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GOOD NEWS FOR PRINEVILLE

Louis W. Hill Behind Land Deal

BUYS CONTROLLING INTEREST

In Oregon & Western Colonization Company. Thousands of Acres Near Prineville.

The announcement that Louis W. Hill had bought the controlling interest in the Oregon & Western Colonization Company the other day was the best news that Prineville has heard in many a day. It means that there will be something doing for the settlement of the thousands of fertile acres that are tributary to this town.

The Hills, both father and son, are builders, not exploiters. With unlimited capital at his disposal Louis W. will begin the work of developing this sparsely settled region. He cannot do so without

LOUIS W. HILL



Louis W. Hill Great Northern Railroad president, who may resign to colonize 800,000 acres of Central Oregon land recently acquired.

a railroad and the next good news may be the announcement of such a project. We must give him time, however, to develop his plans before expecting too much. The Oregonian says:

Control of 800,000 acres of agricultural and timber land in the heart of Central Oregon now held by Oregon & Western Colonization Company, a \$12,000,000 corporation, of Portland and St. Paul, yesterday passed into the hands of Lewis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway, who proposes to throw it open for immediate settlement.

Mr. Hill's retirement from the presidency of the Great Northern and his succession by Carl R. Gray, president of the North Bank Road and the Hill lines in Oregon, are expected as an early consequence of this transaction. Mr. Gray left Portland last night for St. Paul for a conference with Mr. Hill and his father James J. Hill.

Associated with Mr. Hill in his new colonization enterprise is W. P. Davidson, a St. Paul capitalist, who has been actively connected with the Oregon & Western Colonization Company since its organization. He has frequently visited Portland in company with Mr. Hill.

It is understood that Mr. Hill and his father have been financially interested in the company for many years. The deal yesterday involved the interests of the United States Farm Lands Company, which concern has a



Photo of Juarez by American Press Association.

News Snapshots Of the Week

Yuan Shi Kai was unanimously chosen president of the new Chinese republic to succeed Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who resigned. The one hundred and eightieth anniversary of the birth of George Washington was celebrated. Frank M. Ryan and Herbert S. Hockin were among the forty men arrested simultaneously throughout the United States in connection with the government dynamite probe. As the result of the claim made by Folke E. Brandt, ex-valet of Millionaire M. L. Schiff of New York, that he had been railroaded an investigation was begun into his thirty year sentence for theft. Abram Gonzales, governor of Chihuahua, in a public proclamation declared that the United States was planning to enslave Mexico. The looting of haciendas about Juarez continued.

half ownership in the property. Obtaining possession of this remaining half interest gives Mr. Hill and Mr. Davidson complete ownership of the entire tract.

This land, which is the last of the unsettled area in the western part of the United States, was originally known as the Willamette and Cascade land grant. This strip, which extended eastward for 400 miles, was to be the basis for a bond issue for the construction of the road. The bonds were issued, the road built and the bonds ultimately found their way into the hand of French capitalists.

These holders refused to throw the country open to settlement, holding the vast area in its original unimproved condition and realizing nothing on their investment. This transaction was four times larger than any other single land deal ever recorded in this country, and the purchase of the half interest of the United States Farm Lands Company's interests in the parent company by Messrs. Hill and Davidson is second only to that.

The land extends from the western slope of the Cascade Mountains eastward to Idaho and includes some of the best portions of Crook, Harney and Malheur Counties. The principal towns within the tract are Prineville and Burns, although the deal includes much actual town property.

According to the terms of the original grant the company that agreed to build the military road was deeded only every alternate quarter section, so the property acquired by Mr. Hill and his associates is spotted with farms of settlers and other large tracts held by smaller corporations and investors.

With the purchase of this immense acreage, the syndicate will be able to control virtually the entire water supply originating along the territory included in the holdings. A large part of the Malheur River runs through the eastern part of the land. This river drains Malheur Lake, one of the largest bodies of water in Eastern Oregon. To the north-west of Burns the Crooked River takes its course and runs in a northwesterly course and empties into the Deschutes River about 15 miles west of Prineville.

These two rivers form the chief drainage system of central Eastern Oregon. From the fact that the development of the immense holdings will depend to a great extent upon irrigation, the water supply is considered one of the greatest assets of the acreage.

