

RESOURCES AROUND ROGUE COUNTY

Addison Bennett Writes of Wonders in Heart of Curry County.

GAME "PARADISE" FOUND

Great Virgin Territory Holds Vast Opportunities and People Are Interested, Thrifty and Prosperous, Says Writer.

BY ADDISON BENNETT.
GOLD BEACH, CURRY COUNTY, O.—(Staff Correspondence).—While this letter will deal largely with the country up the Rogue valley from the county seat of Curry, I do this for the reason that there are still many things of a general nature to say about the county. First and foremost about the dairy business. There is quite a number of dairies on the coast in the northern part of the county, about Langlois and Denmark. There is also a community cheese factory there. One of the very largest dairy farms in the state, that of Mr. Catterlin, the Star Ranch, has already been written about. After you pass the town of Langlois there are but few small and scattering dairymen.

Red Tape Causes Delay.
Of the entire area of the county about 600 square miles, practically 40 per cent is within the reserves. But this area is being diminished as rapidly as agricultural lands are found and applied for by settlers. About the worst kink in the delays caused by the red tape methods of getting things made on that line is the delay in the county having but a small per cent of agricultural land, that is also true. But it must be remembered that in the reserves are found the Pacific acre of land is anyhow equal to five acres of dairy purposes of ordinary land back in the Eastern or the English States. It is said, and by dairymen who have proved that a ranch hereabouts that will furnish hay and pasture for 100 cows and grain for the horses and hogs will range for a fractional part of the \$15,000 a year. The area wanted would be 100 acres of first-class land and a moderate amount of pasture land. The dairy land is now being sold at the rate of \$150 a cow. It is implied that good cows would be required, good hogs and enough brood mares of good breeding to do the farm work. If a herd of cows of extra fine lineage should be secured, where the young stock would fetch a high price, these profits would be enormous.

Sportsman's Paradise Found.
In these letters of late I have said little about wild game, and yet Curry is a sportsman's paradise. Big game is so much about it. It is estimated that there are 15,000 deer in the county, and it is not trick at all for a good marksman to get a trophy in the morning and return at night with a big kill as the law will allow for the season. There are also some 15 or 20 elk south of the Rogue. It is to be hoped none of the sportsmen of this herd will be killed. If not they will rapidly increase. And there is not much danger of any of the residents of the county being troubled by them. The danger comes from the city hunters who will come in and kill, kill and kill regardless of what they kill or what nature of the animal. It is simply for the sport of killing.

Several Routes Offered.
Many inquiries will be made as to how the people get in and out to the road, and how they get their mail supply. During the winter season there are, usually, but two ways to get out. The first is by stage up the coast to Bandon, up the Coquille by boat to Coquille City, by rail to Marshfield, thence by the Breakwater or launch and stage. If the Breakwater is taken, Portland is reached in about 36 hours from time of sailing. If by launch, the trip is made in about a point on the Coos Bay inlet above and opposite Empire, thence by stage at low tide along the beach to Incheston Bay, at the mouth of the Umpana, thence by boat up the Umpana to Scottsburg, thence by stage to Drain, which is a station on the Southern Pacific, about nine hours from Portland. The trip from the Rogue to Portland, taken in this way, accepts about four and a half days; if you catch the Breakwater at Marshfield, the trip takes about a day. The entire cost of the trip, if made via Drain is about \$28; if made by boat from Marshfield this is reduced about five dollars.

Another way to get out is to take a launch to the head of navigation on the Rogue to Agness, 32 miles, thence on horseback to the Rogue valley where you arrive, by leaving Gold Beach at 6 A. M., about dark the same night. The next day you leave at 6 A. M. and ride 42 miles, thence on a rough mountain trail to West Fork (Dotan Postoffice) in Cow Creek Canyon, on the Southern Pacific, 351 miles from Portland. This is the roughest way to get out, the trip takes but 26 hours. The cost is about \$18.50 (I expect to tell about this trip in the New Year's Oregonian).

