

OREGON SENTINEL.

JACKSONVILLE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1883.

SOUTHERN OREGON.

We copy the following article on Southern Oregon from the "Hesperian" of Portland, published and edited by Robt. A. Miller, who got his start in Jackson county: While so much is being said and written about the Southern portion of the State, it appears to me that a brief description of the principal points of interest would not be amiss at this particular time. Hitherto, Southern Oregon has been viewed by the spectator from afar, as a place productive of fabulous "warrior" and "Indian" legends, and at times a wonderful scenery which transcended the ordinary. It is now, however, that the country is being wholly unknown to the great majority who entertained opinions irreconcilable with the topography and general character of the country of which we speak. In fact, there is a great diversity of opinion as to what constitutes Southern Oregon.

A Roseburg man will tell you that he is from Southern Oregon, while a Jacksonville man will brag his shoulders at the remark and say, "He'd like to steal our glory." In lively political times parties living north of the Calapooya have been bold enough to say they were from "Southern Oregon." The fact is, the term has too much latitude, and each individual speaks of that particular portion of the State their own boundary lines attached. Southern Oregon doubtless properly begins at the summit of the Calapooya mountains and extends to the State line on the summit of the Siskiyou, a distance of nearly two hundred miles, taking in Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine and Jackson counties. This is the generally accepted division, but in reality a glance at the map will convince the most skeptical that the apportionment is most arbitrary. The Jackson county man has certainly the best right to the honor which he usually arrogates to himself on all "state occasions."

It is true that the railroad is gradually but surely creeping through and into Southern Oregon. Latest advices have it that the end of the track is laid thirty-five miles beyond Glendale, further work being stopped by some trouble work in course of completion. Grading is almost completed to Phoenix, nearly fifty miles further. Three miles more of track will bring the road to Grant's Pass, where the company is building round houses and depots and make extensive improvements. This will probably be the terminal point until spring, as the United States Commissioners will not accept the road through the tunnels on account of the dangerous slides taking place during the winter.

The future for Southern Oregon is bright with hope. It possesses the triple charm of being unknown or favorably known, and possesses intrinsic worth. Its resources are the most varied and inexhaustible of any other like district on the Pacific coast. It has the richest and poorest lands, the meanest people, the greatest wonders and the most insignificant places, and a population representing all nation alities, from the Irish Jew to poor Lo, and from the Russian Swede, to the Dutch German, sandwiched in with a mixture of Crochols, French, Kanakas, cowboys, Chinese, "roughs" and the native born; the latter may be of the above or all combined. In fact, he is a rare mix, found only in that particular locality. Known chiefly for his wonderful faculty of absorbing benzine, playing poker, manufacturing yarns, and being able to do anything or everything that any one else can do.

Mining, agriculture and stock raising absorb the attention of the great majority of the inhabitants. Many, however follow all of these pursuits, and it is not an uncommon sight to see a farm in which there is a mine, all kinds of stock, orchard, vineyard, corn patch, sorghum factory, and a little world all within itself. The truth is this section has been so shut in from the rest of the world that the people were from necessity compelled to surround themselves with the diverse and varied pursuits, and further than all that the country itself indulged them in their peculiar whims. Think of a climate which is a golden mean between California and Oregon, in which the four seasons are represented; where the semi-tropical fruits tempt the appetite; where the air is pure and bracing; where the valleys merge into the undulating hills, and there are lost in the long ridges and ranges that creep up—far up until the snowy crests of the regal mountains mingle with the cloud drifts in the blue horizon—think of this scene if you will and yet are immediately transported into the beautiful Rogue river valley,