The land included in the original grant parallels for a great

distance on either side of the Malheur and Crooked rivers. With a water grade from Ontario on the extreme eastern boundary of the grant, through the entire strip to the Deschutes River, it will be feasible to construct a railroad line through the middle of the holdings from Ontario to the Deschutes River, where connection would be had with the Oregon Trunk system. That such a line will be built eventually seems probable. Through the sections especially adapted to agriculture the construction of electric lines as feeders may be included in the development plans later.

Scattered throughout the holdings are large areas of tillable land adapted to growing of wheat, oats, barley and other cereals and hay products without irrigation. Many of the various valleys have rich soil and ideal places for the growing of fruits and vegetables. It is estimated that there is contained in the entire grant 5,000,000 feet of merchantable timber, consisting of yellow pine, white pine, bull pine, larch and fir. By reason of the lack of transportation facilities the vast timbered area between Prineville and Vale has remained virtually untouched. When transportation is supplied, it is expected that big sawmill plants will be established.

About 75,000 acres of the grant lying west of the Cascade Mountains, in Linn county, were taken over last fall by the Forest-Hill Investment Company. This purchase included practically all the acreage of the grant laying in Linn County.

It is believed now that Mr. Hill is in a position to engage openly in development work that he will devote all his time to it as soon as he can relinquish his connection with the railroad enterprises of which he is the head. He has frequently confided with his friends his love for development and colonization work and his comparative aversion for railroad work. He is a lover of nature and of outdoor life and when once he is in a position to devote his time uninterruptedly to this great enterprise he will make his presence and his interests in the state felt.

That Mr. Hill is also seeking to gain control of other property in Central Oregon is evidenced by the recent activity of men who are said to be closely associated with him. I. H. Holland, manager of the Pacific Livestock Company, the headquarters of which are at Burns, recently reported that negotiations for the sale of the company's ranches to Mr. Hill were under way.

The report that Mr. Hill also is

making efforts to gain control of other large holdings in the central part of the state has been persistent for the last few months.

By his repeated utterances on frequent visits to Portland Mr. Hill has shown that he is heartily and sincerely interested in the development of Oregon and is a believer in the soundness of the theory that low priced land to attract the settler is the best means of development and benefiting the city.

While the actual figure at which Mr. Hill and his partners have obtained possession of this Central Oregon property has not been determined, it is low enough that they will be able to place the property on the market at a comparative low price.

Mr. Hill, it is understood, has made plans to offer it for sale to legitimate settlers at attractive prices. He will assist the worthy farmer in every way to develop and pay for his land and take pains at the same time that none of it passes into the hands of speculators. It is probable, too, that the favorable prices of this property will compel a reduction in the figures attached to other lands in the same territory and against the prices of which there has been much complaint.

This transaction, it is believed, means as much, or more, to Central Oregon and Portland than the construction of two competing lines of railway up the Deschutes Canyon a year ago.

It will open the way for an army of settlers who will have the protection of a great corporation interested in their prosperity thrown about them. It probably will mean the influx of thousands of honest and well-intended farmers, who will contribute materially to the development and prosperity of Portland and numerous small cities in the central part of the state.

Development of the agricultural resources of this great acreage will aid materially in relieving Portland from the necessity of sending millions of dollars to the East and Middle West every year for poultry, dairy and farm products that should be produced in the state.

Renewed railroad activity in Interior Oregon also will be an outcome of this investment by Mr. Hill, as the railroad is sure to follow the settler. In fact, Mr. Hill and his father often have said that if they are sure that the settler has an inclination that he wants to fill up a certain portion of the country, the railroad will be found there just a little ahead of him.

