

CROOK COUNTY IS RICH, VAST DOMAIN

District With Prineville as Main City Is Larger Than Delaware or New Jersey.

INFLUX THERE IS GREAT

Fertile Valleys Abound and Metropolitan Section Is Center of Farms With Fine Future. Industry Prevails.

By ADDISON BENNETT.

PRINEVILLE, Or., May 17.—(Special.)—Crook County, of which Prineville is the county seat, is the fourth county in area in Oregon, being exceeded in size by Harney, Malheur and Lake, but the latter county is only a few square miles larger. The area is 2764 square miles, or 4,392,640 acres. There are four strata in the Union, each of which is smaller than Crook County—Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Rhode Island. I give these facts to show what a vast domain Prineville dominates; but area does not count for much unless it is occupied. However, Crook is being occupied, her lands being taken up faster than those of any other county in Oregon, as the recent census will show. In 1900 Crook had a population of 2864, or practically one person to each two square miles; by the recent census her population is given as 9515, showing an gain of 6651 per cent, which was greater than that made by any other county in Oregon. Even Multnomah, in which Portland is situated, and which made what was considered a phenomenal growth, gained 118 per cent, or 17 per cent less than Crook.

Values Increase Rapidly.

But I do not think these figures do Crook justice, for I believe the influx of population since the taking of the census last year has been far in excess of that of any former year. And that the inhabitants are becoming more prosperous year by year is shown by the increase in taxable property, which has risen from less than \$1,000,000 a few years ago to \$9,199,038 in 1910, the amount for this year not being available. But it will show an enormous increase.

And these figures are based upon a cultivated area of only 100,000 acres, which amount has been increased so rapidly that it is difficult even to guess at anything like the real increase. One estimate out of 10 would be too low. Prineville is the capital of an empire, but her survival, growth and prosperity will not depend upon her political position; these must come about through her tributary country, from the products of the soil. No matter what advantage her geographical position gives her, if the country tributary does not go on growing and prospering the town cannot prosper, without becoming "topheavy," as is said of places built up by boom methods.

For two days I have been going over the county within a radius of 25 or 30 miles, and I have seen no place that has that little is known by the average citizen of Oregon about this section. And I shall try in plain language to give the reader an idea of Prineville's position in relation to the surrounding country.

Fine Valleys Lie Near.

I mentioned the other day that the city lies in the valley of the Crooked River, at the junction of the Ochoco, a stream flowing in from the east. This creek is almost as large as the river. These just west of town McKay Creek flows in from the north, so the town is in fact at the junction of these three streams.

The altitude here is about 2800 feet. The valley proper in which the town is situated is perhaps 14 miles long by three or four wide, but these figures do not give any idea of the extent of the valley land, for the Ochoco Valley is some 15 miles long, the McKay and Crooked rivers as long or longer, and there are numerous other small streams emptying into these, up each of which you will find other fine valleys.

That much as to the valley lands, large areas of which are in alfalfa, and almost all of which is under irrigation. But it is the bench land that will, I believe, bring greater prosperity to its holders than any other, and I shall try and describe a trip I have just taken through about 40 miles of these lands—20 miles out by one road, and a like distance back by another route.

Since coming here, the Commercial Club officers and members have been always at my elbow ever eager to show me over the country. Autos have been placed at my disposal, and people seem to me to point out the "lay of the land." And I shall tell you first "by the way" that the best of the best of town, along what is called the Powell Butte section, Pilot Butte postoffice being the farthest point reached.

Fine Farms in View.

The road from the town and valley winds around and up a butte southwest for this route, being one of the best I have seen in the interior. The grade is pretty uniform at about 6 per cent, and within two miles you are on the second bench, among the junipers. As you reach the summit you can see off in the distance, to the east, many fine farms way up on the mountain sides, although they are not as high as they look. E. H. La Follette, one of the wealthy and progressive citizens of Prineville, with me, and he pointed out his old homestead, taken more than 25 years ago, and the original Williams saw-mill, taken soon after. And around these are many fine farms, much of it being in wheat or rye. Fields were strip of wheat, and some of wheat to the acre and this with an average rainfall of around 10 inches—sometimes as much as 16.

