

# Crook County Journal

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## Wonderful Changes Being Wrought in Crook County

Addison Bennett of The Dalles Optimist and Irrigator writes to the Portland Oregonian of his impressions of Crook county. He says:

To leave Portland at 10 o'clock in the morning and arrive at Madras at 7; reach Prineville at 9:30; Bend at 9 or Redmond at 8:30 the same evening, that is the schedule now in force over the North Bank from Portland to Fallbridge, the Oregon Trunk from there to Madras, and hence by auto.

Think of it! Bend but a trifle more than 12 hours from Portland; Prineville but 12 hours, and Madras 10 hours! Surely the interior is being attached to Portland before we have had time to awaken to the fact.

The story I want to tell about the railway situation on the Deschutes—the attachment, so to speak, between that section and Portland—and the wonderful changes being wrought in Crook County, is so complex, the material being almost unbounded, that it is difficult to know where to start or where to end—very hard to tell the tale consecutively or connectedly. So I will give many of the facts in succinct paragraphs to keep this letter within bounds.

But southern Crook County is

an empire in itself, and I am not going to weary the reader by taking up the various sections, such as Bend, Prineville, Redmond, Culver and Metolius, with apologies to the other embryo cities not mentioned. I will reach them all in good time, I hope and tell fully of their prospects and expectations.

So I am going to tell something about the Madras country, that town being the gateway to the interior. Not so much about Madras. That country has been exploited enough for the present. And anyhow, it is the country, the land, the tillable soil, the real natural resources of the country, that I wish to tell about. The towns and town lots and additions to the cities are all right in their way. But what is wanted—what we all want—is to see the barren acres of the interior become fertile, the lands yield to the plow and the harrow and the seeder, to yield again to the reaper and header.

The towns will take care of themselves. Many of those now being exploited will become prosperous cities, the dreams of many of the promoters and some of the purchasers will be more than realized. But the towns will not build the country, the country will build the towns. Hence if I

can say anything to help the country I am assuredly not hurting the towns though I leave them with slight attention.

I spent four days in Madras country, so I did not see much of it, for the territory tributary to the town is perhaps 400 or 500 square miles in extent. But I kept pretty busy and got over a lot of it.

My great surprise was the amount of land already under the plow. Out to the north over the Agency Plains district of something like 10 by 14 miles, there is scarcely a vacant quarter and about all has been cultivated, much of it being now in wheat or ready to seed this Spring.

And now about this wheat question. How often we hear it remarked that if they could raise so much wheat over there, why had they not done so? The answer is mighty simple, but I will answer it indirectly by saying that I ran across a farmer on the plains who "toted" a load of wheat to Shaniko last Fall with a four-mule team. He sold the wheat at the market price, around 70 cents, and when he got home he was two dollars in debt! The expenses of the trip had eaten up the wheat—and he was out six days' labor for himself and team. Of course he had a breakdown, a little bad luck, but the regular freighters' charge from Madras to Shaniko was a cent a pound. So how in name of common or even uncommon sense could you expect the

farmers of that section to produce wheat beyond the immediate need of the vicinity?

But now the freight on wheat is 10.80 per bushel, making the price that much under the Portland market, and virtually the same as the price at Athena, Milton, Pilot Rock, and Heppner and other branch road stations. And simply in anticipation of this cheaper rate the farmers of the upper Crook County district say, from Madras to Culver, last year raised something like 80,000 sacks of wheat for shipment, besides the 20,000 sacks used for home consumption.

And this year the amount may double, perhaps treble. And remember this is for only a small portion of the Deschutes country. When the road is completed to Bend the amount will rapidly increase, and in a few years. Am I dreamer of dreams when I say that within a half dozen years that country will vie with the same area of the best of the wheat territory in Eastern Washington? Am I dreamer when I say that Umatilla County with her output of over 4,000,000 bushels, will be outstripped by the territory tributary to the two roads up the Deschutes.

The fact of the matter is no man can form a safe estimate of the resources of that country. It has been bottled up so long, the people have been held in leash to such an extent that they themselves cannot, or do not, know what their capabilities and

possibilities are. To show how they were almost completely ostracised, commercially speaking, let me state that when Shaniko was their nearest railway station the price of cement at Madras was \$15 a barrel; now it is \$3.50. Coal was \$30 a ton; now it is \$12. The wonder is not that the people out in that section did so little; it is a tribute due to their worth as splendid citizens that they did so much.

