Madras

OREGON TOWN THAT IS AWAITING LOCOMOTIVES WHISTLES.

Interesting sketch of "Madras and the Madras country" by Randall R. Howard, a versatile young writer upon the Pacific Monthly, who graphically tells of the settlement of this section, its great strides in agriculture, with its possibilities as a fruit-growing country, and its possibilities for making a manufacturing center by generating power from the Deschutes.

Madras is doubtless the most bustling little town in Central Oregon today. This chiefly because it is headquarters for a great army of railroad workmen who are rushing the construction of the two railroads up the Deschutes river canyon and into the heart of Central Oregon. Madras is the gateway town—the first station on these two roads after they leave the deep and rugged Deschutes river canyon. And Madras will be the first Central Oregon town to hear the railroad whistle of both the Hill and Harriman trains It is promised that at least one and possibly both of these roads will have been completed to Madras before January 1, 1911, And then Madras will be the new shipping point. the Shaniko of Central Oregon, until the next unit of the parallel railroads are completed to Redmond, the second division point in the construction work.

Madras is today the typical new railroad town of the west, with its great crowds of foreign laborers and crowded eating places and noisy soft drink joints. The main street and the several side streets are filled at night, and the business houses are busy at all times. At least these are the first things that the newcomer notices about Madras A little later these same conditions will exist at Redmond, and at Bend, and at Crescent, as the two great railroad systems move on mile by mile south through Central Oregon. The chief difference is Madras will see this condition longer than any other of the chief towns, because the construction work near Madras is very heavy. The resident of Madras can very easily imagine a perpetual Fourth of July, for there is no hour of the day when rock blasts cannot be heard at distances varying from a quarter mile to as far as the sharp sounds will carry. The nearer blasts shake the windows of the town and the more distant ones sound like a bombardment at sea.

There was a Madras even before there was any Deschutes canyon railroad talk. Ten years ago the Madras country was a noted stock range section. The horsemen and the cattlemen gathered every spring and every fall at the Willow Creek basin, their chief camping place for the "ride." With the exception of a few scattered ranches, the country was all open range—and some of the best range of Central Oregon. The crops produced by these few ranchers proved the land to be fertile, and other ranchers located.

The Willow Creek basin, where Madras is now located, was one of the first sections to be homesteaded, for there was running water through the greater part of the year, and water could be had in the wells at depths of from 10 to 30 feet. Following the building of the Columbia Southern branch railroad to Shaniko, and its promised extension further south, there was a homesteaders' rush to the Madras country. The newcomers from other lands and other grain sections said that the great area of rolling hills and the immense Agency Plains just north of the Willow Creek basin were promising wheat growing sections. During the land rush period several thousands of homesteads were filed upon and the country settled up with surprising rapidity.

The first year's cultivation proved that the section had great grain possibilities. Sod lands produced from 10 to 30 bushels per acre, and this year the average of all of the land in the Madras country is in the neighborhood of 20 bushels per acre. The better farmed lands are yielding 40 bushels in many sections, and the possibilities of the sections under scientific cultivation are not yet known. It should be mentioned, in passing, that the yields this year are counted to be above the average in the Madras country, though old settlers say that climate conditions are seemingly becoming better each year.

Strangely enough the location of the town of Madras was fixed by a defect in the surrounding country. In the Willow Creek basin there was plenty of well water at shallow depths, and running water a part of the year. Not so on the rolling hills about, and the Agency Plains, 300 feet above. The well digger must go from 100 to 400 feet and more to get water for domestic purposes. Consequently the greater number of the ranchers did not get water, and they have no well water even today. One of the most common sights in this great wheat and grain region is the "well on a wagon"—wagon boxes crowded with splashing barrels and long black heavy tanks drawn by four and six horses.

Business followed the water line in the case of Madras. A store in the center of Willow Creek basin was followed by a postoffice, blacksmith shop, then a feed stable and a hotel and other stores. The greater part of the town of 400 or 500 inhabitants has been built during the past two years, following the talk of and the beginning of active construction on the rival roads up the Deschutes river canyon. Madras now has a bank, a hotel, a newspaper, a machine shop, a flouring mill, two drug stores and a number of other business establishments. The town has been incorporated since the first of the year, and is talking of a city water system, sewerage, electric light, etc.

