasure to me to be here tonight. It is three years since I made up my mind to come to Central Oregon. Mr. Hanley here (turning to the gentleman on his right) has shown me the promised land, and each new scene seems better than the last until I must believe that Prineville is the climax of it all. [Applause]. It is largely through Mr. Hanley's meeting with us that we have learned what a very little we know about Central Oregon. Still, I think, generally speaking, those who live right in Portland, know very little of Central Oregon. The state of Oregon is not really known, understood and appreciated. Certainly if it were known by some of those railroad interests who are paralleling and crossing each other's lines down East, it would be hard to understand why they serve this state. We had some older men with us in the party, but they turned back. They wanted to know how long I would be on this trip, and wanted to know if it would take as long as two or three days. I told them if they wanted to know how long it would take, they should figure on taking an automobile tour all over the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware, but they could not seem to realize that this country was as large as that.

Mr. Barnes gave me some information a few minutes ago when I stated that there were 60 or 70,000 acres of land in this vicinity. I had figured on about 40,000 as I never wish to be considered a booster in the sense Mr. Barnes used it. I do not know what you call a booster if Prineville is not full of them, so I can hardly agree with what Mr. Barnes said about them. [Applause]. In Montana they were very good to me wherever I went, but I never had a reception in Montana such as you have given me here today. [Applause]. I think the difference is that the people here are old residents—old Oregon people—who have lived in the state all their lives. I have noticed one peculiarity of Oregonians, and that is that they seldom if ever stray away. If they go away, they almost always come back. That is one reason why Oregon is not much heard of outside, because the people always stay at home.

You will be glad to hear what we think of this district, so I will just read you a message that I have just wired to my father. "Arrived Prineville in good shape. Have seen enough good country tributary to this point to make a good city here. 40,000 acres surround the town, all as good as Wenatchee, and water also here. No place in the United States better for homeseekers than Oregon." [Loud Applause].

When I say that there is no more favorable place for homeseekers, I mean that I do not know of any place where the opportunities are extended to them as they are in old Oregon. When there are interests that own 800,000 acres and are ready to cut it up, it is all right, but I would not advise any small or medium farmer to sell out here.

What we wanted in Montana was plenty of determined men to colonize the state. We went into the statistics carefully to see if we were able to deliver the goods if we brought the people in. People vined us and told us that the sheepmen would not let us in. We soon found that the sheepmen found it was more profitable to sell a part of their land and to go into farming themselves, as they made three, four and even five times as much out of the land that they sold as they ever expected to make out of sheep. Thus it will be with this country. There never has been a more

favorable time than the present and the coming year for Oregon. There are thousands of people wanting to get onto the land. They are not all free homestead people. In many cases they are the sons of the best farmers in the East, who are crowded out owing to the congested districts and the wearing out of the land. I thought our opportunities for colonization were good last year, and we put thousands of people into Montana, but I just want two years in Oregon. We have two points in Montana that within the last six months have made more entries in their land offices than have been made in any other land office in a year. I do not think that Oregon will have any difficulty in beating them.

When I returned to St. Paul some time ago, I found that North Dakota and Montana were using 300 construction engines for steam and gasoline plow work, turning over some 20 acres a day apiece, and it is a fact that some of them had headlights and were working at night to keep pace with the work. It is an indication of what the people in the East want to do when they get onto this western soil. Doubtless in a short time you will be using these gasoline plows all over Oregon.

Now, we want to co-operate with you in getting the people to Oregon, we do not get co-operation from the people of Washington. We work to get these people in various ways. Last year we had shows in a number of large Eastern cities, telling about the resources of the country. We send our cars, too, and we are going to send out the best car of all this year—for Oregon. With all these things going on, we get from 500 to 5,000 inquiries every day and keep a large force opening and answering correspondence. We want you to help us and we send these names to different parts for them to answer sending their literature along direct. We have not got anyone in Oregon yet, and we do not get much help from Washington.

What I mean by co-operation is, we go down, say, to New York fruit district, hold a meeting, and when farmers say that they want particulars of Oregon we send a list of their names to Oregon if we have someone there co-operating with us, if not, we send them to Montana. It is not much of a task, and very many men in the land business would be only too glad to get the lists and answer them. Last year we had a rush order for the Billings, Montana, Fair. Montana is preparing now to meet the world in competition. It means a great deal. We are continually discovering new fields and districts, and have frequently found places entirely unknown to our own people, where in some little local fair the exhibits were worthy of a good place in a large exhibition. Such farmers as the Minnesota people could not be turned away from here once they learned what you raised. They know land when they see it, and once they got out here they would all settle.

This soil is a regular fertilizer. I wish I had a few loads of it spread over my farm, it would do it good. A sample of this soil that I had taken will average better than any soil east of the Mississippi river. With soil like you have it is going to be quite a time before you wear it out or will have to fertilize it. The fertility is here and will be here for years. There is lots of good country here yet; lots of valuable land to be filled up. You haven't got the population, and your whole state population is about the same as that of St. Paul and Minneapolis. What you want is population—and a railroad.

Our first task was getting up the Deschutes canyon. Our next was to go through to Klamath. These we have well in hand, and now we have a good backbone started from which to run feeders. We are not afraid of opposition. Some of the best business we are doing is since the Milwaukee road got through to the coast. It waked things up.

