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THURSDAY March 7, 1907

CORROBORATES THE PIONEER

The Prineville Review's long and laborious article in vindication of Mr. Williamson's opposition to the private irrigation enterprises in the Bend country, at the time of the inception of those enterprises, only confirms the statement made in the Pioneer, to which he took exception. The merits of the Carey Act did not enter into the discussion, until the Review brought it in to befog the issue. At the Powell Butte meeting to discuss county division, the claim was made by a member of the Prineville delegation that Western Crook owed only good will to Prineville, because its present development was started by Prineville, which sent a delegation of forty citizens to Portland to work for irrigation in Crook county. The stand taken by that delegation is still remembered by those who are familiar with the progress of irrigation in this county, and it was bitterly antagonistic to the private enterprises which desired to undertake the reclamation of the desert. The Review's "inspired" article corroborates this statement; that instead of fostering and supporting the private project for the reclamation of a large area on the desert, Mr. Williamson and his delegation threw as many stumbling blocks as they could in the way of it. The private enterprise which they sought to destroy at its inception now has under contract in the neighborhood of 300,000 acres of desert land, to reclaim under the Carey Act. It has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in Crook county in this work, and a good many thousand acres of erstwhile sheep-range has been brought under ditch and is now the homes of thrifty settlers. All of Crook county got the benefit of the work on the desert, and thousands of dollars went into the coffers of Prineville businessmen. It created a market for all the surplus hay and grain produced in this country and along Crooked river, and put much money in circulation at a time when Crook county needed this help to save it from a period of financial depression. All of which would not have occurred had the Prineville delegation succeeded in defeating the purpose of private capital to enter the Crook county desert, for the remote possibility of the government taking hold of the enterprise at some future day.

The opposition to the Carey Act was but a subterfuge, but since the Review has raised that question, we are willing to submit it to the settlers on the irrigated tract in question, who are certainly the best judges of the beneficent operation of that law. Thousands of acres have already been sold, and other land is being sold as fast as it can be reclaimed. And, from these settlers we hear nothing but words of encouragement and good cheer.

We stand by the statement that Williamson and his delegation opposed development in Western Crook, and if corroboration is required, we cite the Review's article on "What Williamson Really Said."

CROOK COUNTY

In a descriptive article of Crook county, The Board of Trade Journal says:

"Within this large area of boundless possibilities lying in the center of the state of Oregon, not a railroad touches its borders. With irrigation, transportation and settlement this county is going to surprise the West in its productiveness. Taking the Agency Plains, Lamenta and Haystack country with Madras as its center, dry farming is successfully carried on and crops raised that equal the crops of Sherman and Wasco counties in the productiveness of wheat, oats and barley. In the Crooked river valley and its tributaries, with Prineville, the county seat, as its center, alfalfa and all grain crops are successfully raised.

In the irrigated districts, comprising the lands under the Columbia Southern Irrigation Company with the towns of Leadlaw and Cline Falls as its centers, and the land under the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company's segregation with the towns of O'Neil, Redmond and Bend as its centers, are settled a contented and happy lot of settlers with small farms, who are changing this vast area of sage-brush and juniper land into cultivated tracts of wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa, clover and root crops."

TUBERCULOSIS IN RABBITS

A Baker City veterinary has stirred up quite a "scare" of tuberculosis from jack-rabbits, numbers of which he says are infected with this dread disease. He recently made an investigation of the disease prevalent among the black-tailed rabbits so plentiful in that section and throughout Eastern Oregon, and declares that he found the germs in their lungs in large quantities. In his opinion this is one of the most serious menaces to the health of the county which exists. The consumptive rabbits transmit the germs to dogs which eat the carcasses of rabbits which have died from the disease, and to cattle, sheep and other domestic animals, and he states that there is no limit to the harmful possibilities that lie in this state of affairs.

The rabbits are found in all stages of the disease, many of them perishing from it, and he believes that it is a matter which concerns the public health, and that some steps should be taken to exterminate the rabbits.

Commencing the first of this month, and extending through March and April, the railroad fare from Kansas City and all Missouri River points to Oregon will be \$25, and a tremendous rush of land-seekers is expected to take place. Oregon holds out many attractions to the home seeker from the Middle West, and no section of the state has more to offer than has Crook county. In this county there are still thousands of acres of government land open to entry; or, if cheap farming land is desired, no county in the state offers such attractions. With its large areas of irrigated lands open to purchase, its great wheat belt comprising hundreds of thousands of acres much of which can be purchased at comparatively low figures, and its tremendous area of vacant government land subject to entry under the homestead laws, Crook county should come in for its share of the immigration to the state this spring.

