

Crook County Journal

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The Possibilities of Northern Crook County

Northern Crook county people, in the dry-farming zone, had an enthusiastic meeting at Madras recently. As a result they are thinking hard and soberly on the advantages of irrigation for further developing that section of Central Oregon.

Joseph T. Hinkle, known as Alfalfa Joe, over in Umatilla, was invited to investigate the prospects and present the benefits that probably would accrue. It was the first glimpse the advocate of water on waterless lands and homes on vacant homesteads had of the upland plains behind the deep-walled Deschutes and his opinion of the feasibility of irrigation was most encouraging.

After a brief tour of as magnificent a sweep of tillable fields as almost any that lay outdoors, he said it was his opinion that the district would make greater progress under diversified crops on irrigated lands than it could hope to make if it were to indulge in exclusive grain-raising on dry-farming lands, and as a consequence the region would have more farmers, more schools, more public improvements, more people in the towns, and better and more prosperous trading points 10 years from now than is the case at the present time.

As is frequently found in semi-arid sections, the farmer with the desires and qualifications for successful grain raising is seeking to lease or purchase constantly increasing areas of land, with the result that his place presents life and ac-

tivity only at seed and harvest seasons, and the homes of the lessees, most of which are in good condition, with paint on the houses, and orchards which promised well, not being needed in the scheme of things, are neglected.

Remarkable has been the transformation in 10 years in the territory north of the Crooked river since the Agency Plains were homesteaded. Some 36,000 acres, once covered with sagebrush and bunch grass, are now grid-ironed by fences, with well-tilled fields and splendid roads.

While the country is producing its full share of the world's food supply in the form of flour and beef, it is lacking in community life and in much diversity of crop it quite capably could provide.

"A good many things," said the practical Hinkle, to many audiences—the largest ever assembled in their respective sections—"cannot be measured in dollars and cents. You can ascertain quickly the practicability of watering your splendid lands, but you cannot realize from what I tell you here of the magnificent possibilities of irrigation and what water will do in promoting the comfort, the happiness and attractiveness of the farm home. Without families reasonably close together, without school-houses, churches, neighborhood gatherings, there is no social life, and where women and children are absent it is lonesome. Is it any wonder that boys and girls are not

interested in the farm unless there is something on it for which they care?"

How about this dry farming—does it pay?

The question was applied to many, and the consensus of answers

was assuredly it does pay. Any kind of soil-tilling pays, depending on how well you like it. Occasionally a man would curse the immigration fever and say it was a crime for any more farmers to come in.

Continued on last page.

The Investigator Investigated and Fired---Cost the County \$1060.75

The investigator investigated. Result—Fired.

This all happened yesterday at the afternoon session of the county court. The investigators were prominent citizens from Bend, Redmond, Laidlaw and Prineville who, after going over the work of A. M. McE. Ball, expert, concluded that the county was squandering a lot of money foolishly for something that was ridiculously farcial. These taxpayers did not want the expending of the county books stopped. Not by any means, but they did object to an investigation that did not get anywhere. Already \$1060.75 of the taxpayers' good money has been fritted away.

The gentlemen present at the afternoon session of the court made it very plain that the aspersions cast upon some of the county officials must be cleared up and the truth made known but that the proper authority to do so must come through the State Insurance Commissioner. This law was passed at the last session of the legislature and covers just such cases as the one arising in Crook county. The following resolutions were passed:

At a meeting of taxpayers held in Prineville this fourth day of March, 1914, in the courthouse the

following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, the examination of county affairs now in progress by alleged experts is chiefly actuated by political malice, is incompetent, is arriving at no beneficial results and is clearly a waste of money, and

Whereas, under Chapter 286 of the General Laws of Oregon, 1913, it is specifically specified that the State Insurance Commissioner shall at least once each year make a careful and accurate audit of the books and accounts of each county of the state, and

Whereas, the officers whose affairs are now under investigation have already requested the State Insurance Commissioner to make official investigation of their offices, and

Whereas, we unanimously agree that only through such official investigation can a fair and impartial investigation of the affairs of ALL county officers be obtained, therefore,

Be it resolved, by these taxpayers of Crook county now assembled that we respectfully request the court that the alleged expert be relieved forthwith from further employment at the expense of this county, and official steps be at once taken to secure a proper expending by the Insurance Commissioner as provided by statute.

Bend Citizens Threaten Sheriff with Damages

Bend citizens are threatening Sheriff Elkins with a civil suit for damages as the result of his efforts in closing the pool halls and bowling alleys in that city last Sunday. The suit, if it materializes, will be in the nature of an injunction restraining the sheriff from making arrests for violations of the Sunday law.

The law in question is Section 2125 of Lord's Oregon Laws, prohibiting the keeping open of any store, grocery, bowling alley or billiard room for the purpose of labor or traffic, or any place of amusement, certain exceptions being made, including livery stables, drug stores, doctor shops, undertakers, butchers, bakers and theatres. It was enacted in 1905.

District Attorney Wirtz and Sheriff Elkins recently sent personal notices to all keepers of billiard rooms, bowling alleys and card rooms in the county calling their attention to the law. Notice to the Bend law violators was sent by personal letter by the district attorney himself. The notice was ignored and prosecutions were authorized which were brought in the justice's court at Bend.

After two trials in which no convictions could be had, the violations continued. The facts at both trials were conceded, but the juries would not bring in a verdict of guilty, so last Sunday the sheriff gave his deputies at Bend, J. H. Wenandy and L. L. Fox, instructions to lock up the pool halls and

if a resistance were made to arrest the violators, bring them to Prineville and put them in jail. The instructions were followed, except that upon promising to keep closed the offenders were not brought to Prineville.

It is for this act that the threatened suit is to be instituted. City Attorney Forbes of Bend is active in the defense of the Sunday law violators, and claims that the law is unconstitutional for the reason that it discriminates between certain classes of business and is therefore class legislation, and also wants damages for arrests made on Sunday, which he claims are not authorized by law, except in the case of felony.

However, District Attorney Wirtz has advised the sheriff's office that the law provides that any person, whether an officer or not, is authorized by our law to make arrests where a crime is being committed in his presence, whether Sunday or a week day. As to the constitutionality of the law, there is some doubt, according to Mr. Wirtz, but he says that the supreme court of this state has upheld legislation closing barber shops on Sunday, which is no less discriminatory.

The sheriff further states that if he is to inquire into the validity of every law on the statute books before making arrests or enforcing them, many laws would go unenforced while he was studying the decisions of the courts. He claims that the legislature, which made the law, is a better judge of its validity, and all laws on the statute books will be enforced until a court of competent jurisdiction has declared them to be invalid.

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