And up many of the slopes, in many proper exposures, are fine orchards. As I write this letter I have before me some fine Newtown Pippins raised on the La Follette place, and no better specimens are known. And they have had no advantage of cold storage; have just been kept in an ordinary cellar through the winter.

And it is only fair to say here that the people of this section do not say that Prineville will ever be the center of great fruit industry. But they do say, and can prove, that there are thousands of acres adapted to the raising of hardy fruits and berries, and there will always be an abundance for home consumption, with possible small amounts of the best specimens for export. Every landowner can raise all the fruit he needs, and with less trouble fighting the pests than almost any other place in Oregon.

As we ran along the foothills, al-

ways through or near the junipers, we saw many new fields being cleared and seeded, and many new houses were being erected—and scores of families living in tents and wagons—and wheat fields in every direction. And how well the young grain looked. There had not been much rain for some time. (A fine rain has since fallen.) But the grain did not seem to need it, the ground being in such fine tith—cultivated and cultivated until it was as fine as an ash heap.

And this is in what is termed a dry farming section, for there is no water on the lands I have mentioned. I shall come to the irrigated areas later. For about 12 miles we rode through these fields, which brought us to the ditch, or one of the ditches, of the D. I. & P. Co. Then we turned to the north for a couple of miles, thence back to town through the irrigated section, or much of the way, for we came back into town down the grade first mentioned.

Now, I am going to attempt to draw a few pictures of a new home among the junipers, which will be typical of dozens like I have seen on this trip—scores of them.

The land is pretty level; the junipers pretty thick. The first thing the settler must do is to get rid of the junipers. This can best be done by pulling them with an ordinary stump puller, for the roots are not deep. To clear an acre in that way and plow it ready for planting costs around \$10 an acre, sometimes a little more—in extreme cases, where the growth of trees is large and their number great, as much as \$15 an acre. If the homesteader is not forehanded enough to hire a few acres cleared, he can go at it himself with an ax, and simply chop the trees down and plow around the stumps, which can be pulled later. In this way two days' hard work will clear an acre.

In the meantime the homesteader is living in his wagon or in a tent. The first land cleared is planted to a garden, potatoes being the dominating crop. Then as many acres as possible to grain.

Transformation Is Complete.

We will take a place entered upon last year. The family is still living in the tent. A dozen or 20 acres are cleared, and this is in grain, with as fine a stand, as good color as you ever saw. His garden patch is ready for the seeds and plants, the potatoes are planted, a few fruit trees have been set out, perhaps some berry bushes, a small patch of strawberries, chickens in plenty can be seen, most likely a cow or two is grazing in the edge of the junipers.

Now try to imagine these few acres carved out of the juniper patch, with junipers all around it. The land in cultivation looks like it had been in crop for many years. If the junipers were pulled, if they were out, and the stumps are still to be seen, you can hardly make yourself believe that so recently were the trees standing, the land a portion of "the desert."

For one, two, three or perhaps four years the settler lives in his tent. He may add a floor, he may wall it up, he may even add a small section of a shack to it. But the most of the hardy homesteaders who are coming to this section, who are taking section after section of the land described, pay little heed to the house until they have practically all of their land in cultivation. And those are the sort of people who win, who will win in any country.

But I am going farther—I am going to take up one settler, an exceptional one I will admit, and tell you what he has done in eight years.

His name is E. A. Busset. His place is just north of Pilot Butte postoffice. He came here and took up a homestead, just east of his present house, in 1903. He was very poor. He had a scrubby team, an old wagon, a sickly wife and three children, and one of the children was also sick a good deal. After sending his wife less than ten dollars to his home, and that he had earned at Grass Valley as he came in.

Beginning Made With Nothing.

Having nothing to live on, he was forced to make a little money as he went along, and this he did by making the junipers into firewood as he cleared his land. He hauled this wood into town, seventeen or eighteen miles, and thus got a few groceries and such things as were indispensable. As he got a little land cleared he set it to garden, getting in as many potatoes as possible. Sometimes he did a few days' work for the neighbors, or in town. But he grubbed away, clearing his land as rapidly as he could, until it was all in cultivation, every foot of it, and all under fence.