Let us now take another view of the Agency Plains section, which is one of the finest bodies of agricultural land I ever saw. It is almost level, though there are some slight draws and other little undulations. But perhaps not over one-twentieth of it is waste land from those sources. Some parts are a little stony, say another twentieth. Now we have nine-tenths left as plow land. Supposing the section to be 10 by 14 miles, we have about 80,000 acres of tillable land. Let us suppose that a quarter of that is left out for pasturage and other uses, then divide the remainder for summer fallow every other year, and we have in that one body of land the possibilities of a production of 750,000 bushels of wheat in the near future.

This is no idle fancy, it is not fiction, it is not a statement padded on inflated production or conservative acreage; it is a candid and conservative statement of what we can expect of the Agency Plains section alone. But that is scarcely a fleabite to the great area in the upper Deschutes country—it is only the gateway to its sections more vast and just as good.

But perhaps Mr. Growler will step up and ask how we know wheat can be raised, 25 bushels to the acre, on Agency Plains flat. We know it simply because it has been done and will be done again this year and each year hereafter until some more profitable crop is found to take the place of wheat. By intelligent farming, making the water of two years mature one crop, we believe it is about as fair to expect a crop failure in the best portion of Iowa as in the upper Deschutes valley.

Just here I want to mention two statements I heard made on the train "going in." One was from a farmer from Nebraska who said the winters were so severe in upper Crook county that the wheat was very liable to freeze out, and that the cattle losses were excessive from the cold. Let me answer him by a "parable," but a truthful one. In my trip over the Agency Plains country, and on another cut to the southeast of Madras, and again in inspecting a garden close to town, I found in all three instances many potatoes that had been in the ground all winter and they were in perfect condition unless within less than two inches of the surface, the frost having penetrated not to exceed two inches during the entire winter.

And just a word about the climate. I believe the climatic conditions of the entire interior of the state are greatly misunderstood. I have been over vast sections of it, have spent several weeks in the winter and nearly all one summer in going through that great domain, and I would ask for no better climate, winter or summer.—Addison Bennett in Oregonian.

### Death of Robt. O'Donnell.

Robert O'Donnell died very suddenly at his ranch, near Coleman, on Sunday last about noon. He was a bachelor, about 50 years of age and well known in Shaniko. The deceased was a native of New York state. A sister, Mrs. M. F. King, a niece Sadie F. and nephew, John J., of Portland, are the only surviving relatives. The body was shipped to Portland for interment in the family lot there. Funeral arrangements were in charge of Crandall & Burgett of The Dalles.—Shaniko Star.

## PRODUCTS OF GOLDEN WEST SHOWN

Fine Display of Fruits, Grains and Vegetables Make Great Northern Exhibit Effective Advertisement

The possibilities of Oregon both as an agricultural and fruit state are being played up strongly by the Great Northern Railway at their Exhibit in Columbus, Ohio, and the following extract of article taken from the Columbus Journal gives some idea of the beauty of and interest created by this Exhibit.



Great Northern Agricultural Exhibit at Night, 47 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

"Go west, young man, and grow up with the country," said Greeley. The seer gave good advice, but he stopped there.

"Go west, young man, woman, boys and girls, and grow up with the great new west," said L. W. Hill. Then Mr. Hill, who is President of the Great Northern Railway, and son of James J. Hill, backed up his advice by making it possible for everybody to go west.

That the people of Columbus and vicinity may become better acquainted with the wonderful western country, a free exhibition of the grains and fruits of Montana, Oregon and Washington has been opened at 47 North High Street by the Great Northern Railway.

The exhibition is well worth the visit. Great sheaves of golden wheat, oats and other grains adorn the walls in artistic array. Big crystal jars display the fruits of the far west. Literature descriptive of the wonderful opportunities awaiting the homeseeker are distributed, and all inquiries made by visitors are cheerfully answered by those in charge.

"The Great Northern Railway has not a foot of land to sell," said L. O. Stout, who is in charge of the display. "President Hill wants the men and women of your city to realize the great possibilities of the big, new west."

### Oratorical Contest Tomorrow Night

On Friday evening, April 7, the annual oratorical contest between the two literary societies of the Crook County High School will take place. These inter-society contests have become an important feature in the life of the high school. The meeting this year bids fair to surpass any previous one in point of excellence. The Crook County High orators will take rank with the best in the state. It is hoped to turn out a state winner this year. The one receiving first honor tomorrow night will represent the high school at the Eastern Oregon contest which takes place at Ontario.

