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Crook County Journal

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Crook County in Need of Homeseekers

At the opening of the year 1912 the cry for settlers in Crook county is as strong as ever. The advent of two transcontinental railroads has in nowise diminished it. Quite the contrary. These roads have accentuated the great need of homebuilders. We possess all the attractive features which a new country, rapidly undergoing a transformation, presents to both the man without a home and to the capitalist seeking a field which will return to him a dividend on investments. Crook county's developed and undeveloped resources are almost as extensive as the county itself, which has a land area nearly equal to the state of Massachusetts.

Crook county is the fourth largest county in Oregon and lies practically in the center of the state. It embraces an area of 8000 square miles. Land of every character is found within its limits—from the rolling sagebrush plains to the enormous yellow pine forests. Here are hundreds of thousands of virgin acres awaiting the plow of the homesteader. Some of this land is open to settlement under the 320 acre dry farming homestead law.

For many years cattle raising has been the chief industry, but this condition is slowly changing. Cattle still hold sway in the eastern and northern part of the county but the western portion is being brought rapidly under irrigation. Here alfalfa, clover and the root crops thrive. The best potatoes in the world are grown here.

Dry farming is commanding more attention every year in Crook county. At the Dry Farming Congress held at Spokane in 1910, Tillman Reuter, a skillful "dry farmer," exhibited 23 varieties of grains, grasses and root crops and won 18 prizes in competition with products from all over the world.

At the 1911 Dry Farming Congress held at Colorado Springs, Mr. Reuter won 23 prizes—9 firsts, 12 seconds and 2 thirds. His sister, also a homesteader, won three prizes—two firsts and one second.

The Madras Commercial Club had an exhibit at the Dry Farming Congress and won four prizes—two firsts, one second and one third. Haybrook, Crook county, won a second prize, and Prineville, the pretty county seat of Crook county, down a second prize.

Without wishing to detract in any way from Mr. Reuter's skill and judgment, nor from the farming ability of any of the prize winners at the Dry Farming Congress, the fact remains that it is not impossible for any first class man to duplicate their performances.

Hundreds of other farmers throughout Crook county raised just as good products as the above gentlemen and no doubt would have received prizes if they had displayed their produce.

FOR THE HOMESEKER.

To the homeseeker there is an unlimited field of diversified soil and climate; irrigated lands and those which require no other moisture than that which falls annually in certain of the farming sections and in quantity to insure the productiveness of the soil. The irrigated tracts lie in the semi-arid belts, but most of the lands now under cultivation are in the sections where it is not necessary to assist the kindly disposed weather

man who looks after the moisture needs of the communities in question. In either of these districts the purchase of land includes the privilege of enjoying Crook county's climate—a tailor-made climate suited to the whims of the most fastidious throughout 12 months of the year.

FOR THE INVESTOR.

For the investor there is a field of vast extent in which to his own choosing he may find the resources which will readily return to him a revenue in exchange for the capital invested. From the common field of agricultural pursuits, through the pine forests, on into the mineral belts whose latent resources are being prospected and developed, through the stock raising districts and dairying sections to the magnificent Deschutes river, whose enormous power remains unharnessed, there is room and opportunity for the man with capital. In short, the present complexity of the country, the future possibilities of development under capital already invested, the diversity of both soil, productiveness and climate, coupled with the fact that this immense region still retains its birthmark of newness, affords a field of endeavor second to none of the Pacific Coast states.

IRRIGATION THE MAGIC WAND.

Crook county's present greatest field of development is irrigation. Along the valley of the Deschutes river, on both the east and west sides of the stream, extending eastward a distance of 18 miles and half that distance in the opposite direction, the state has set aside a total of over 300,000 acres of arid land. The bulk of this immense area is being reclaimed under the Carey act.

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER.

The possibilities of agricultural development under the impetus given by the reclamation of immense bodies of arid land are no greater, if as great, as will be witnessed during the next few years in the development of the timber and mining interests, both of which represent enormous values. Crook county furnishes a home for a part of the last remaining belt of virgin timber in the United States, a belt which extends from the northern edge of the county through the valley of the Deschutes river to the California line. This timber region is practically unbroken, only a few small mills

are drawing upon it to supply the local consumption, and until a few years ago was owned by the government. Recently nearly every available foot of standing timber has passed into private ownership and the development of this one industry alone will furnish labor for thousands, besides adding new manufacturing industries and rapidly increasing the present wealth of the county.