Then he went below the ditch, a half mile away, to the place where he now lives, and bought 120 acres, 20 of which was too high for irrigation. His house is neat and commodious. By the horse and buggy stands his wife, who is just going on a visit to a neighbor. To the north of the house is a field of red clover, about 40 acres I should judge. There are about 60 fine Jersey-Duroc hogs running on this clover, and just a day or two before my visit he had sold 43 head at ten cents per pound, the average weight being around 200 pounds, the sum received being \$875. And they had made their weight principally off the clover.

Mr. Busset's eldest son, Ross, is not yet of age, but he was anxious last year to do something for himself. So Mr. Busset bought him 40 acres of irrigable land near his home. Ross cleared off ten acres last Spring and put it in potatoes, and sold the crop for \$2000. The land cost him \$60 an acre! And on another four acres, older ground, Ross made last year \$300, also from potatoes.

These statements I believe to be absolutely true. Mr. Busset gave them to me himself, and he is said to be absolutely reliable and trustworthy.

He has now, not counting the 40 acres held for his son, his original homestead of 160 acres, the 120 acres bought in the last Spring, and 100 acres still in his homestead, or 480 acres. It is all fenced and cleared, most of it has been cropped, much of it is now in wheat, and something like 80 acres are in clover and alfalfa. And the place is conservatively worth \$20,000, but Mr. Busset says he would not think of selling for that sum. Besides he is out of debt, has money in the bank, and stores worth perhaps a thousand dollars or more.

Farming Is Diversified.

And this brings me to another phase astonished me. And that is that the success of this section does not depend on any one thing, for it is a country where diversified farming will meet the greatest reward. Every landowner can raise all of the vegetables and all of the fruits and berries he needs. In no section of the state will come berries, strawberries, hardy fruits do better. It will never be a peach country, but grapes ought to be a profitable and certain crop. And I am told there are thousands of acres of a good hop land here as there are in the state. As a dairy country, this section is one of the best I know of. One man told me that he sold last Summer the milk from ten cows for four months and received from the creamery \$400, or ten dollars a cow a month. In no place does poultry do better, particularly turkeys, and as for hogs! Many fortunes will here be made by raising porkers.

Our ride home brought us through the irrigated section, or rather along the ditch, for several miles. Water from this ditch costs \$17.50 an acre. The land is taken under the Carey act. There are thousands and thousands of acres now being cleared.

Find Coffman's new shop.

As a result of his unfamiliarity with the technical terms in common use among the employes of a large Power System, our advertisement writer, in the columns of this paper, stated that there were in current use in this city 40,420,630 INCANDESCENT LAMPS. This was an unintentional misstatement of fact. There are in actual use a little in excess of 8,000,000 candle power incandescent lamps and as much again in candle power for various other lamps. There is no disposition on the part of this company to exaggerate. Its facilities for providing adequate service are so great that the mere announcement of facts covers all the ground we deem advisable. We trust our quick correction of the misstatement will be sufficient.

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F. W. HILD, General Manager

9,233,638 CAR MILES

Around the world 369 times in one year! This means that if one car had traveled the full distance that all of our 501 passenger cars ran during the year 1910, that one car would have traveled the equivalent of the distance around the world more than once every day!

We have 501 cars. A certain percentage of them, of course, are in the repair shop all of the time. By the end of the Summer the company will have received 90 more cars. This will make a total greater than the number of cars in Seattle or Los Angeles, about equal to San Francisco and considerably more than Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We have 247 miles of track.

The total rated horsepower capacity of all these cars is 58,540, an average of 100 horsepower per car. You can imagine what a tremendous load is put upon our power plants during the rush hours, when all available cars are in operation, together with the vast amount of energy being supplied at the same time for light and manufactory purposes.

We have a total of TEN CAR BARNs, SHOPS AND YARDS, where these cars are housed, repaired and stored, with an aggregate area of 326,727 square feet, and storage room for 535 cars.

Ninety more cars require more storage room. This is being provided for. The new barn at Piedmont will have an area of 21,250 sq. ft. Another at Sellwood, 57,536 square feet. A new Ankeny barn will accommodate 110 cars. Beside these, we have in contemplation the erection of repair shops on East Seventeenth street, from Rhone street to Mall street, with an area of 608,000 sq. ft.

