

BEND IS THRIFTY, AMBITIOUS CITY

Addison Bennett Cites Order for 100,000 Pounds of Sugar as Example.

STORE STOCKS IMMENSE

Work on New Town of Deschutes, Formerly Wesley, Eight Miles North, Is Progressing—500 Miles of Ditches Projected.

BY ADDISON BENNETT. BEND, Or., May 21.—(Staff Correspondence.)—The trip of 22 miles from Prineville to Bend is not a very interesting one, the road lying mostly through a broken country, and almost all of the way through the Junipers. From this must be excluded a portion along the Powell Butte district, which I have heretofore described, which lies to the northwest of the Prineville-Bend road. But the broken country mentioned is all in the district to be irrigated, and it is said that the survey shows 71 per cent of it to be irrigable from one of the ditches now in operation, or from the one later to be taken out at Benham Falls, nine miles above here.

My trip, however, was broken by meeting, at a little town just starting, John H. Hall, of Portland, who is interested in this new venture, the place to be called Deschutes, heretofore spoken of as Wesley. This place is on the Hill road about eight miles north of Bend, and Mr. Hall and his associates are "doing things" in a big way, several fine buildings now being completed or in course of construction. All of the land around Deschutes is under the ditch, and lots of it is mighty good. It looks like there ought to grow up a nice little place at Deschutes, and the promoters will surely make some money.

Ditch Fifty Miles Long.
In speaking of the ditches heretofore I have heretofore mentioned the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company as the owners, the company being generally spoken of as the D. I. & P. Co. But that company is no more, having been reorganized as the Central Oregon Irrigation Company, F. S. Stanley, of Portland, being the president.

Before speaking of the town of Bend, or the surrounding country, I will say a word about what this company and its predecessors have accomplished. The headquarters of the company is in the main office. Their main ditch is taken out of the Deschutes about two and one-half miles south of Bend. A few miles to the north it divides into what may be called two main canals, the Pilot Butte and the Central Oregon. I spoke heretofore of the former, which is about 50 miles long. The other leads to the west and waters the lands east of the Deschutes, much of it contiguous to the Hill road.

In all, the main canals and laterals now aggregate about 300 miles. A future canal will be taken out to the higher bench lands, the intake to be at Benham Falls, and when the entire project is completed there will be in excess of 500 miles of ditches, times and canals.

This is a Carey project. Generally people of the West know what that means without any explanation. But perhaps some who read this article do not understand, and for their benefit it may be said that under the Carey Act the state may select arid lands and have them reclaimed, the Government practically donating the land. Then the state makes a contract with a company or individual for the building of the ditches, allowing the builders to make "a reasonable profit."

Reclamation Is Lien.
The lands may then be sold to settlers under certain restrictions, and the cost of reclamation becomes a lien on the land. After the lands are under cultivation, or a certain per cent of each tract, proof may be made by appearing with two witnesses, and a deed comes from the state, 50 cents an acre being the state's share of the proceeds. Under the reclamation I am talking about there are 218,000 acres, and something like 100,000 acres of this are under water. The price now is \$10 an acre for the water and \$2.50 an acre for the land, but in its earlier stages the work was undertaken at something like \$10 an acre. The price was too low, which caused the appointment of a receiver for the D. I. & P. Co., and the formation of the present company, the state allowing the increase in price.

This entire tract is divided into 40-acre tracts, but 150 acres may be taken by one person. A married woman can take it as well as her husband, and in several instances families have thus acquired 220 acres. But the most of it is taken in 40-acre tracts. The payment at time of taking up the land is one-fourth down, the balance payable in four equal annual installments, with interest at six per cent. Proof under certain conditions can be made in seven days after entry, seven-eighths of the tract to be under cultivation for such proof. With one-eighth under cultivation, proof can be made in 30 days, with one-quarter under cultivation in 90 days. But there are certain conditions as to fencing and building. For instance, to make a seven-day proof there must be a house on the tract with a floor area of at least 200 square feet.

800 Settlers Buy Lands.
The annual tax for water is rebated for the first year and is thereafter 50 cents an acre per annum. There are no filing fees. Under the present ditches there have been 390 sales made, mostly to newcomers in the state. The company has on its payroll at the present time 223 men, and work on new canals is going on at a rapid rate.

The town of Bend was a surprise to me. I had often heard of the place as the home of A. M. Drake, the founder of Bend, and his "cabin" here. And I was not surprised to find it one of the finest places I have ever seen. It is truly a "cabin" built of pine logs, but it is palatial in its appointments and furnishings. I think there is no more unique residence in the country than the Drake "cabin." Its location is on the east bank of the Deschutes, just at the head of the rapids, or falls, and the view from the lawn is one of remarkable beauty. Mr. Drake has sold all of his holdings and no longer lives here, of which I am very sorry, for I had counted on having a pleasant visit with him.

But I was not prepared to see so many other residences as there are here. Many of them would adorn the best residence section of Portland. The aesthetic and artistic taste of Mr. and Mrs. Drake has borne fruit, for it has started Bend off as a beauty spot. The townsite, laid off by Mr. Drake, is on high but level ground, surrounded



ABOVE, TYPICAL RESIDENCE—BELOW, FREIGHT AND EXPRESS-SERVICE OUTFIT ARRIVING IN TOWN.

by pines, with the grand Deschutes as its western border. The streets are wide and well cared for, the business houses in point of beauty and size comparing favorably with any of the prosperous little cities of the East, while the stocks of goods carried are very, very large. In fact, the business to the interior, miles and miles from the railroads, to find such immense stocks for the customers to draw from. No freight wagon has not arrived in the winter months, and the merchants are compelled to buy their year's supplies in the Spring and early Summer. If the roads remain muddy until late Spring then there are only three or four months for getting goods in at a reasonable price.

To show what sales these stores make I will give the case of an order received from "Bill" Brown by W. F. King, of Prineville. This order was written on a piece of straw paper, and came to \$300. There is more than one store here at Bend, as there are at other places in the interior, that could, in fact, in the Brown order was the item of 100,000 pounds of granulated sugar. How many stores are there in the Willamette Valley that could fill such an order?

\$50,000 Plant Built.
Mr. Drake built a dam across the river at the rapids west of town and put in an electric plant, the improvements all told costing about \$50,000. The work was done in a permanent and skillful manner. There is much cement in the construction work, and this cost him \$18 a barrel. And the skilled labor was very high. The machinery, the best that money could buy, cost \$100,000. The plant is in operation, uniting 300 horsepower, but the dam and flumes were built to take 1750 full capacity of the river, and will be increased as soon as the material can be brought in by rail.

Mr. Drake owned not only the townsite, but some 500 acres adjacent, and about 2500 acres of yellow pine timber land just across the river to the west. He sold his holdings to a company called the Bend Company, the following being the stockholders, the Brooks, Scanlon Lumber Company of Minneapolis, Christian Mueller Lumber Company of Des Moines, Iowa, D. E. Hunter Realty Company of Dayton, Ohio, and J. M. Lawrence of Bend. The price paid Mr. Drake was in excess of \$300,000.

Of the firms above mentioned, the two former own about 50,000 acres of timber lands adjacent to the Drake tract. These lands, with other lands already owned, have about six billion feet of lumber, all of which will be milled at Bend.

Flouring Mill Begun.
The power now developed is so far only being used for lighting the town and pumping water for the same. But a large flouring mill is now being erected, much of the lumber being used for the ground. The price was too low, which caused the appointment of a receiver for the D. I. & P. Co., and the formation of the present company, the state allowing the increase in price.

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