

THE JAPANESE IN OREGON

(Clara M. Pratt, July 28, 1920)

There are two sections in Oregon in which the Japanese have obtained tracts of land and entered into agricultural industry. One section is along the Columbia river, in the vicinity of Hood River and The Dalles. The other is in central Oregon, in the vicinity of Fall Bridge, on the Deschutes river, and Powell Buttes, about 20 miles north of Bend. On the Columbia fruit raising is the line of work followed and in central Oregon potato raising.

I have been unable to find much printed material on the subject of the Japanese in Oregon, and my knowledge of the matter has been gleaned from local newspapers and discussions of conditions which I have heard in central Oregon. I shall give an account of the conditions in Central Oregon, and endeavor to show how the conditions in the Columbia river district are similar, especially so far as sentiment is concerned.

In the fall of 1919 George L. Burt, a potato king from California, and Henry Hansen, who represents George Shuml, president of the Japanese society of America, in company with Mr. Shuml, came into the irrigated districts of Central Oregon looking for land suitable for raising potatoes. Near Lower Bridge on the Deschutes river, they found what they considered first class potato land, and bought one hundred thirty acres. Their presence provoked considerable resentment among the settlers of that section of the country, and a community mass meeting was held to which delegates from Prineville, Bend, Redmond and other towns in that vicinity were sent. At this meeting it was decided that the Japanese should be allowed to remain (since there was no other alternative), but with the understanding that the five Japanese laborers who had been engaged to work on the farm, were all that should be brought there. At the meetings of the various commercial clubs of the vicinity, the matter was discussed, and the feeling of resentment ran high. The Japanese, seeing the hostility of the people, because of their intrusion, and fearing a raid, placed an armed man to guard their place. This only served to increase the feeling of resentment on the part of the white settlers, and five armed horsemen, claiming to be from Bend, rode up to the farm, frightening the Japanese so badly that they disap-

peared so completely that the overseer, upon returning to the farm, was unable to find his workmen. The identity of the white men is unknown. Bend refuses to claim them as her citizens, since it is not customary in Central Oregon to settle difficulties by mob law, though it is said that a time not very far distant such law was in effect. Bend and Prineville Commercial clubs, however, were strong in their objections to the Japanese intrusion and reports to that effect were printed in the Oregonian from time to time. Many clubs show that there is a state-wide resentment to Japanese encroachment. It was believed that a plan was on foot to plant a Japanese colony in Central Oregon.

Early in June of 1920, Mr. Burt telegraphed the Bend commercial club, saying that there was no intention of colonizing their holdings in Central Oregon. He had only the five laborers whom he had brought on at first, and did not intend to bring any more until he could come to some understanding with farmers and business men of the vicinity.

In May, a well known farmer of Terrebonne, appeared before the Bend commercial club and appealed to that organization to help in handling the Japanese situation in the Terrebonne district. He asserted that Mr. Burt was bringing in more Japanese laborers, and that a letter had been written to the governor asking his assistance in checking the Japanese move in Central Oregon. A motion went on record to the effect that the club was opposed to further Japanese invasion, and that candidates for the legislature be asked to put themselves on record to support the sentiment of the people in the matter. On May 26 a report of this meeting was published in the Oregonian and was read by Mr. Burt in San Francisco, whereupon he sent a telegram to the president of the Bend Commercial club, in which he said: "Please advise me, am I to understand that your club has sanctioned plans to force the Japanese out of your district? If so, please remember that our land purchases in Central Oregon are in accordance with the laws of the United States and the State of Oregon. Therefore, I must ask you, before you come to any definite conclusion, that I, or my associates, be heard at your club meeting. I will be in Oregon shortly after June 1st. I have had many letters from business men, inviting me to come to the

Redmond district and buy land, long before I went there."

Within a week after this meeting of the Bend Commercial club, the armed Japanese guard was removed. Mr. Burt's request to be heard had been granted.

In November, R. E. Scott, secretary of the anti-Japanese association of Hood River, wrote to Senator Chamberlin, asking his assistance in expelling the Japanese from the Hood River district. Senator Chamberlin replied that he could do nothing at present, as the state and national law forbade such action, and that the Japanese were here under international treaty. However, he expressed himself as being opposed to any oriental immigration to the United States, and especially to the Western states.

