

Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CROOK COUNTY

VOL. XVIII—\$1.50 YEAR

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1914.

Entered at the postoffice at Prineville Oregon, as second-class matter

NO. 19

Central Oregon a Land of Wonderful Resources

"Oregon" is the title of an excellent booklet gotten out by the Great Northern Railway which is designed to furnish accurate information for the land hungry. Its pages are devoted chiefly to the resources and opportunities of Central Oregon. The illustrations, and there are many of them, are photographic scenes taken principally in Crook county. In speaking of this country generally, the booklet in part says:

The construction of the Oregon Trunk Railway, from the Columbia river 156 miles southward along the Deschutes river, has opened an immense territory for development in Wasco, Sherman, Crook, Lake, Harney, Malheur and Klamath counties, that immense country that is popularly known as Central Oregon. The word immense is assuredly the right word for Central Oregon. 56,000 square miles are contained in it, 36,000,000 acres. Crook county is larger than Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island; Harney county is larger than New Jersey. A great deal of this territory averages less than one person to the square mile, while in Iowa for instance, there are 40 persons per square mile. In all, Central Oregon is larger than the state of Ohio with only one eighty-fifth the population of that state;—because prior to 1911 no railway had overcome the barrier of the Cascades and entered into it. Owing to lack of transportation, products of this region have been confined to stock

and wool and a limited amount of grain that could be fed on the ranch. But enough grain and vegetables have been grown on these interior ranches to indicate the possibilities for farming even in the most remote regions and valleys.

Since the opening of the Oregon Trunk Railway to Bend in 1911 hundreds of new settlers have established new homes in Central Oregon; many on the free government lands of 320 acres, others on the low priced deeded lands and the irrigable lands of the Crooked River and Deschutes Valley, Harney Valley, and like sections. Others have located on the improved farms of Wasco and Crook counties where deeded lands are low priced. Owing to the nearness of the railway and good markets, settlers along the Deschutes river generally have made good headway, being able during the first season to clear their land and prepare it for crops, at the same time selling enough cordwood to meet running expenses. Those on homesteads who have gone out one hundred miles from the railway in the Hampton Butte and Bear Creek valleys, and Christmas Lake Valley, usually have occupied the first season hauling supplies, putting up buildings, fences, etc., but with less clearing these also prepared ground for crop, using their available cash for running expenses. The first to come have raised from one to two crops, have plenty of feed for stock and now see clearing going on an established

farm. However, owing to distance from railway these are turning their available resources to horses and other stock.

The country is so immense and its resources so plain to the eye that thousands of new settlers are expected to come during the next few years. When it is remembered that less than one person per square mile now lives in Crook, Harney and Lake counties, with a combined area exceeding 25,000 square miles, the opportunity for home-making can readily be seen.

Free Government Land in Central Oregon

There are more than 10,000,000 acres of public land in Central Oregon. Of this amount about 3,500,000 acres classed as tillable lie in Crook, Lake and Harney counties. This will make over 10,000 320 acre homesteads. These lands will raise profitable crops of wheat, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, alfalfa and many of the hardy vegetables. The majority of this land may be filed under the 320 acre homestead act. It will be but a year or two until it will be occupied and converted into farms. This is one of the very few portions of the United States where good land for farming can be had under the homestead laws. But such places are gradually diminishing and the opportunity passing. Your opportunity for a farm home in Central Oregon is now.

All that a man—or a woman—has to do in order to secure one of these free farm homes, is, briefly, to erect habitable buildings on the land, and then to reside on the land and cultivate it for full three years, cultivating at least one-sixteenth by the end of the second year and one-eighth by the end of the third year. After that the title to the land passes to the homesteader.

Any man or single woman or widow whose husband did not use

his right, not the owner of more than 160 acres in the United States, who is a citizen of the United States or has first papers, any person who commuted final proof prior to June 5, 1900; or former entry-man who lost, abandoned or relinquished his entry without consideration in excess of the filing fee and actual improvements, has the right by law to go to Central Oregon, and file on 160 or 320 acres of government land.

The state of Oregon has 541,000 acres of state school land scattered throughout the counties of the state. The large undeveloped counties of Central Oregon contain the largest amounts of state lands, however; Crook county has 40,000 acres, Harney 145,000 and Lake 94,000, a total in these three counties of 279,000 acres. These lands can be purchased by any citizen of the United States over 18 years of age at not less than \$7.50 per acre. Not more than 320 acres are sold to one person.

Irrigable Lands in Central Oregon

In Crook, Lake and Harney counties there are more than 1,500,000 acres of irrigable land, to say nothing of the great areas of fine bench land to be farmed without irrigation. If this area is settled in average farms of 40 acres 200,000 people may occupy prosperous homes on this irrigated land. No farming communities in America are more prosperous than those in the irrigated lands of the Northwest, whether engaged in dairying or mixed farming. These Oregon lands are adapted for all these pursuits and will produce average crops of greater value than their present price.