Saddle Trail Used.
When I speak of a "rough mountain trail" do not think of a road is meant. It is simply what is called in many sections of the country a saddle trail. You could not trust a wheelbarrow over one of these Curry County mountain trails. The West Fork pack outfit leaves Gold Beach each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings and West Fork on the mornings following. If you go in this way you must travel mighty light, for it is not likely the mule packer, unless he is in advance, so that he could have an extra packhorse for the purpose, could handle more than 25 pounds of baggage. Whatever you have will cost 6 cents a pound from Gold Beach or Wedderburn to West Fork, or the same going in the other direction.

Another mail reaches the Rogue country daily, except Sunday, via Roseburg, Myrtle Point, Langlois, Port Orford and Corvallis. Whatever you want to carry on the West Fork trip, but no attempt is made to handle passengers on this line.

A comparative estimate of the expensiveness of the trip can be made by remembering that Gold Beach is distant from Portland about 330 miles, or say 14 hours; if made via the Willamette Pacific, now building, one could leave Gold Beach at 6 o'clock in the evening and be in Portland the following morning, at an expense of \$13.50, allowing for sleeper, supper and a fat tip to the porter. Say a nickel!

During the summer there are a number of gasoline automobiles, driving up what longer than the West Fork trip, but no attempt is made to handle passengers on this line.

County Has 2000 Population.
As mentioned before, Curry County has a population of a trifle in excess of

2000. As Oregon counties go it is not a large county, having 1478 square miles. There are 13 counties in the state smaller. These run from the smallest, Multnomah County, with 451 square miles, to Gilliam, with an area of 1391 square miles. Leaving out Curry and Polk counties, the 14 smallest counties in the state are only 51 square miles larger than our largest county, Harney. Evidently, either some of our counties are too small or some of them are too large.

You will hear it said that Curry has very little agricultural land and that most of her land surface is embraced in forest reserves. Both of these statements are partially true. As to the latter it is not an unmixed evil, where the forest rangers and officials exercise a little judgment and discretion and the department at Washington acts anywhere near fair with those wishing to take homesteads in the reserves. The trouble is usually to unwind the red tape and thereby satisfy the rangers or foresters. For instance, a gentleman living near Agness bought 20 head of young cattle down near the Columbia line and drove them to his ranch near Agness—before forest rangers up he drove them nearly all the way over a trail that he and some of his neighbors cut and dug out a quarter of a century ago—before forest rangers served were "born" or Pincher began his crusade. After the cattle were safe on the home range a ranger came around and wanted to see the permit for driving them over the trail through the forest reserve. The stockowner admitted he had none. The ranger went away and a few days later returned with a permit—issued two weeks after the cattle had arrived here, but he gave to the cattleman and departed, apparently satisfied that the honor of the Forestry Service had been preserved to the letter.

There are new player pianos to be had at Ellers Music House for \$175 as good in every way as those offered elsewhere for \$275. Two hundred and sixty-five dollars buys fine new player pianos at Ellers for which \$400 is demanded in stores that conduct business in the old-fashioned way.

There are player pianos for \$115 and even for only \$365, that are as good as those offered elsewhere for \$550 and \$835.

Never were fine player pianos and player pianos of the highest order to be had so advantageously as they are this year.

Remember those prices include free music roll service, too.

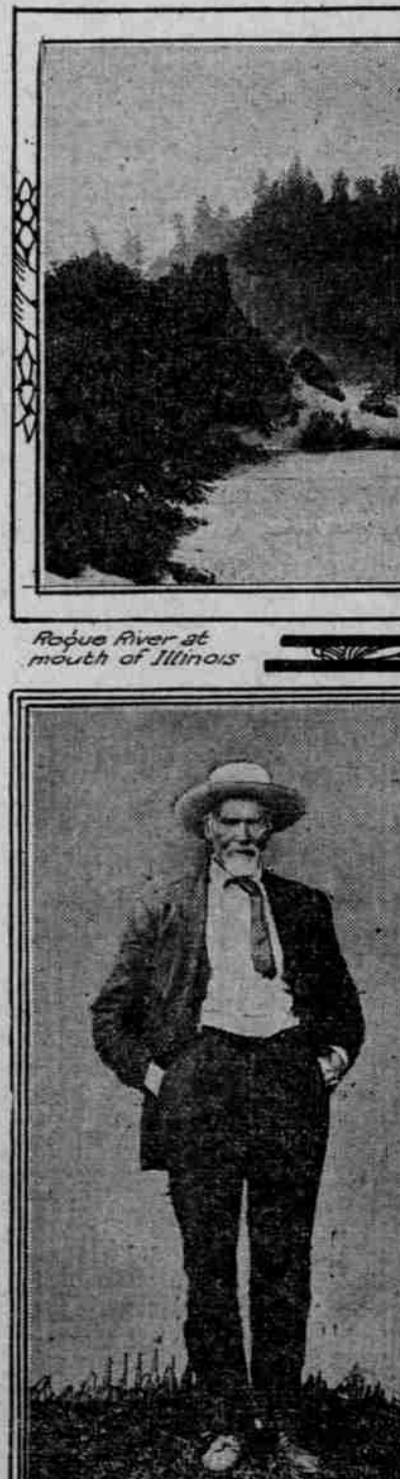
There are so many "never-played" pianos in this town. We will accept instruments at the best of valuation toward payment of one of the new Solo Auto Grand, or the player piano de luxe or the Autoplano, or the Kimball Acme, or the superb Chickering Chickering player piano of luxe.