As for the railroad coming through here, I wish I could tell you right now what the facts were, but I do not know, I really do not know. I am going east of here to see the best way a road could go, and after that, after my report, the engineers would have to come and make a survey before I could make any statement. But I can say this, I do not see how I would be

possible for a railroad to come within 18 or 20 miles of Prineville and yet keep out of it. [Loud and continuous applause].

You cannot keep us out of this state now. We want to get things started now as we did back in Montana.

In Montana we started 42 experimental stations, and I wish we had one here now in this valley. We put up the money, furnish the seed, pay for the time raising it, and let the farmer have the crop. We have three agricultural professors on our payroll now.

Now, I don't want to keep you here any longer, but I want to thank you for the reception you have given us. I knew Prineville was a fairly large place, but let me tell you that it is the largest place in the United States so far away from a railroad as Prineville is. You must get a railroad somehow, that is certain, and then you will go ahead in your population.

I have been looking to see where the new Spokane is to be. There is bound to be a good city somewhere in this country in the near future and I cannot but see that you have a very good foundation to build on. I would not have believed there were so many people here as I saw today.

You have the climate here, too, in your favor, as I noticed, when coming in your banner of welcome was surrounded with fresh, green alfalfa. Three days before I left home, we had a severe snowstorm and the clover is not yet up. On the way here we had our men get out into the wheat fields along the road to be photographed with wheat up to their knees. In the Willamette valley we saw a man cutting his rye while the blossoms were right on the apple tree close by. We had some photographs taken, and doubtless the people down East will think the apple blossoms were paper ones to make a fake picture until we show the affidavit we obtained at the same time.

I feel I can stand with Judge Brink's assertion just as long as he will, to the effect that an acre here is worth at least as much as two in the Willamette valley from a producing standpoint. Once the land is adequately supplied with water it will produce far better crops. I know land in Wenatchee which was worth \$1.75 an acre when we built through there. There was one old ranch there started in the early eighties. We helped the company put water on. There are about 15,000 acres of fruit planted there now. About 17 miles out of Wenatchee we asked what land was worth. They do not sell land much there now, but last week 17 acres sold for \$34,000 with five-year-old trees on it. The prices are about \$2500 to \$3000 at Wenatchee. I do not see the difference between this land and the Wenatchee land in spite of your increased altitude, and you will have to show me that you cannot raise as good apples here as any where before I will believe it. There is no doubt in my mind but that the land here will produce at least as much as it will in the Willamette valley. I want to thank you all for your interest and your welcome and for the beautiful decorations you have ready for us.

Result of Immigration.

The toastmaster then called upon E. C. Leedy, General Immigration Agent of the Great Northern Railway, who spoke as follows:

I represent the Immigration Department, and can only say that in this work the local people owe a great deal to the new settlers who come into this country. This work is only in its beginning with the Great Northern Railroad Co. that has been spending its money in the east to interest the people in this country. It takes a great deal of time and expense to interest the people in some far away state. You who have moved from some eastern state and have moved your friends and belongings, can appreciate how very hard it is to pry loose eastern people, especially when you are sending them into a country of which they know little. I confess that we ourselves have known but little about this country, and that is what we are here for tonight.

When we go back to start the people out here, you owe it to the railroad and to the new settler that you see he is taken care of when he arrives. In a great many

Continued on page 3.

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CROOK COUNTY

the Heart of Oregon is larger than the combined areas of the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware.

Has 1,250,000 acres of vacant Government land, of which there is enough good land to make 8,000 160 acre farms.

The Harriman and Hill lines of railroad are building towards Crook County and will be in the County this year. They have 10,000 men at work at present time.

PRINEVILLE is in the Center of Crook County and is therefore the HEART OF OREGON. To reach this point take O. R. & N. to Biggs, change for Shaniko, thence by Auto or Stage to Prineville. This is the county seat; has a magnificent stone Court House, bank, hotel and numerous brick buildings, including a large County High School.

The present population of Prineville is 1600, and it is growing steadily. Has complete water and electric light system, flouring mills, planing mills, machine shops and garage. Seven stage and automobile lines center at Prineville and it is the distributing point for all Central Oregon. Central Oregon raises all the common farming crops, including all root crops and grains, alfalfa and hardy fruits

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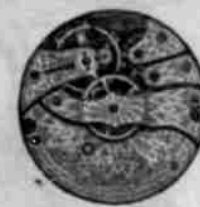
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Equipment—Top, Gas Lamps, Generator, Magneto, Two Side Oil Lamps, Tail Lamp, Tube Horn, Wind Shield and Speedometer. Demonstration at your convenience.

C. L. SHATTUCK, PRINEVILLE, OR. Agent for Crook County.

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Capital Stock fully paid	100,000.00		
Surplus	5,000.00		
Stockholders' liability	50,000.00		
Statement Rendered to State Bank Examiner March 29, 1910:			
Assets			
Loans and Discounts	\$109,141.10	Capital stock	\$100,000.00
County and other warrants	2,000.00	Surplus	5,000.00
Real estate and fixtures	7,900.00	Undivided profits	6,000.00
Patents	1,100.00	Deposits	20,000.00
Cash on hand and due from banks	\$130,990.78		
		Liabilities	
			\$130,990.78