A careful estimate has been made that the average forty acre irrigated farm in Central Oregon will support twenty cows and twenty

hogs for an annual income above \$2,000, and profitably employ and support the family, which, after allowing for running expenses, family expenses, etc., will leave \$1,000 for net profits. Any man with industry and an average amount of ability can be the owner of such an establishment within a few years with but a modest amount for a start. No wage earner can expect to produce this net income and be the owner of such an establishment during his lifetime from savings, nor can he look on the uncertainty of employment with the feeling of comfort that will be his on one of these small farms.

Active irrigation projects of the Deschutes Valley take water by gravity from the Deschutes river or tributaries from the east slope of the Cascades. The flow of the Deschutes is good.

A number of private and small projects for irrigation have their source in the Crooked river. The flow of this stream is irregular and comparatively light during the late summer, though up to the present time only the minimum flow is required for irrigation. Extensive development of irrigation on the Crooked river will involve storage of flood waters and will undoubtedly be accomplished as the entire country is developed.

At the present time a number of ambitious irrigation projects are in various stages of completion and operation through Central Oregon. There are numerous chances too for the establishment of small private projects. Still other lands may be claimed and irrigated by the claimant in accordance with the Desert Land Laws.

Central Oregon's Topography

Central Oregon is a high-land country adjacent to mountains; the soil is generally volcanic ash, than

which it is becoming more and more realized there is no more productive soil.

The entire country lies in rolling table lands and broad valleys separated by mountainous sections; the native growth is bunch grass, sage-brush and juniper trees.

In sunny Central Oregon the rainfall varies from 10 to 17 inches per annum; the sun shines 300 days a year. The summer days are warm and the nights cool, and the winter is "open." In the winter the temperature may reach zero or slightly lower, but for a short time only, after which it rises with the coming of a chinook wind. The bracing mountain-flavored air is pure and healthful and the landscapes are pleasing pictures of plain, valley, forest and mountain grandeur.

Indeed Central Oregon has the most healthful climate in America. Many persons who have come to Central Oregon chiefly for the benefit to their health from the dry even climate, have found it so beneficial, especially for throat and pulmonary troubles, that they have become permanent residents. No portion of the western country appears to offer the relief from these troubles that is found in the Deschutes valley. Here are combined a comparatively low altitude, dry, bracing climate, protection from winds, and the rare atmosphere from much higher altitudes that is due to the proximity of the snow-capped summits of the Cascades.

Crops

This country calls for the practice of careful farming for the best results and wherever careful methods have been followed they have produced good yields of grain and vegetables. The average rainfall in Central Oregon as recorded at 23 federal weather bureau stations

Continued on page 8.

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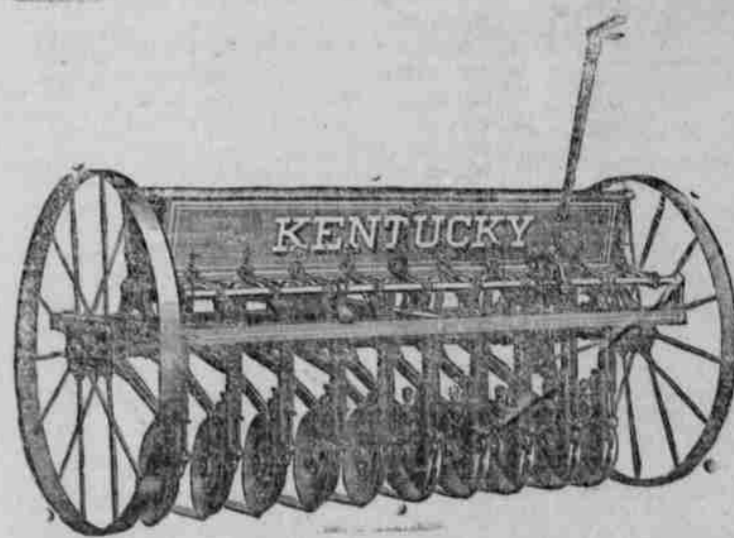
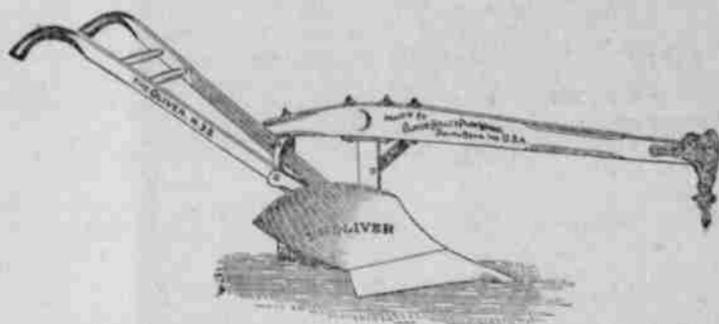


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