OUR MINERAL WEALTH.

In the mining districts of Crook county there are many other fields of development. Coal, gold, silver, and cinnabar are all found in the mineral belts and with few exceptions but little development work has been done. Coal has been found in several sections of

the county, the most noteworthy discovery having been made in February, 1907, near Hay Creek where several large veins of bituminous coal were uncovered.

POPULATION INCREASING.

The attractive features of Crook county's agricultural and industrial possibilities, its mineral prospects, timber and stock resources, its irrigated lands and equitable climate have been the means of increasing the population rapidly during the past year. They will continue to serve the same purpose for years to come. Competition is not keen and the opportunities for both old and young alike are far greater than in any of the more

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Prineville Spends \$100,000 in 1911

Prineville has just closed a year of splendid achievement. It was not a boom year by any means, but just a natural and healthy growth as based upon good sound business principles. It was Prineville money that went into these structures and it was placed there by men who have implicit faith in the soundness of their investment.

The new school building represents the largest investment. This is the only building that does not represent Prineville capital. It is of brick and cement, will hold eight grades and then some. Additional rooms can be furnished in the basement when desired. The latest scientific methods of heating and sanitation have been provided. It represents an outlay of something like \$30,000.

The second building of importance is the new home of the Crook County Bank. This structure is nearly ready for use. It is built of stone and presents a handsome and massive appearance. It will represent an outlay of \$20,000 when completed.

The new Baptist Church is one of the finest in the interior. It cost approximately \$10,000, and will be dedicated next Sunday. The frame work cost \$5,000.

So many new homes and other improvements have been put in this year that our reporter has requested the leading contractors and builders of Prineville to furnish a list of what has been done. W. J. Pancake reports as follows:

Renovating Stewart Hall \$1000.
Ceiling Commercial Club Hall, \$850.
Frame work First Baptist Church, \$6,000.

Sub-contract for carpenter work on Crook County Bank, \$11,000.
Residence for John Combs, \$2,550.
Residence for H. R. Lakin, \$2,400.
Joe Gerardo, bungalow, \$2,400.
Brick residence for W. J. Pancake, 2,600.

The McCall residence, which does not properly belong to Prineville, but is listed by Mr. Pancake, will cost \$15,000.

There are about \$1000 worth of smaller jobs that are not listed in detail.

C. W. Spring reports the following as the work done during the summer of 1911:

Cottage for Mrs. Lively, \$700.
Bungalow for Homer Ross, \$1,500.
Residence for Dr. Ketchum, \$2,000.
Cottage for T. G. Hoover, \$1,500.
Schoolhouse in District No.—\$1000.
Cement block house for Oliver Powell, \$3000.

Home for Alf Gyler on old Eastwood place north of town, \$1,400.

Converting the old school house into an apartment house, \$1,000.

Shipp & Perry make the following report:

Prof. E. L. Coe, bungalow, \$2,000.
Mrs. Wilson, bungalow, \$2,000.
J. H. Delore, brick dwelling, \$1,900.
Elmer Kaylor, bungalow, \$2,000.
Finishing basement, Presbyterian Church, \$200.

Prince Glaze, bungalow, \$1,000.
J. B. Shipp, bungalow, \$2,500.

A. H. Lippman & Co. report the following buildings erected within the city limits during the past year.

Al Yancy, bungalow, \$1,000.
Wm. Draper, cottage, \$450.
Mrs. M. A. Hoover, cottage, \$600.
L. Nichols, bungalow, \$925.
A. H. Lippman, cottage, \$1,200.
J. M. Cornett's residence, \$10,000.
Warren Crooks' new home, \$2600.
H. D. Still's new cottage, \$1200.

Prineville Public Schools Among the Best in the State

The Prineville Public School begins the New Year with brighter prospects than ever before. The new school building with its excellent system of heating, lighting and ventilating, the excellent corps of teachers and the large number of pupils enrolled, all combine to make the public schools of Prineville second to none in the state.

Last May Principal Meyers' eighth grade graduating class made the highest general average in the state and with the same strong man at the helm the same quality of good work is being done this year.

Mr. Meyers is from Washington, where he served four and one half years as County Superintendent and several years as teacher. His slogan is, "Do good straight school work and let the frills take care of themselves." This plan is insisted upon from the first to the eighth grade.