Announcements have been received here of the formation of a partnership between E. B. King, W. E. Guerin, jr., and

John K. Kollock, for the general practice of law in Portland, with offices in the McKay building. Judge King and Mr. Guerin were associated in the practice of law at Cleveland, Ohio, before coming to Portland. The latter is quite well known in Crook county, having been a resident of Bend for a year or more, and both he and Judge King have extensive interests at that place. The firm, which is a strong one, expects to maintain offices at Bend, and will give attention to the practice in Crook county, especially with reference to questions affecting water, land and general corporation law. Mr. Guerin will maintain his residence at Bend, and will give personal attention to the practice in this county.

It is gratifying to know that Madras appears upon Mr. Harriman's new map of Oregon as the terminus of one of the proposed branches of the Natron-Ontario line, but there will be more cause for gratification when Mr. Harriman's proposed railroad lines become realities. Dotted red lines are good things to build hopes upon, but unfortunately they do not handle any traffic or carry out any grain. However, Central Oregon is ripe for railroad construction, and the present activity in the engineering department of the Harriman lines in Oregon is a good sign. That work has to be done before actual construction can begin, and the permanent character of the surveys which are being made gives promise of the immediate commencement of such work.

Residents of this section who thought they experienced cold weather in January may alter their opinion after reading the following excerpt from a letter from C. N. Banta of Ferry Point, Alberta. The letter says: "We are having some very cold weather. It was 60 below zero a number of times in January, and is 30 below now (February 5). The snow is two and a half feet deep, and last Sunday night nearly every rancher on the other side of the river lost from one to four head of cattle from freezing. That is on the north side of Battle river. We live on the south side, and there has been no stock lost in our neighborhood so far." Mr. Banta formerly lived in this section, in the Culver neighborhood.

The Review accuses us of "assailing the people of Prineville" because we quote an expression used by Mr. Williamson. If quoting is "assailing", and if Mr. Williamson is "the people of Prineville", then we plead guilty. Mr. Williamson made the statement that the segregation of the Pilot Butte company "is not desert land because it has juniper trees growing on it", in spite of the denial of the Review, which presumably speaks for him. The statement was made at the hotel in Shaniko, while enroute to or from the irrigation convention at Portland in November, 1902, and the writer was present when he made it.

A twelfth judicial district has been created by the Legislature composed of the counties of Sherman, Wheeler and Gilliam. These counties were formerly included in the seventh judicial district, of which this county is a portion. E. V. Littlefield of Moro has been appointed judge of the new district, and J. A. Collier of Fossil is District Attorney. Both are republicans.

Oswald West, formerly state land agent, C. B. Atchison of Portland, and T. K. Campbell of Cottage Grove have been appointed as the new Railroad Commission for this state. Mr. West is appointed for the long term, and will serve until 1910, while his two associates on the commission will serve until their successors are elected in 1908.

JUDGE BELL AT SALEM

Makes Strong Effort To "Job" The People of Northern Crook

To the Residents of the Proposed Jefferson County:

For the information of the residents of northern and Western Crook, I desire to make the following statement regarding the defeat of Jefferson county, and the attitude of our county judge upon the Nesmith county measure, whereby they intended to cut up the territory embraced in the proposed Jefferson county, so that the remainder of northern Crook would be forever tied to Prineville. Our bill for Jefferson county was defeated in the hands of the committee on counties through a combination of senators and representatives which was formed before our delegation reached Salem, and which we could not break.

When the Nesmith county bill was introduced, the proposed lines came to within seven miles of Madras, and upon those lines we had our hearing before the committee, in opposition to that county.

After the arrival of Judge Bell, I learned that he and M. E. Miller, who had charge of the Antelope bill, were advocating an amendment of the Nesmith county lines which would bring them to within one mile of Madras. I went to Judge Bell and told him what I had learned, and he replied, "Don't you believe anything of the kind Robinson; we are here to see that there is no division of Crook county; that is some of Drake's talk."

When the bill was favorably reported by the committee on counties, however, the lines had been so amended as to bring them to within one mile of Madras although this had not been asked for in the original bill and it was known that there was bitter opposition to it from this territory. That bill passed and was sent to the Senate.