The one great resource immediately adjacent to Madras is grain growing. The soil is rich and deep, and the rain fall from 9 to 14 inches, seems sufficient to insure good crops almost every year under careful methods of farming. Like all new countries, there has been but little scientific soil cultivation, so it may be presumed that crop yields will steadily increase. The altitude is from 2200 to 2800 feet, and it is said that the climate has become noticeably much milder during the past five years.

The depth to which the well digger must go in order to get his water for domestic purposes is not so burdensome as might at first appear. There seems to be no lack of water at from 200 to 400 feet, meaning the expenditure of from $400 to $800. Indeed it seems nothing more than procrastination that causes many of the well-to-do ranchers to continue their twice a week trips to the public well, where they pay 10 cents a hundred gallons for the water with which they fill their tanks and barrels.

The Madras section, like many other parts of Central Oregon, has its irrigation hopes and possibilities. It is the plan of private land holders to store a part of the surplus waters of Willow Creek to irrigate between 1000 and 2000 acres near the town. More ambitious is the plan of a syndicate of men to carry water from one of the lakes of the upper Deschutes river to irrigate about 70,000 acres of the Agency Plains and other nearby sections. Some preliminary surveying work has been done toward the development of this latter project. Under irrigation the Madras country would be very fertile with immense intensified farming possibilities. In addition to grain, all of the root crops, and especially potatoes, return large yields. In the protected spots along Crooked River and the Deschutes, and Hay Creek, and other streams, are a number of noted orchards. It is possible, also, that large areas of the rolling hill lands may become the best of winter apple sections The Madras country is still in the experimental so far as more intensified agriculture is concerned

The two railroads up the Deschutes river take different routes for the last 15 miles before they reach Madras. The Oregon Trunk turns from the Deschutes canyon into the Willow Creek canyon, and in the latter canyon encounters its most heavy and costly construction work. This road leaves the Willow Creek canyon at Madras and curves westward and south within the city limits. On the contrary the Harriman road climbs out of the Deschutes canyon via Trout Creek canyon, and crosses over the roadbed of the Oregon Trunk through the Willow Creek canyon at right angles, and more than 200 feet above. The Harriman road depot will thus be on the top of the Agency Plains ridge above Madras and about a mile from the town. The two roads reach the same level and cross at a point about four miles beyond Madras, and at the top of the heavy grade out from the Deschutes canyon. It is likely that this point on top of the ridge will become a railroad division point. Also there will be a number of stations through the Madras wheat belt country.

There are other large resources besides grain that may be made tributary to Madras. Twelve miles away toward Hay Creek are reported large deposits of coal of good quality. About the same distance away toward Grizzly Butte are promising indications of oil, which as yet have not been thoroughly tested. Abundant timber is within 15 miles of Madras both to the east and to the west, in the Grizzly Butte section and the Matolus district. Also Madras is as near the immense water power of the Deschutes river as any other town in Central Oregon. There are almost numberless power sites within 20 miles of Madras, the nearest being about six miles distant.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FOR SALE—At my ranch, about six miles south-west of Madras, about 80 bushels of clean White Eaton, winter wheat, and about 600 bushels of Red Cross, winter wheat. Christ Hagnauer. o6-t2

WANTED—About four dozen hens, at the Key's Rooming House, Madras, Oregon.

FOR SALE—One thorough bred Jersey Bull, two years old. Inquire of Christ Hagnauer. o6-t2.

FARM LOANS!! Madras State Bank.

PASTURE—Stock taken to pasture by month or all Winter. Inquire of J. P. Read, Culver, or Perry Read, Madras. s8tf

WANTED—Girl for general housework. Apply at Central Oregon Mercantile Company's store. s8

MOST COMPLETE LINE SAMPLES in the city at the Tailor Shop next to pool hall. a25

BRING in the old suits or skirts. We will make them look like new. Tailor Shop. a25

MARES FOR SALE—Span bay work mares for sales. Dr. W. H. Snook, Madras. s1

ORDER that suit or overcoat at the Tailor's. We will keep it pressed free. Next to pool hall. a25

FOR SALE—I will sell my Lot, Rooming House and Furniture, north of the Madras Hotel, near the Madras Feed Yard, Inquire of Newton Barron.