This year an extra effort is being made to have every child take

active physical exercise at each intermission. The baseball diamond, the football gridiron, the outdoor basketball, and handball courts furnish ample opportunity for every child in school to take part.

Mr. Meyers takes charge of the boys and has one of the teachers delegated each day to do field duty. The business of this teacher is to supervise the games and see that everyone plays. The pupils are classified according to grades and each section has its own time and place.

Many of the grade teachers have had special training in their professions and all have had valuable experience, some leaving positions in city schools to come to this section.

The good careful work being done, the harmony existing among the teachers and pupils and the earnest enthusiasm shown on all sides, make the Prineville public schools stand among the best in the state.

New City Council in Harness Mayor Edwards' Annual Address

The old council met Monday evening and wound up its affairs. There were present: Mayor Edwards, and councilmen C. I. Winnek, I. W. Ward, S. W. Yancey, J. B. Shipp, Recorder Breeco, and T. L. Coon, acting marshal.

The minutes of the last regular and special meetings were read and approved.

The following bills were allowed:
Med Vanderpool, judge elec. \$ 3.00
M. D. Powell, " " 3.00
W. H. Kinder, " " 3.00

J. F. Cadle, clerk " 3.00
B. E. Wyde, " " 3.00
Ada Foster, " " 3.00
Mrs. Maling, hall rent, 25.00
C. E. Smith, treasurer's salary 25.00
Crook Co. Journal, printing, 10.90
Floyd Rowell, nightwatch, 75.00
Mrs. McDowell, board pris. 10.50
R. W. Breese, recorders fees 20.75
T. L. Coon, acting marshal, 17.50
P. L. & W. Co. light & water 39.40
Powell & Calbreth, driv piles 90.00
Chas Condert, wood, 2.50
E. H. Smith, police officer 10.90
The bid of R. L. DeCoursey for

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Prineville-Metolius Railroad Seems to be a Sure Thing

The well known and wealthy L. M. Rice company is back of the latest movement for a railroad from Metolius to Prineville. The head office of this company is at Seattle, and branch offices are maintained in some of the leading cities of the United States and in London and Paris.

R. F. Heckman and William Osborn, railway engineers and contractors, arrived in Metolius early in the week. They are representing the Rice company and have been making preliminary arrangements for locating the proposed line. Yesterday Cashier N. A. Burdick, of the Citizens State Bank, took them in his auto over a portion of the country through which the final survey will probably run.

Messrs. Heckman and Osborn were interviewed this morning by the Central Oregonian. Mr. Heckman said it could be authoritatively stated that if the present plans of the L. M. Rice company are carried out, a railroad from Metolius to Prineville will be constructed and work would begin early in 1912. "The Rice Company," said Mr. Heckman, "will expect the good will and active cooperation of the people of Metolius and Prineville and of the farmers through whose land the right-of-way will run. The cost of constructing the proposed road will be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. Its length will be between 28 and 29 miles."

A crew of civil engineers will arrive in Metolius tonight from Portland and the work of locating the line will begin tomorrow. There will be eight men in the crew, which will be in charge of Messrs. Heckman and Osborn. Mr. Osborn says it will require about three weeks to complete the work.

G. A. Kyle, formerly vice president and general manager of the Oregon Trunk Railway, when John F. Stevens was president of the road, is vice president of the L. M. Rice company. His company, among other large undertakings, is now engaged in a 400-mile railroad construction contract in British Columbia, and a million-dollar irrigation project in the Horseheaven country, Washington. Mr. Heckman was instrumental in interesting Mr. Kyle and his company in the Metolius-Prineville railroad proposition and now that this big concern has undertaken the work, he is anxious that the road

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News Snapshots Of the Week

John Bigelow, America's "grand old man," died at his home in New York, aged ninety-four. He was well known as a diplomat, author and journalist. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and Mrs. Margaret Emerson McKim were married in Relgate, a small English village near London. The Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, charged with the murder of his former sweetheart, Avis Linnell, nearly ended his life by slashing himself with a piece of tin in the jail at Boston. Curtis Guild, Jr., the American ambassador to Russia, requested the Russian minister of the interior to alter the passport regulations as to Jews. The request was refused. The Moros on the island of Jolo, in the Philippines, defied the disarmament order of General John J. Pershing and retreated to the peak of Bud Dajo, where they were surrounded by American troops.