In December, Mr. Scott and J. H. Koberg, who is also from Hood River, met with the Oregon and Idaho Farmers' Union, to ask the cooperation of that organization in securing legislation to prevent ownership of land in the Northwest. Walter M. Pierce of La Grande, speaking before the same body, said: "The contest between the Mongolian and the white man is on, and must be entered sooner or later. If such a procedure means war, then the sooner it comes the better. A resolution was passed, urging that appropriate laws be enacted by congress, prohibiting future immigration of orientals into the United States or any of its possessions, and the forbidding and cancelling by laws, for the holding of real property by the Japanese. Central Oregon was represented at this meeting by George H. Macgregor of Bend, who said that the interior of the state was menaced by the Mongolian, and that they had already gained valuable potato lands by deceitful methods. The Deschutes growers, he said, had refused to accept potatoes grown by the Japanese in the interior country.

The Grange, in annual session at Bend in June, passed a resolution favoring legislation preventing the acquisition of land by Japanese.

To add to the agitation caused by the Japanese at Lower Bridge, another large tract of potato land was bought by them at Powell Buttes, which is between Prineville and Bend.

I have described the situation in Central Oregon, because it is typical of the situation in the Columbia River district, where large tracts of fruit land have fallen into the

hands of the Japanese. The situation in Oregon, while not so serious as in California, is well worth our notice, if we are to avoid the dif-

ficulties that have arisen in that state as a result of not curbing oriental immigration before it is beyond control.



THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PRINEVILLE.

ITS PASTOR



REV. M. R. GALLAHER

THE PROJECT BOOSTER

(By Rev. R. M. M. Gallaher)

We praise the Pioneer
For making this a paradise:
The herds of sheep and cattle
Gave the multitudes a rise;
The bunch grass on the hillsides
And the meadows in the vale,
Maintained the Pioneer.

CHORUS

Booster, Booster, be a Booster;
Booster, Booster, be a Booster.
Booster, Booster, be a Booster,
Boost the sturdy Pioneer.

But now we've passed the station,
Where we have the open range;
The rancher must diversify,
And boost along the Grange;
We'll convert the plains into a farm
With water make the change,
To Boost the Produce on.

CHORUS

There are knockers on the corners,

There are knockers in the hills;
We will put them on the hummer
With a thousand stinging thrills.
We will fill their place with Boosters.

We will make the Project show—
While we Boost The Ochoco.

CHORUS

With canals upon the ridges,
And alfalfa in the fields,
We will beautify the homesteads
And produce abundant yields.
With cows and hogs to help us
We'll put dollars in our kiels,
While we push the work
along.

CHORUS

Then we sing a strain for Upton,
And we hum a line for Biggs;
We will advertise the features
Which will make the tourist dig;
While the roads will honor Wallace
And the Dam will stand for Rea,
While the Railroad rolls
along.

CHORUS

A PARODY

An exchange has paraphrased the Ford as follows:

"The Ford is my chariot, I shall not want. It maketh me lie down in wet places, it destroyeth my soul. It leadeth me into deep waters, it leadeth me into the paths of ridicule for its name sake. It prepareth a break down for me in the presence of mine enemies. It will fear more evil when it's with me, its rods and its shafts discomfort me. It annoys my face with oil, its water boileth over. Surely to goodness if Lizzie follows me all the days of my life, I shall dwell in the house of nuts forever.—Ex.

False Mahogany.

Australian red gum can be made to look so much like mahogany and Circassian walnut that it is often sold for one or the other of these woods. How can you tell the difference between the false and the true? By looking at the cross-grain, says Popular Science. If you can see the pores with the naked eye, then you will know that all is well. If you can't see the pores without the use of a magnifying glass, then you will know that you are in the presence of red gum.

To Place a Ladder.

Experiments to determine the angle at which a ladder should be placed to secure the maximum degree of safety for those using it have shown that the angle of 75 degrees is the best, whatever the height of the ladder.—Brooklyn Eagle.

JOHN PRICE

Candy, Cigars and Tobacco
Ice Cream and Soda Fountain
Ice For Sale