

# Curry County Section Rich in Resources

## ROGUE RIVER COUNTY HAS HAD A PROSPEROUS YEAR

Big Property of Wedderburn Trading Company Has Given Employment to Many Persons—Extensive Developments Made and More Planned—Lumber Mill May be Started and New Boats Built.

The Rogue river country of Curry county is one of the richest districts in natural resources on the southern Oregon coast. While it is now somewhat isolated and reached only by boats and stage road, the lower Rogue country is a little empire of itself and there is much activity there. The last year has seen big improvement, and the coming year promises to be even a more active one as it is quite likely that lumber manufacturing and shipping will be added as another industry of the busy community.

### Community Prosperous

It is claimed that there is more money per capita in the Rogue river country than any other point on the Pacific coast and the banks will give figures to show it. This condition is due to the industries of the community, which is actually so little dependent upon the outside that the people there hardly know that there were any hard times recently. Of course they heard about it but they did not feel the pinch for everyone was given an opportunity to make money.

There are two towns at the mouth of the Rogue river. On the south side is Gold Beach, the prosperous county seat of Curry county, where the court house is located, where much business of the surrounding ranchers is transacted, and where visitors may stop at one of the best hotels on the coast.

### Million Dollar Estate

On the north side of the river is located Wedderburn, the headquarters of the Wedderburn Trading Company. The latter is the name under which the large property of the Macleay Estate of Portland is operated. This is the property which was formerly owned by R. D. Hume and which was bought several years ago by the Macleay estate. The new owners have made many improvements and the property represents an investment of about one million dollars. It consists of 17,000 acres of land extending up the river from the ocean and both sides of the river for twelve miles up from the mouth is owned by the company, excepting one small piece.

### Has Many Branches

The company conducts the fisheries and big salmon cannery plant, runs the big ranch and also has one of the largest mercantile businesses in southwestern Oregon.

Roderick Macleay of Portland is president of the Macleay estate and himself directs the big property with managers for the different departments. Mr. Macleay stays at Wedderburn most of the summer months and during the salmon fishing season.

### New Industries Coming

It appears now that there will be another industry added to give further employment, that of lumber manufacturing. This will depend upon the lumber market. If the present better outlook keeps up it is promised that the Wedderburn Company will enter the lumber trade.

Mr. Macleay built a lumber mill at Wedderburn when he first took charge of the property but soon afterward the lumber market fell and was such that it did not warrant the running of the plant. Now Mr. Macleay states that with a permanency of the present improvement in lumber business he will open the mill and will order two lumber carrying power schooners equipped with Diesel engines which would carry the output from the sawmill to San Francisco. These boats would be especially designed to get in and out of the Rogue river and at the same time carry enough lumber and make sufficient speed that the transportation would be profitable.

### The Possibilities

It is also quite possible that the company will go into the white cedar tie business. On the Macleay property there are millions of feet of timber to furnish logs to be cut in the sawmill and there is also large amounts of cedar for making ties. Some of this is far back but it can be moved by means of flumes and there are possibilities for an enormous development in the tie industry.

In past years tanbark has been cut to some extent but during the

coming year it will be still more extensively carried on. The company already has orders for 500 tons and expects to receive still further orders. All of these added industries will give further labor for a community where everyone can work at something if he wants to and where everybody seems to have money.

But these are simply new industries that are expected to be added. There is already much doing in the Rogue country. The timber and lumber features have not been touched, the company awaiting the time when the lumber business warranted.

### Salmon Fishing Big

The salmon fishing is the largest of the various branches of the company. Each year scores of fishermen make good pay fishing and furnishing the salmon to the cannery. Most of them make enough through the season to carry them the rest of the year.

The Rogue river salmon are famous and of a high quality which is in demand. The salmon cannery is a modern one and is equipped with the most up to date machinery. Each season crews of experts are brought to the place to work in the cannery but as far as possible the labor is given to the local people.

The canneries are shipped on the gasoline schooners Rustler and Roamer to Coos Bay for transshipment to Portland. These two boats make regular trips to Rogue river all the year around, carrying supplies and freight to the Wedderburn company and to other business houses in the locality and bringing out the products of the place.

### Beautiful Town

Wedderburn is quite a little town of itself and certainly a most beautiful one, located as it is on the picturesque river and near to the ocean. There is in the town a hotel, a number of nice residences, a church, the cannery, lumber mill, creamery, wharfs and warehouses, the Wedderburn Company store and the private residence of Mr. Macleay which is known as The Lodge.

### Ideal Summer Lodge

This is an ideal little summer home located on a high hill. From the porch can be seen the beautiful scenery up the river, mountains opposite and also the bar and the surf of the ocean. The Lodge is equipped with all modern conveniences and in front of the big fireplace of the spacious living room many distinguished guests have been entertained by Mr. Macleay. He had room for twelve men house visitors as well as an annex which was built for Mr. Macleay's sister.

