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## TOPOGRAPHY INVITES INVESTIGATION THE BLUE MOUNTAIN OIL AND GAS COMPANY ARE ACTIVE

Taken from Preliminary Report by  
Israel C. Russell

The relief surface in central Oregon presents well-marked contrasts ranging from the nearly level, featureless surfaces of the desert valleys where the general elevation is about 4,000 feet, to the rugged, snow-clad summits of the Cascade Mountains, the highest of which, Mt. Jefferson reaches a height of about 10,350 feet. The contrast between the region extending 150 miles or more east of the Cascade Mountains and the great series of peaks and ridges bounding it on the west is so great that the former region, although actually rugged, seems by comparison monotonous and lacking in variations in relief of surface. But for the overshadowing importance of the great mountains on its west border however, the central portion of the State would in general be recognized as mountainous.

### Great Sandy Desert.

The most extensive tract of nearly level land is situated in the geographic center of the State and is designated in part of the maps as the Great Sandy Desert. This region, termed "sandy" on account of the thick sheet of pumiceous sand and dust that covers large portions of it extends from the south-central part of Crook County southeastward across the northeastern portion of Lake County and far into Harney county. Its length is in the neighborhood of 150 miles and its width from 30 to 50 miles. So nearly uni-

most of their conspicuous characters through the action of the forces that brought them into existence, and those that have been modified in an important way by erosion. In

they define the boundaries of a less rugged central portion of Oregon traversed during the reconnaissance which furnished the data for this paper, although, in most instan-

numerous that 50 or more can be frequently counted in a single view, while a change of a few miles in the position of the observer brings per-

haps as many more within the range mountains. The mountains, so far as known, are composed entirely of elevations due to volcanic eruptions and consist of lava flows and the fragmental products of volcanoes.

At an early date, perhaps not later than July 10th, the Blue Mountain Oil and Gas Company which was incorporated recently in Portland for the purpose of drilling in the country south of Prineville for oil expect to commence actual drilling on the test well on their two hundred thousand acre holdings.

The company has ordered a drilling outfit, which has a capacity for drilling a hole twenty inches in diameter at the surface, and a depth of five thousand feet or more. It is known as a standard rig, and is of the style and type of machines in use in the Texas oil fields.

This equipment, on the ground, will cost the concern from \$35,000 to \$40,000 and it is sufficient evidence that the concern means business and is spending its money to locate a paying oil field in this part of the State, according to Mr. Bertrandias.

The Company has a large number of leases in the upper Crooked river country and around Post. According to the geologist tests this seems to be a promising location.

This concern has been open and fair in all their dealings during the past two years, covering the time which has been consumed in prospecting these oil possibilities, and should be given every assistance in the way of leases that is possible from local land holders.

The company is operating in the manner in which every large concern of good standing operates in



Left to Right, First Row—M. Steven Miller, Neil Bertrandias, Field Manager, L. O. Roberts, President and Manager; Lionel C. Mackay, Secretary-Treasurer; E. O. Dahl. Second Row—A. F. DeFrenn; J. L. Ringo; R. S. DeArmond; Dillen Rogers. Third Row—R. R. Hamilton; Geo. Earle Henton.

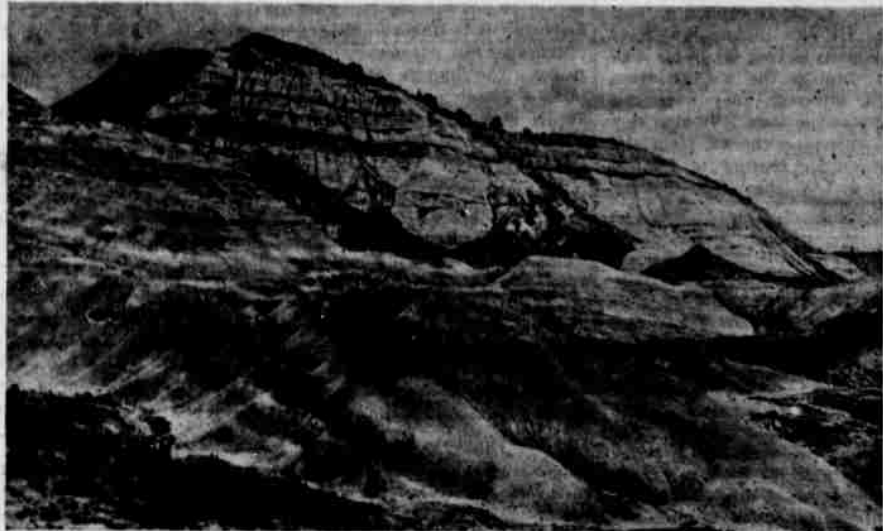
other words, there are both old and young hills and plateaus due to upheaval and old and young volcanic

