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**A Reminiscence**

As the merry, merry Christmas of 1912 draws nigh, we begin to think of another Christmas not so many years ago, before we left the old homestead. How well do we remember the old home, the ivy vines clinging to its sides, the old fashioned chimney, the red-curtained windows and—mother.

To you remember mother, loys? The mother who laughed at our baby antics, whose eyes grew dim and whose hair was beached in the care of us. The mother who taught us to pray: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep." But one day, after we had grown to manhood, we bid her a fond farewell, and left the old place for the great city. For awhile the letters you wrote to the one you left alone contained everything that a dutiful son could write—words of encouragement during her sad hours, of affection, of the success you had achieved, and the promise to visit her the next Christmas.

Time worked a sad change in a few months. Mother's letters began to lose their former interest, and remained unopened, unanswered. Business worries crowded out the epistle for which you use to await in feverish anxiety. But, one day, there came a letter, written in a strange hand, and mother was no more. With a prayer on her lips for her boy she had passed over the great divide and entered the kingdom above.

Always remember mother. She is your dearest friend on earth. Never forsake the one who suffered for you far beyond your comprehension. All too soon mother will leave us, and then the realization of the great loss you have sustained will be accompanied by the thought of how much you endeavored to make her happy.

**Inducements to Settlers**

With an area of public land almost 20,000,000 acres in extent, Oregon offers to the settler probably greater inducements than any other Northwestern State.

There are hundreds of thousands of acres here that require only the efforts of the settler to render them highly productive.

The homesteader or the irrigationist who would take advantage of the land laws has a favorable opening here to make a home for himself and family.

It should not be understood, however, that there are lands in this state open to entry in fully settled districts or even the large communities. This idea is unwarranted. Much of the unappropriated land remaining in the public domain is probably equal to any in the state in quality, but it must be found in the newer and little developed sections. Naturally it is in a wild condition. Anyone who seeks public land in Oregon should not delude himself with the idea that he can acquire, free of charge, a quarter section convenient to transportation lines or ready for the plow. He will meet with disappointment if this is his plan when he comes here.

A great portion of the public lands in this state is naturally unsuited to agricultural purposes and has not been taken up for this reason. Much of it, however, is desirable for farming

and remains Government property because it lies far from the railroads. With the construction of rail lines, however, now going forward in this state, these lands will become valuable. Thousands of acres have been filed upon during the past year in Central Oregon where the approach of the Hill and Harriman lines up the Deschutes Canyon is solving the great problem of transportation. This is the bugbear that has hitherto kept interior Oregon from developing. It has been virtually a wilderness since the beginning of things because Oregon railroads have been built almost wholly along the border of the state. On the north the Harriman lines followed the Columbia River, on the west the Southern Pacific traverses the state from north to south west of the Cascade Mountains, the natural barrier that has fenced off the great mid state region and denied it an outlet.

Government land is scattered throughout the state, every county, with the probable exception of Multnomah, having some unclaimed areas. The only practical way for the intending settler to satisfy himself as to the value of these public lands is to inspect the records in the various land offices and then make a personal visit to the tract desired.

Another point should be borne in mind by the intending settler. Laxity in the administration of the land laws which formerly prevailed permitted an evasion of the strict letter of the law as regards homesteads, but that time has passed. The settler, if he hopes to secure a title, must occupy the land in good faith and make it his home.

Government lands in this state are divided into agricultural, timber, desert and mineral claims, depending upon their character and the manner in which they may be obtained.

State lands include all of these classifications and are obtained by purchase, regardless of their character. Government lands are obtained through the land offices, of which there are six in this state, located at Roseburg, Portland, Lakeview, The Dalles, LaGrande and Burns. The records are open to the public in these offices, and the officials of each will give such information as they possess regarding vacant tracts.

Oregon has about 500,000 acres of school lands, the most of which lies east of the mountains, and it is sold at not less than \$7.50 per acre. A settler may purchase any amount of this land up to 320 acres, and residence on it is not required. Payments may be made in five annual installments of \$1.50 an acre. The character of the land however, can be determined only by personal inspection, and this should be the rule in every case. The intending settler in Oregon, as well as elsewhere, should not listen to the attractive lure of land companies, which promise to select a fertile piece of land for him; too often these benevolent land companies are rank swindlers.

Under irrigation it produces enormous crops of grain, alfalfa and other grasses, fruits and vegetables. Without irrigation it is cultivated largely by dry farming methods, grain being the principal crop. From 15 to 45 bushels of wheat an acre is raised in this way. If brought within the scope of an irrigation project, this land immediately becomes exceedingly valuable, and \$200 an acre is not considered an excessive price. Without water it is worth possibly \$10 to \$25 an acre. The greatest railroad development of the West is now going on in Central Oregon, and the completion of this work will bring transportation facilities to a territory heretofore largely neglected and will attract a great many settlers.

The Deschutes Valley is practically divided into three sec-

tions, the upper being 30 by 10 miles, the central section 30 by 40 miles, and the Agency Plains section 25 by 7 miles. This valley is now entered by railroads along both sides of the Deschutes River, and the bulk of the homesteaders are headed that way. Several irrigation projects are under way, towns are building and the population is increasing rapidly. It seems best fitted for grain and livestock, large areas of sagebrush being found to raise good wheat crops. This district has long been neglected because of its distance from railroads.

The Crooked River Valley, in Crook County, containing about 75 square miles, offers another inviting field for irrigation. Livestock is the chief product and it has great possibilities for general agriculture. Throughout the John Day Valley are many fine stock farms and much grain is raised. Government land is to be found along this stream which can be put to good use in raising wheat.

Throughout Oregon the golden wealth to be secured by the agriculturist is immense. The chief inducements for the settler are a favorable climate, good soil and good prices for almost every product of the farm, prices being much higher than in the East or Middle West. This is due to the fact that production falls short of the demand, and great quantities of butter and eggs, poultry and livestock come here from the Middle West farms, while vegetables are still shipped from California. There is not the slightest excuse for this except that the people have turned their activities to other lines than tilling the soil.

When the opportunities are understood by settlers there is every reason to believe that Oregon will produce its own food supplies as well as consign quantities to other markets, for all conditions here are extremely favorable to agriculture in all its branches.—Oregonian.

**How to Bankrupt the Doctors**

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