### Store a Large One

The big store of the Wedderburn Trading company is one of the largest in this part of the state. A \$100,000 stock of goods is carried. The store is larger than any in Marshfield and there are several departments. Practically everything can be bought, groceries, fresh meat, clothing, goods for ladies, hardware, farm tools and implements, hunters' supplies and even drugs. The best of goods are carried and the people of the community depend upon the store for their supplies. As shipping is sometimes slow in winter it is necessary to carry a large stock of goods and it is the aim of the company to give the people a chance to buy as desirable goods as they could in a city and at prices not above those charged at Portland.

The company is now opening a new branch store in Gold Beach which is in charge of Harry Dodson, formerly of Marshfield. This store was opened only a short time ago and accommodates the people on that side of the river without the necessity of crossing over to Wedderburn when they want to deal with the company.

There is also maintained a branch store at Agness, which is thirty miles up the river from the mouth. It is in an isolated place and the store is quite an accommodation to the people residing there. Agness is a settlement without a wagon road, being reached only by boat and by trail. Yet it has its advantages as a source of amusement and is a prosperous mining and ranch district.

### River Scenic One

From Agness there is a trail out to West Fork on the railroad. Mail formerly came in that way and the people of Rogue river could get Portland papers as soon as Coos Bay. This route is used much by travelers. The trip up the river to Agness is a beautiful one and probably no river in the country affords more pleasing scenery.

### Supplies Community

At Wedderburn there are a number of large warehouses where goods are stored and where the big equipment for the fishing business is kept. After the fishing season closes there is not so much doing but the company has a large business with the people of the community and the ranchers of the surrounding country.

The Macleay estate owns property also in Gold Beach. Mr. Macleay gave a site for the school there and also gave the people the lot on which the new church is located.

### Big Ranch Business

The conduct of the big farm is by no means a small matter. Of the 17,000 acres there are about 5,000 acres devoted to the ranch business. In fact there are several ranches which are numbered and which have separate buildings because of their location, but there is one main central ranch about two miles above Wedderburn.

Will White is the ranch manager. He has his residence at the main ranch where there are about twenty different buildings. There are houses for the men employed on the place, blacksmith shop, big barn, slaughter house, chicken houses, duck houses, machine shops and piggeries.

About 75 acres of bottom land is planted in clover and alfalfa both of which are highly productive in the locality.

### Going Into Cattle

Formerly sheep were extensively raised but while the business is profitable Mr. Macleay fears that his land has carried sheep for too many years and that if he continues in that business the ranges will be eaten down too closely. For that reason he is doing away with the sheep to a great extent and moving more into the cattle business. About 800 head of sheep are maintained and about 1,500 head of cattle. Most of these are high grade Dunham raised for beef.

### Cultivated Land

Each year more of the tillable land is being plowed and put into crops so that the land will thus carry more stock than when all is in grass.

Hundreds of head of hogs are raised every year and do splendidly with the clover, alfalfa and other crops which are raised. Hogs can be shipped on the gasoline boats to Astoria for a dollar a head.

The community depends upon the company for its fresh meat. For sale in the store and for the use of the employees a large amount of stock is slaughtered every year. Sheep, hogs and cattle are killed for the home consumption and during the course of the year 250 to 300 head of all kinds of stock come out of the slaughter house in the shape of dressed meat. So it requires the product of a good sized farm to maintain the immediate community.

Turkeys, Indian runner ducks and chickens are raised on a big scale and China pheasants have been secured and released in large numbers on the property.

### Miles of Prairie

The 5,000 acres of ranch land is largely open prairie and for miles the stock roam over the rolling hills. The range extends for eight miles back from the ocean. With the rich bottom land and the facilities for handling it there is no difficulty in raising large amounts of food for the winter months.

The expense of conducting the big property is of course very large. Thousands and thousands of dollars are paid out every year for wages. In fact without the fisheries and the big estate scores of families would find themselves without immediate means for making a living.

### Always Improving

Mr. Macleay has made extensive improvements on the farm during the past year. Drainage ditches have been built to reclaim land which was swampy, new buildings are always being put up and old ones repaired and each year more of the available land is brought under cultivation.

## MUCH DONE TO HELP LOCALITY

New Settlers Taking up Homes and Assistance Given Them to Make a Success

## MARKETS PROVIDED

Dairying is Introduced and Cheese Factory Built to Handle Farmers' Milk

## CROP TESTS BEING MADE

Experiments With the Soil Will Be of Great Benefit to Those Who Have Ranches in the Locality or Who Settle There

Colonization on Rogue river is one matter which will likely receive a good deal of attention during the coming year and which has already been given careful consideration. It is the plan to dispose of portions of the 17,000 acre property of the Macleay estate to settlers, not simply for the purpose of selling land, but particularly to build up the community.

Roderick Macleay, the president of the estate, has his own ideas about the matter of settlement. He says that he could easily cut up portions of the property and sell it by advertising but he does not want to do that. He believes that in order for any settlement to be a success, the land must be occupied by people who are fitted for the particular line of work which they must follow. Then moreover he believes that there must be something provided for them to do. In the case of disposing of farm lands he thinks that there must be a market provided for the products that the settler can raise on the land he buys.