Never were player pianos of the highest order to be obtained so easily. Don't put off coming; also remember that all of our modern player pianos are guaranteed in every way.

No matter what extravagant claims are advanced elsewhere for this, that or the other make, or alleged invention, remember Ellers Music House was the pioneer player piano house on the Pacific Coast. Ellers has always been able to select the best of makes and it is clear and unqualified, Mr. Ellers Music House, which is now the Nation's largest, in the Ellers building at Alder street, at Seventh. Open every evening now.

making a sharp turn to the north. The Illinois is navigable for about four miles. By navigating I mean for small craft, like launches. In places the water is very swift and at such points it is as much as a bargain for the craft to make headway down the current, but all of the boats make it after a struggle. Usually the boatsmen use their poles over these riffles. Before the days of gasoline, when all of the navigation on the river was by sail craft or rowboats, the men used to get out into the water up to their breasts and push their boats over these places. But gasoline has been a godsend to those living near all navigable waters. It takes anywhere from six to ten hours to get from Gold Beach to Agness; the trip down is sometimes made in two hours, usually in less than three hours. (Remember when you write Agness about that final S. The place was named from a young lady by the name of Agness Aubrey.)

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM GOLD BEACH AND VICINITY.



"Uncle Billy Rumley 84 Years old Came to Illinois County about 1850."

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About halfway up from the coast to Agness the Skooklumhouse Mountain is passed. This is one of the high points in the lower Coast Range. During early days it was used as a signal point by the Indians and a fire on its peak could be seen practically all over Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California.

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"Uncle Billy Rumley 84 Years old Came to Illinois County about 1850."

primitive building, but answers every purpose.

Families All Prosperous.
Aside from the postoffice there are two other buildings there, a residence and the hotel of John D. Cooley. There are 15 other families in the settlement and all are prosperous. There is quite a body of level land and considerable of it is cleared and cultivated. Mr. Cooley being one of the leading and most prosperous men in the neighborhood. He raises grain of all kinds, usually has 10 or 12 acres of corn, which goes upward of 40 bushels to the acre, has a splendid orchard. He also has grapes, apricots and peaches, and there are two large fig trees which must have had 20 bushels of fruit on the day I was there. You might hunt the state over for a better farming section than you will find along the Rogue and Illinois near Agness and Illahie (Indian word for ground or place).

Note Mr. Cooley's name, John D. The D stands for Day. He was born on the John Day River in an ox wagon in 1853, as his parents were coming to the Oregon land. And he is a mighty good illustration of a first-class Oregonian. I can tell you. He is not as rich as a certain other John D., but he has more fun and a better digestion.

There are a great many half breeds around Agness, and I can tell you they are good citizens. Among the first settlers of that section were two brothers, "Jim" and "Abie" Fry. This section was in the early days in close touch with the Klamath country, the Rogue being the outlet by which the Klamath Indians reached the coast. The Fry brothers married into the Klamath

tribe, and their wives must have been superior women, for their progeny are as good citizens as the state has. And they are all prosperous too. I came up on a launch belonging to "Abie" Fry, a man of "Abie" and with him were two of his cousins and his sister, a widow lady, Mrs. McFarland. And they are all intelligent, the most of them being well educated. A cousin of "Johnnie's," "Jake" Fry, lives at Illahie, eight miles up the river from Agness, and is another prosperous chap, perhaps the wealthiest citizen in that section. He has about the best field of corn, 10 or 12 acres, I ever saw in Oregon. His house is built of lumber that was sawed at a little mill a couple of miles below Illahie, and all done by hand. It is the largest and best dwelling in the county, having 17 rooms and all modern conveniences. "Jake" is the mail contractor between Gold Beach and West Fork and his house is the half-way stopping place, and a good place to stop it is.