which has been justly termed the "Switzerland of America." It is about forty miles long, twenty miles wide, and is surrounded by the Cascade Range on the East, the Siskiyou on the South, the Coast Range on the West, and broken spurs from the Coast Range and Cascades on the North. A wall of mountains from forty to a hundred miles surround this valley. The Pacific ocean is about sixty miles to the westward. The valley is from 1,160 to 1,910 feet above the level of the sea while the mountains range from 4,500 to 10,000 feet in height. Mount Pitt or McLaughlin is over 10,000 feet high, and is to Rogue river valley what Hood is to Portland. But the pride of that section, and what every man, woman and child care over is Crater lake, situated in the North-western corner of Jackson county, on the Fox-Klamath trail and eighty-three miles from Jacksonville. This is truly one of the wonders of the world and stands alone in its own particular style of grandeur. In brief, the lake is in the base of an extinct volcano, about ten miles wide and thirty miles in circumference, surrounded by an almost perpendicular wall of rock, from 1,500 to 3,000 above the surface of the water, the lake 2,000 feet above the surrounding mountain range, and the water's surface 6,300 feet above the sea level. And to this fact that only two or three places in this entire distance of thirty miles it is possible to get to the water's edge and that too at the risk of one's life, and the further fact that the towering crags over 9,000 feet above the sea level are crowned with perpetual snow, and over all the menacing power of an Indian legend add a feeling of terror to the feeling of awe that abides with the godlike grandeur of the scene, and you have a place to be seen, not described, and once to be seen never to be forgotten. Rogue river falls in another point of interest, and is on the road to Crater lake, fifty miles from Jacksonville, and is the delight of the artist. The main river forms a succession of rapids and cascades for about eight miles, taking its course through a deep gorge. Into this leaps what is known as Rogue River Falls, a distance of over one hundred feet. The river and falls at this point present a scene of rare beauty, as seen through the dark foliage of a surrounding forest.

Josephine county cave is another interesting feature of this section, to the southwest of Jacksonville and twenty-eight miles distant. The summer resorts are numerous, but the one that was the most fashionable this season was Crescent City, which was made available by the completion of the wagon road to the coast. Crater lake, though, is held in the highest esteem, and is the most frequented. The Siskiyou mountains are visited as a health resort, affording game and fish in abundance, and possessing numerous mineral springs of great medicinal value. These mountains are much grander than the Cascades and more Alpine in character, ranging from six to nearly eight thousand feet in height. In fact, a day's travel in any direction from Rogue river valley brings one to as charming a bivouac as one would desire, where good water, plenty of game and fish abound. Mineral springs are to be found in every direction, the most popular and easy of access being the Soda Spring on Emigrant creek, about ten miles from Ashland. The wild berries grow in abundance. The plum is the finest wild fruit. Among the choice tame fruits are peaches, grapes, almonds, figs, prunes, etc. Sweet potatoes are successfully grown. Corn is a staple product. Watermelons attain the highest perfection in flavor, and the same may be said of everything grown in this locality. It is eminently a fruit growing district, for which in due time it will be justly celebrated. Southern Oregon is destined to be the home of the wealthy in due course of time, on account of its mild and equable climate, and the beauty of its natural scenery. It will be the artists' paradise and the tourists' favorite resort.

The very latest way of "raising the wind" at church socials is a "Weight party." For the benefit of those interested in such amusements we give the following description of the thing, assuming them that "it pays." A fine supper is prepared by the ladies and the names of all the females are put into a box, from which each gentleman present draws one of the names. The lady is then weighed, and the gentleman who has drawn her name is expected to pay for his own and her supper one cent for each pound of her weight. For instance, if the weight of the lady whose name he has drawn is 125 pounds, he must pay \$1.25 for supper. The young man who succeeds in drawing the name of a thin, bony creature, who only weighs 90 pounds will consider himself more fortunate than the fellow who draws from the box the name of a large and buxom lass who tips the beam at 220.

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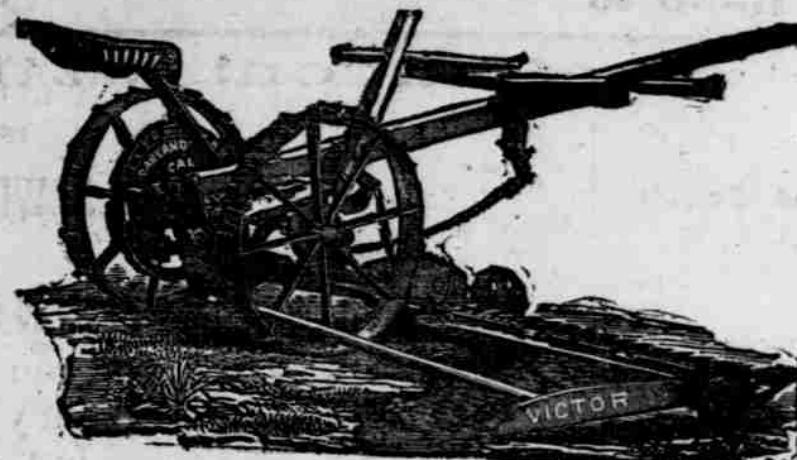
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