PIANOS—I have three new first-class pianos, just received from the factory upon which I can make right prices in monthly payments to suit purchaser. Call and see them. A. C. Sanford, Madras, Or. a18

TO TRADE—I have a lot in a good location in the city of Madras, that I would trade for either unbroke horses or cattle. Inquire of Mrs. M. E. Bradford, near new Culver.

MONEY TO LOAN ON FARMS. See Madras State Bank.

WANTED—A woman to do general house work. Inquire of Mrs. Harry G. Key.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

Notice For Publication

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, September 27, 1910. Notice is hereby given that MERRILL VAN TASSEL of Culver, Oregon, who, on October 6, 1905, made Homestead Entry No. 14725, Serial No. 03717, for se¼sw¼, sw¼se¼ sec 7, and ne¼nw¼, nw¼ne¼ sec 18, tp 13 s, r 13 e, w m, has filed notice of intention to make final five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described before Howard W. Turner, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 17th day of October, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: W. O. Ralston, J. R. Mendenhall, J. W. Mendenhall, and J. Z. Keeney, all of Culver, Oregon.

s15o13 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Notice For Publication.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, September 24, 1910. Notice is hereby given that EFFIE I. RICE formerly Effie I. Eads, of Lamonta, Oregon, who on September 25, 1907, made homestead entry No. 15716, Serial No. 04211, for sw¼ne¼, s½nw¼ and nw¼sw¼, sec 3, tp 12 s, r 14 e, w m, has filed notice of intention to make final commutation proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Howard W. Turner, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 1st day of November, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: John McElroy, of Madras, Oregon, and George Eads, Carl McGhee and Mrs. Ida V Franks, all of Lamonta, Oregon.

s29-o27 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Notice For Publication.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, September 26, 1910. Notice is hereby given that WILLIAM POSER of Madras, Oregon, who on July 28, 1905, made Homestead entry No. 14631, Serial No. 03675, for s½ne¼, ne¼ne¼, nw¼ne¼, section 30, tp 11 s, r 13 e, w m, has filed notice of intention to make final five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Howard W. Turner, U. S Commissioner, at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 8th day of November, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: Fred Henske, Christ Hagnauer, Jacob Moehring and Emil Zemke, all of Madras, Oregon.

s29-n3 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Notice For Publication

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, September 27, 1910. Notice is hereby given that SAMUEL A. McCONNELL of Culver, Oregon, who, on September [illegible] made Homestead Entry No. 6195, for nw¼se¼, sec 11, tp 12 s, r 13 e, w m. Has filed notice of intention to make commutation proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Howard Turner, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 25th day of November, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: Nichols, William Samons, William [illegible] and Chester R Stamp, all of Madras, Oregon.

s22-o29 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Notice For Publication

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, Sept. 15, 1910. Notice is hereby given that HENRY WILSON of Madras, Oregon, who on April 9, 1906, made Homestead Entry No. 14380, Serial No. [illegible], for e½ne¼ sec 20 and w½nw¼ section 21, tp 11 s, r 14 e, w m. Has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Howard W. Turner, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 25th day of October, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: C. E. [illegible], Fred Fisher, Nancy White, all of Madras, Oregon.

s22-o29 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Notice For Publication

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, September 15, 1910. Notice is hereby given that MINNIE MOEHRING, one of the heirs and for the heirs of Jacob Moehring, (deceased) of Madras, Oregon, who on May 26, 1905, made Homestead Entry No. 03610, for e½se¼, sec 18, tp 11 s, r 12 e, w m, has filed notice of intention to make five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Howard W. Turner, U. S. Commissioner at his office at Madras, Oregon, on the 25th day of October, 1910.

Claimant names as witnesses: Louis E. [illegible], Fred Henske, Louis Moehring, all of Madras, Oregon.

s22-o29 C. W. MOORE, Register.