\$50,000 for Farm Loans. See Brenton Jones, Metolius, Oregon. 3-29

Will Encourage the School Children

County School Superintendent Ford has been trying for some time to get the Hill officials to offer a silver cup for the best school exhibit at the Central Oregon Fair to be held at Prineville this fall. The other day he received the following letter in reference thereto:

Great Northern Railway Company,
Traffic Department,
F. W. Graham, West. Industrial & Immigration Agt.,
Portland, Oregon, Feby. 19th, 1912
Mr. R. A. Ford,
School Superintendent Crook County,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—

Your letter of the 30th ult. was duly received and was of much interest. My attention had already been called to the matter by our Mr. Springer. I have taken the matter up with our St. Paul people and also with President Gray, of the Oregon Trunk Ry. I have recommended to our people that a Hill silver cup prize be offered to your schools to be given as a premium for such agricultural exhibit as you may designate in connection with the Central Oregon Fair. It is too early yet for these matters to be decided on but a little later consideration will doubtless be given to matters of this kind in connection with this year's fairs. I have no doubt the suggestion will be very cheerfully acted upon. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to recommend to our people that a fine silver cup be offered you in recognition of the great good work that is being done by you and your schools of which I have been hearing a great deal.

Yours truly,

F. W. GRAHAM.

Money to Loan on Real Estate.

In sums of \$100 to \$1000 on three or five years time. C. F. SMITH, Prineville, Ore. Office with Crook County Abstract Co. 2-29-11

Irrigated Land for Sale.

80 acres, 11 miles from Prineville, on old Bend stage road. All under cultivation; 50 acres in alfalfa and clover; 7 1/2 miles from railroad. Address X Y Z care Journal. No agents. 2-29-11

Pull Stumps and Trees.

Trees and stumps pulled at reasonable rates. Work done promptly. For further particulars apply to Aycock & Erickson, Prineville, Ore. 2-29-11mp

Shoe Repairing.

All kinds of boot and shoe repairing. Prices reasonable. Work guaranteed. ISAAC GORR, Fifth street, first door west of John Morris' store. 2-29

Dressmaking.

Tailor suits and all kinds of plain and fancy sewing. One door west Stewart's Hall. Mrs. CURT MILLER. 2-29

THEODORE A CANDIDATE

Decides to Save the Dear People.

COULD NOT RESIST THE CALL

Great Disappointment Expressed
that the Ex-President
Should Butt In.

"I will accept the nomination for the presidency if it is tendered me and will adhere to this decision until the convention has expressed its preference," is Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's reply to the letter of seven republican governors asking him to stand for a nomination.

The eagerly-awaited reply was given out Sunday at Colonel Roosevelt's offices. He is absent on a trip to Boston. It was unexpectedly brief, but definite. It follows:

"New York, Feb. 25, 1912.—Gentlemen: I deeply appreciate your letter and I realize to the full the heavy responsibility it puts upon me, expressing as it does the carefully considered convictions of the men elected by popular vote to stand as the heads of government in their several states.

"I absolutely agree with you that this matter is not one to be decided with any reference to the personal preferences or interests of any man, but purely from the standpoint of the interests of the people as a whole. I will accept the nomination for president if it is tendered to me and I will adhere to this decision until the convention has expressed its preference. One of the chief principles for which I have stood and for which I now stand and which I have always endeavored and always shall endeavor to reduce to action, is the genuine rule of the people; and therefore, I hope that so far as possible the people may be given the chance, through direct primaries, to express their preference as to who shall be the nominee of the republican presidential convention. Very truly,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Crooked River Man Will Run Large Farm

Geo. W. Dodson of Prineville was a Terrebonne business visitor Wednesday, having come in from his ranch near Opal City where he had been superintending the clearing of land and preparing it for spring crop. Mr. Dodson is one of the oldest settlers in central Oregon, having located in the Crooked river valley about six miles west of Prineville in the spring of 1872. During his 40 years residence in this valley Mr. Dodson has been engaged in the stock raising industry, but since the country is becoming settled up he has decided to engage in farming on a large scale and believes that the country has a great future in this line. He left for his home in Prineville yesterday.—Terrebonne Oregonian.

Laying Pullets for Sale.

I must sell my mixed hens to make room for full-blood and offer the following at bargain prices:

1 dozen Leghorns; mostly pullets; all now laying.

1 dozen mixed hens and pullets at a bargain.

Also offer a good 50-egg incubator cheap. 50 Eggs for hatching. White Wyandottes, Anconas and S. S. Hamburgs. J. S. Fox, "Braeside," Prineville, Or. Feb. 1-11