ces, no fresh information is here presented concerning them. In central Oregon the most com-

mon and most conspicuous elevations are due to volcanic eruptions. In traveling west from Burns to Sisters a few old volcanoes are met in the first half of the journey, such as Placidia Butte, the Glass Butte, and farther west are seen other ancient craters or much-eroded volcanoes. These young volcanoes are situated for the most part in the northern part of Lake County and the southwest part of Crook County. Their cones, so recent in numerous broken their crater rims, are so

of the border between the Three Sisters peaks and Mount Thielsen the recent volcanoes of the interior region extend westward and, becoming more and more closely associated, merge with the volcanic cones which form the Cascade range. In general it seems to be true that the great number of volcanoes forming the Cascades are situated along a belt of fractures running north and south, from which, at least in the portion of the range between the

the oil business and every encouragement should be given them to assist in the prospecting of the local situation. Nothing could be of greater value to this country than the location of a real paying oil field, and these men believe that the prospects are the best for such a field here. The exact location of the test well has not yet been decided upon but a group of the company's officials, headed by L. O. Roberts, president of the company, will arrive in Prineville next Friday or Saturday for the purpose of going over the property and determining the location and other improvements necessary to get an early start.



Shale formation, Crook County, Ore.

form is the surface that one might drive throughout its length and even for a much greater distance than indicated above, without meeting any greater obstruction than the rigid sagebrush and, to indicate the aridity of the region—without finding a single watering place for man or animals.

The boundaries of this vast, nearly smooth tract are indefinite, as it is bordered by mountains both of volcanic origin and of upheaval, between which lie the extensive valleys that unite to form the central plain. On the plain itself there the prominent elevations, either standing as isolated buttes or as groups of hills and mountains, which are rendered especially conspicuous because of the general smoothness of the surfaces from which they rise, as well as by the steepness and, in some instances, the ruggedness of their sides.

### Classes of Elevations.

The topographic elevations in central Oregon may be classed in two groups—hills or mountains and plateaus due to upheaval, and hills or mountains produced by volcanic eruptions. Of these two classes the second contains by far the greater number of examples. Each of the groups of land forms referred to as standing in relief may again be divided into those that have derived

cones. These contrasts in age refer mainly to the degree of topographic development produced by erosion, but also indicate in a general way the relative dates at which the various elevations in each class came into existence.

The broad irregular plateau north of Burns, which extends west to near Prineville, form an uplifted region, perhaps with many minor inequalities, but in general a broad upward swell or anticline produced by upheaval. Its surface has been trenched by streams, but in general is not minutely dissected. About 30 miles south of these plateaus are Powell Butte and the Paulina Mountains, and in the intervening space is a prominent ridge termed locally Pine Mountain. Each of these elements is a remnant of a geologically ancient upland cut down by erosion.