### Introduces Dairying

With this idea in view Mr. Macleay made one very important step during the past year when he established a cheese factory. Convinced that dairying was a profitable business for the small farmer in other parts of Curry and Coos counties, he erected at his own expense the cheese factory so that not only those who settled on his land would have a market but all of the people of the community as well. He thus introduced dairying in Rogue river.

A first class cheese maker was put in charge and the milk of the farmers was bought and they were paid cash. The creamery was not started as a money making proposition but with a view of giving the farmers an added income and thus helping to make the locality more prosperous. The cheese factory had a good year but will have a better one next summer as the farmers did not make provisions for the dry season and the milk production fell off some but this matter has been brought to their attention.

Portions of the land which are suitable for dairying are sold for that purpose. Some of the settlers own their own cows while in some cases cows were furnished.

### Would Build Cannery

The Rogue river country is adapted for fruit growing and Mr. Macleay says that he will put in a fruit and vegetable cannery if sufficient persons will raise the products needed. He will thus make a market for the gardener and the fruit growers who want to live in the Rogue river country. This is the basis of the principles under which Mr. Macleay is endeavoring to settle people around the river and he says it is the only successful way in which a locality can be built up. The market must be furnished and if the right kind of farmers have hold of the land they will make a success and prosper.

Mr. Macleay offered to turn the creamery over as a co-operative concern to the ranchers after they have it fully established if they wish to take hold of it.

### Brings Fine Stock

In order to help the farmers the Macleay estate purchased some of the finest Holstein cattle. On the big ranch dairying is not followed at all, and it is not the intention to take it up as a business, but the fine dairy stock was bought so that the people of the neighborhood could build up their herds and make Rogue river as fine a dairy country as some of the other parts of Curry county.

This past summer about 5,000 acres of land was surveyed and laid out in tracts, and will only be set-

led by persons who are adapted for the work and for purposes for which it is best suited. There is so much of the big property that it is believed portions can easily be spared for the sake of bringing more people to that part of the county.

### Experiments Made

Another great help to those who have settled on Rogue river and also others who live in the neighborhood are the experiments which have been carried on. Most everything that might be expected to succeed in the locality is being tried out.

Alfalfa is already a success and large fields of it are grown on the ranch. In fact it is one of the important crops and is no longer in the experimental stage.

Another crop which is being tried is the spineless cactus. This is a plant which is used extensively in California as a feed for milk cows. It has the advantage of growing on poor, rocky soil, yields very heavily and furnishes a very fine succulent feed for milk cows. This has been planted in several different places and apparently it is going to grow and be a success, though it will take until next year to be certain about it. If this cactus will grow on the rocky hills which are good for little else it means a great boon for the dairymen who can thus turn useless land into high profits.

### Test Dry Hill Lands

During all the year an experimental garden has been maintained on the side of a big hill for the purpose of finding out just what will grow on the hill lands without the use of water. There is a dry spell in that part of the county every year and the purpose was to find out what forage crops would withstand the drought. In these experiments alfalfa proved a success without any irrigation. That which was drilled in rows and cultivated some did better than that which was sowed broadcast. No inoculation of the soil was necessary as burr clover already grows on the land. Kale did fair on this land and sand vetch, sain foin, milo maize, Kaffir corn and soy beans all were a success on the dry hill soil.

### Has Been Great Help

The farmers of the surrounding country have all been given the benefits of what results were attained. In fact Mr. Macleay has a regular experimental station of his own, not only for his own benefit but for that of everyone who wishes to profit by it. The value of these experiments, the introduction of new and blooded stock and the establishment of new markets for the products, has been a vast help to the people and will mean much greater profits for them. It is the intention to go still farther in this work during the coming year so that everyone in the Rogue river country can know just how they can handle their farms to the best advantage and to the greatest profit.

To work out the plans which are in mind for the whole section will take a little time, but much is being done every year in the meantime. The people of Rogue river are prosperous and there is every promise of that section of Curry county one day being one of the most beautiful garden spots of the coast.

## TWO BIG INDUSTRIES MAY BE ESTABLISHED

Cold Storage Plants May Open Field of Deep Sea Fishing—Will Dredge for Gold

There are two new industries which may start in the Rogue river country before another year and both are important and big ones. At Wedderburn and at Port Orford the Macleay estate owns large and finely equipped cold storage plants. They were erected by the former owner when fish was handled in cold storage. There is being formed in Portland a big company which will carry on deep sea fishing on the Oregon and Washington coast on a large scale and will have stations at the smaller harbors where the fish can be held awaiting shipment to the market centers.

It is possible that the Macleay estate will put their two cold storage plants into the company for stock and if this is done it will mean big work for those who want to engage in deep sea fishing off the Curry county coast.

### Mining Prospects

Another project which will likely be started is the handling of the gold bearing sands of the beach. A company of rich men have been formed in San Francisco and expect to bring a large dredge to handle the sands in such quantities that it will pay to extract the gold. It is said that sand running only 30 cents a ton in gold can be profitably handled because it will go through the dredge in such large quantities.

It is also expected later that the beds of the rivers and creeks will be dredged as they are known to bear gold.

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