Every friend of the school should lend encouragement to these laudable contests. They mean much to the life of the schools. The following is the program:

Muscle.....Luckey's Orchestra  
Male Quartette.....  
Oration, "The Strength of Puritanism".....Adolphus Myers, "O"  
Oration, "Culture, a Necessary Quality for Success".....Wilda Nye, "A"  
Vocal Duet.....Mesdames Adams and Rosenberg.  
Oration, "Shakespeare's Heroines".....Leola Estes, "O"  
Oration, "Ancient vs. Modern Barbarism".....Roy Lowther, "A"  
Vocal Solo.....Miss Brobst  
Oration, "Character"....."O"  
Mamie Bailey, "O"  
Oration, "The Conservation of the Forests".....Corinne Coffin, "A"  
Trombone Solo.....Mr. Smith  
C. C. H. S. Nightingales.....  
Orchestra.....  
Refreshments.....  
Decision of Judges.....

### Sheriff Balfour's Star Boarders

Sheriff Balfour has seven prisoners at the county boarding house. Five commitments were from Bend, one from Redmond and one from Madras.

J. H. Hudson, charged with grand larceny, was committed from Madras, March 2.

George F. Zimmerman, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, was committed from Bend, January 27.

Dan Medish, charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, was committed from Bend, January 28th.

Charles Mathieson was committed from Bend, January 31 on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Adolph Snyder is playing in hard luck. He was shot by August Zuliyari the latter part of January and is being held by the state as a witness against his assailant. Snyder's bonds were placed at \$150 but as he couldn't furnish the coin nor get bondsmen, he was committed to jail. His assailant, Zuliyari, is out on bail.

Joe Stanich, charged with grand larceny, was committed from Redmond last November.

F. Foley of Bend, charged with grand larceny, is the latest arrival. He was committed March 24. These cases will come up at the May term of the district court.

## Spring Sale of Home Needs.

House Cleaning Time at Hand. We are showing Savings in Lace Curtains. You know what a sale means at this Store. If you have confidence in us you can honestly expect these sales to be worth your while.

- \$1.50 Lace Curtains, white, pair.....\$1.05
- \$1.50 Lace Curtains, ecru, pair.....\$1.15
- \$1.75 Lace Curtains.....\$1.20
- \$2.50 Lace Curtains.....\$1.85
- \$3.00 Lace Curtains.....\$2.40
- \$3.50 Lace Curtains.....\$2.75
- \$4.00 Lace Curtains.....\$3.15
- \$5.00 Lace Curtains.....\$3.95

### BEAUTIFUL WHITE BEDSPREADS.

- \$1.25 Hemmed Crochet at.....\$1.05
  - \$1.52 Hemmed Crochet at.....\$1.20
  - \$1.75 Hemmed Crochet at.....\$1.40
  - \$2.65 Cut Corner Satin Finish.....\$2.05
  - \$4.00 Cut Corner Satin Finish.....\$3.25
- Linen finish Towels in pairs at 25c, 30c, and 40c. per pair. These are savings. Good housekeepers can effect economy in buying these.

### ESPECIALLY FINE.

This refers to our New Spring Dress Ginghams and other fabrics, now on display. Selected with more than usual care and taste. Silk Foulards and Gauzy Fabrics for gowns and wastings. Our Goods are pleasing to the eye. New Oxfords, Pumps, Sandals, and Scufflers, for the neat and tasty.

Everyday footwear for heavy or light wear. We know how to fit your feet. Look at our styles before buying footwear.

### The Nemo Corset.

No. 312 and No. 405 made especially for extra stout women. No. 210 and No. 305 made especially for all others. Have you tried the "Nemo." There is no second best. For shape and style, for home or party, THE NEMO.



### BOYS' SUITS

Just now we are selling them at a fraction above cost, to close out the entire line. You can save our profit. That is exactly what it means, in boys' clothing here. TRY US.



Garden Seeds, Garden Drills, Farm Tools, Wagons, Groceries and Hardware.

As cheap as can be sold. Satisfaction is yours if you buy here.

Special Sale of Ladies' Corset Covers, Drawers and White Skirts. See them.



## Collins W. Elkins.

Prineville, Oregon.

### Makes Home Baking Easy

**ROYAL**  
BAKING POWDER  
Absolutely Pure  
The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar  
NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

### New County Road Completed

County Commissioner R. H. Bayley was in the city Tuesday from Nigger Brown canyon, where he has had a force of men engaged in the construction of a new county road from Vanora station on the Oregon Trunk near the Ed Campbell place, up the canyon to Agency Plain. The road is now practically completed and will be opened to the public shortly. The work on which Mr. Bayley has been engaged extends over about two miles and the construction on it has cost close to \$3,400. The new route makes an outlet for the ranchers living on the north end of Agency Plains and gives them a shorter haul for water.—Madras Pioneer.