R. R. Hinton from the proposed Nesmith county, C. M. Cartwright who has interests in this county, and myself as a representative of this section, appeared before the committee in opposition to the Nesmith county measure, while M. E. Miller was there advocating it. At this hearing, in answer to a direct question, Mr. Miller stated that the amended lines had been agreed upon between himself and Judge Bell, and I was also told by several representatives that such was the case. By a showing of the injustice of the proposed lines we were able to defeat the infamous measure, the committee on counties reporting unfavorably. When the motion was made to indefinitely postpone the Nesmith county measure, an effort was made to save it, but only two senators voted against in definite postponement, as the report of the committee was unanimous, and the committee urged the defeat of the measure.

The original bill for the creation of Nesmith county was had enough, but the bill as amended after the arrival of Judge Bell would have been an absolute bar to any hope for county division in this section at any future time. In attempting to get through this "job" however, they placed a weapon in our hands, in the absolute injustice of the measure and the perfectly apparent purpose of it, with which we were able to defeat them. In our efforts in that direction we had the support and assistance of some very good friends, whose services were very valuable and whose names I should like to be at liberty to give.

Years for a square deal,
J. W. ROBINSON,
Madras, Ore., Mar. 6, 1907.

REPORT FROM MR. SPRINGER

To the Petitioners for Jefferson County: As your representative entrusted with the presentation of your petition, I beg to report as follows:

On arriving at Salem I found our representative, Dr. Belknap, doing all in his power against us. He refused to present our bill and stated that we had no chance whatever of success. Dr. Merriam, our representative from Klamath, was unwilling to do anything contrary to the wishes of Belknap. Senator Laycock had also pledged Prineville his opposition to any county division.

The chief obstacle, however, was in the fact that the Antelope people were ahead

of us with a bill for the creation of Nesmith county and including a portion of our territory. As the Nesmith county measure served as a weapon in the hands of Prineville to defeat us, and also helped The Dalles to hold up the Hood River measure, it occurred to me at once that that proposition was a serious menace, as if passed, it would cut the territory of northern Crook in a manner very much against the interests of that section. Taking this view of it, I was willing to abandon the fight for Jefferson county, provided that I could be assured of the defeat of the dangerous Nesmith county measure, and upon Dr. Belknap's assurance that he could and would defeat the Antelope bill, I returned to Portland.

At Portland I was requested to wait until the Western Crook people could arrange for a more united effort, to which I consented, and meanwhile the Madras delegation arrived and I returned to Salem. As the Nesmith county people were still at work, and fearing that they might succeed, being assured that our representative had at first favored the measure, we attempted to compromise with the Antelope people upon lines that would have been satisfactory for the present to the people of both sections, as they kept the Northern Crook county territory intact, but we were unsuccessful in this attempt, and then decided to take our chances on the Jefferson bill and carry it as far as possible.

When the measure was given a hearing before the committee it was apparent that it would not be favorably reported, but we were assured that all of the county measures affecting this county would be treated alike. However, our bill was reported unfavorably and beaten in the House by indefinite postponement, and when I reached Portland on my way home, I learned that the Nesmith county bill had been favorably reported, and passed the House, presumably with the acquiescence of Representative Belknap. I immediately wrote several Senators, giving them the facts in the case and showing that while 75 percent of our people had favored the Jefferson county measure, fully 95 percent of them opposed the Nesmith county bill, which had passed the House. Other influences in opposition to Nesmith county were also set in motion, and that measure was finally defeated in the Senate.

Whether we accomplished much or not we are not prepared to say, but one thing we are sure of, the work for county division is organized and will be in much stronger position two years hence. And, next time Crook county shows symptoms of travail, we will not call a physician from Prineville. Of one thing I am assured; but for the fight which was waged for Jefferson county, Nesmith county would have been created, and this territory would have been cut up in a manner to prevent the creation of Jefferson county for all time to come.

G. SPRINGER,
Culver, Oregon, Mar. 5, 1907.

ROBBED BY HIS GUEST

Fred Fisk was arrested by detectives Kay and Kienlen yesterday afternoon on a charge of having stolen \$40 from the room of James Dolan in a lodging house at Third and Couch streets a week ago. Dolan says that he invited Fisk to share his room on the night in question, and that his guest rewarded him by decamping during the night with the cash. Dolan complained to the police at the time and the officers have been looking for Fisk ever since. —Oregonian.

Fisk worked in Madras for a few weeks last Fall, and his "finish" in Portland bears out the reputation he established at this place during his short stay.

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