The prospective plans for the new repair shops contemplate the necessary equipment for installing a car building factory. This will mean the building of our own cars, instead of having to spend vast sums in the Eastern cities for this purpose.

Without fear of contradiction, we believe that no large company on the Pacific Coast is doing as much to prosper its home city as this company is doing for Portland.

PORTLAND RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO.

BLAIN GETS LOVING CUP

NAVAL MILITIA OFFICERS HONOR RETIRING CAPTAIN.

Former Navigating Officer, Guest at Banquet, Urges That Harmony Be Maintained.

"Back your superiors in all orders, do not judge the shortcomings of each other hastily and shove all things work for the Oregon Naval Militia. With the start it has in obtaining one of the finest ships allotted a state by the United States Navy, and having an organization of picked men, the Oregon organization will take rank as a leader in this country. This was the parting advice and prophecy of Captain John F. Blain, former navigating officer. Captain Blain was guest of honor at a farewell dinner at the Oregon Grill last night.

Captain Blain's remarks inspired a motion that an official communication be sent to Governor West, setting forth that nutty in the state's naval force is at an end and every member of the staff pledges himself to strive for the upbuilding of the organization.

Grouped about the table, at which Captain Speler presided as ranking officer, were ten executives of the Portland divisions of the Oregon Naval Militia, National flags, in which the stars, bars and anchor were interlarded, formed a background at the head of the table.

While the departure of Captain Blain inspired his comrades to words of impressive farewell, his injunction to utilize all energies in advancing the militia proved timely, as it was followed by an announcement that the cruiser Boston would be in readiness for delivery at the Bremerton Navy-Yard about June 15, and that besides the officers there would be 20 men picked from the

TIRED OF LIFE, MAN DIES

ENGINEER COMMITS SUICIDE AS HE WALKS WITH MOTHER.

"I Am Tired of Life," Cries Ernest Hesse, of Boise, as He Whips Revolver From Pocket and Fires.

BOISE, Idaho, May 24.—(Special.)—Selecting the dead of night and an isolated spot near the homestead, Ernest Hesse, a prominent civil engineer, while in company with his mother, committed suicide by shooting himself through the head, forcing his terror-stricken mother to stand guard over

A Poor Weak Woman

As she is termed, will endure bravely and patiently agonies which a strong man would give way under. The fact is women are more patient than they ought to be under such troubles.

Every woman ought to know that she may obtain the most experienced medical advice free of charge and in absolute confidence and privacy by writing to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, R. V. Pierce, M. D., President, Buffalo, N. Y. Dr. Pierce has been chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., for many years and has had a wider practical experience in the treatment of women's diseases than any other physician in this country. His medicines are world-famous for their astonishing efficacy.

The most perfect remedy ever devised for weak and delicate women is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

IT MAKES WEAK WOMEN STRONG.

SICK WOMEN WELL.

The many and varied symptoms of woman's peculiar ailments are fully set forth in Plain English in the People's Medical Adviser (1008 pages), a newly revised and up-to-date Edition, cloth-bound, will be sent on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to pay cost of wrapping and mailing only. Address as above.

the prostrate body until the dawn of the morning before she could secure assistance.

The suicide was evidently premeditated. Hesse is a brother of one of Boise's most prominent jewelers and had been engaged in engineering in Mexico and Alaska, returning to Boise from the latter place some time ago to reside with his mother near Mora Station, some distance from here, until she could prove up on her homestead.

Mrs. Hesse had been to Boise shopping, leaving her son on the homestead. She took the train back and

he met her at the station. While the two were stumbling through the dark towards the homestead, Mrs. Hesse remarked she was tired.

"So am I, and I am tired of life," replied her son. Whipping a revolver from his pocket at the same time, he shot. Due to the isolation of the homestead, the bereaved mother was forced to keep vigil alone over the body until morning.

Spiders are met with in the forests of Java where are so strong that it requires a knife to cut through them.

CRESCENT BAKING POWDER



CRESCENT saves on eggs in cooking because egg-albumen is one of its component parts.

Full Pound 25c

Crescent Teas, Coffees, Mapleine, Spices, Flavoring Extracts, Etc., enjoy a well-deserved reputation. Grocers everywhere sell them.

CRESCENT MFG. CO., SEATTLE