To the east of the central region rises Steins Mountains, a prominent north and south range due to the upheaval and tilting of a large block of the earth's crust adjacent to a line of deep earth fractures—that is it is a monoclinial or "block mountain." Similar tilted blocks form the prominent, generally north-south, ridges in the vicinity of the alkaline lakes to which Lake county owes its name. These elevations are mentioned because to a great extent

of the conditions on which the distribution of volcanoes depends. The Cascade Mountains border the interior basins and valleys of Oregon on the west, crossing the State from north to south in a continuous belt, which, south of the Columbia, is nowhere intersected by a transverse valley and across which there are no low passes, though at three localities wagon roads have been constructed which furnish routes of travel between the interior of Oregon and the region west of the

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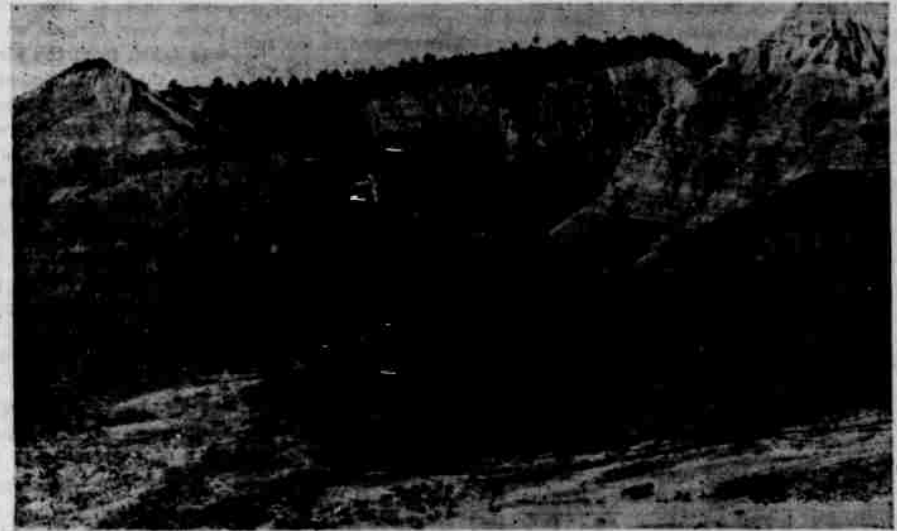
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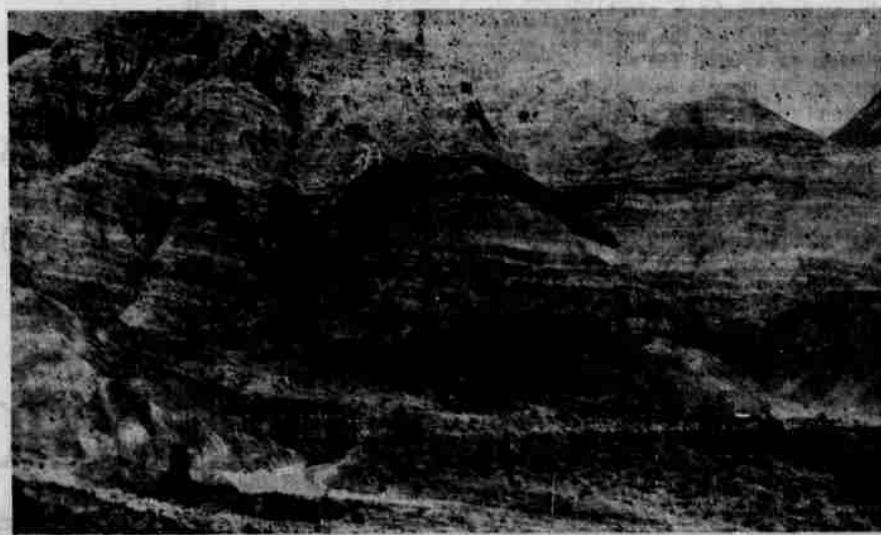
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Showing formation where prospecting is to be done soon



Sandstone formation in Crook County

Only Fault They Don't Have. We have moments of depression about our dear old ladies in the electric limousines, as they lumber down the wrong side of the street and negotiate the turns in their own independent way, when we feel that all can conscientiously say for them is that, so far as we know, they never drive when under the influence of liquor.—Ohio State Journal.

Mountains Named for Indian Tribe. The Appalachian mountain system received its name from the Appalachees, Apalachi Indians. Its highest point, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, which is 6,711 feet high.