Negro Character Esteemed.
One of the great characters in the Agness-Illahie section is "Uncle Billy" Rumley, the only colored person in Curry County, and he is as fine, steady and dignified an old gentleman as you can find in near's walk. He was brought to California by his seventh master, having been sold as a chattel six times, in 1850, and made his way away there and finally drifted up to Oregon. No man in the state has a better reputation for integrity, sobriety and industry, gratefully conducted than Uncle Billy. He is now about 84 years of age, but it is pleasant to say that he still enjoys the best of health. He certainly has the confidence, love and esteem of all who know him.

Anyhow this is a section of extra fine people. They have one of the largest Sunday schools at Agness that any like sized community in the state has. There is no drunkenness, no petty stealing, but little loafing or idleness, everybody does his best and treats his neighbors well. And they all prosper.

Some days there will be great doings around the mouth of the Illinois, and then there are immense deposits of copper underlying the hills thereabouts. All that is needed is a railroad to have some of the finest copper mines in the

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Ernest Miller, 117 and 112 1st. MORGAN WALL PAPER CO., 230 Second.

WINE AND LIQUORS.
JOHN ROBINSON, 123-125 Front st. BLUMAUER & HOCH, 705-707 12th st.

WIRE AND WIRE ROPE.
PORTLAND WIRE & IRON WKS., 24 & Columbia.

West opened up here. And the day will be a day to remember, for it is to Curry County. Anyhow it is now a good place for the new settler to look into. Land is cheap and the rancher can do as well the way as any place as Curry County. And if the reader wants to make a change he could do no better than by going to Curry County, near the confluence of the Rogue and the Illinois, around Agness and Illahie.

BONDED SYSTEM PROPOSED

Orchardists Under Big Ditch Near Hood River May Reorganize.

\$250,000 SUIT IS FILED
Men Who Started Reorganization of Carstens Firm Ask Damages.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Because Thomas Carstens, president of the Carstens Farming company, changed his mind about organizing a \$250,000 corporation, with headquarters at Pasco, to continue his fight against the so-called Beef Trust, J. E. Belcher and J. M. Neal today filed suit against Carstens for \$250,000.

According to the complaint, Belcher and Neal were engaged by Carstens, February 1, 1911, to prepare a prospectus and assist in the reorganization of the Carstens Company, or some similar corporation, which was capitalized at \$750,000 into a \$2,000,000 corporation under the laws of Massachusetts. They allege that they prepared the prospectus which was approved by Carstens May 27, 1911. Among other things it was agreed that \$250,000 of the capital stock was to be deposited in a trust company subject to the order of Belcher and Neal. They were to pay the costs of reorganization and retain a fee all that was left of the \$250,000.

Belcher and Neal allege that they were prepared to carry out their contract when Carstens changed his mind and concluded not to go ahead with the project.

Frank J. Moule Dies.
EUGENE, O., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Frank J. Moule, of Portland, died on a northbound Southern Pacific train

today, following a hemorrhage, as he was returning to Portland after several months of confinement in an attempt to regain his health. He was 37 years old and has been in poor health for some time. He is a brother of Mrs. W. W. White, of East Twenty-first street North, Portland.

ECZEMA CURED IN 10 TO 20 DAYS.
The Paris Medicine Co., 224 Pine street, St. Louis, Mo., manufacturers of Laxative Bremo Gum, have a new and wonderful discovery. Gum to cure any case of ECZEMA, so matter how long it has been on the skin, and will refund money if it fails. GUMBER SA-NARE CUTIS is perfectly clean and does not flake, if your druggist hasn't it, send us 50c in postage stamps, and it will be sent by mail.

Great Britain yearly spends \$150,000,000 on tobacco.