

# LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER.

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## The Land of the Siletz.

### A Brief Description of the Land Toward Which Many People are Looking for Homes.

By virtue of a proclamation of President Cleveland the lands on the Siletz Indian Reservation not allotted in severalty to the Indians, will be opened for settlement on July 25, 1895, at 12 o'clock noon. In view of the general interest elicited in these lands, a short description of the reservation, its general topography and character of the land will not be amiss, perhaps, at this time.

The Siletz reservation contains a body of land 24 miles long north and south, by about 15 miles wide east and west. It formerly was situated in the counties of Benton and Tillamook, but when the county of Lincoln was created, the north line of the reservation was made the north line of the county, and hence the entire reserve lies within Lincoln county.

#### TOPOGRAPHY.

The general topography of the reservation is hilly or mountainous, with valleys along the streams of varying sizes. The east line of the reservation runs along near the summit of the Coast range, and the land slopes westward to the sea. The slope does not vary in any considerable particular from that of all the other coast counties in the state from the summit of the mountains to the sea.

The principal questions which arises in connection with this reservation are, what are the opportunities in the way of getting good land, and how, and what other opportunities are open? We would answer that the following inducements will be offered at the opening, viz: good farm, fruit and grazing lands, good timber lands, good fishing waters, and all other business opportunities that go with them. We will take them in order named, and endeavor to set them forth in their true lights without exaggeration. These statements will be made from personal observation to a large extent.

The agricultural lands of the Siletz lie along the various streams that wind through its hills and along the low slope of the coast. The largest stream, and the one on which the principal amount of arable land lies is the Siletz river. The Siletz river heads near the summit of the Coast range and empties into the Siletz Bay. In an air line from source to mouth it is perhaps not more than thirty miles, yet so winding and sinuous is this stream that it is estimated to be from 90 to 110 miles in length. All along its length are valleys, or bottoms of varying width. In some places these bottoms will contain hundreds of acres of the richest land that an Oregon mist ever fell upon or the sun ever warmed with its genial rays. The bottoms are something of the same formation as the famous beaver dam lands in some places in the Willamette valley. They are the overflow and deposit decayed vegetable of years accumulation. In the places where these lands have been cleared and farmed they have abundantly yielded in everything tried upon them. The soil is second to none and the climate is the same as other coast counties, all that could be asked. The Salmon river is the next in size to the Siletz, and lies in the north part of the county. The same description, except as to size, applies to it that describes the Siletz. It empties into Salmon bay. Drift creek and Schooner creek, streams of considerable size empty into Siletz bay, while Spencer creek, and

several other small streams empty into the ocean direct, and along all these streams are valleys and bottoms, varying in size according to the stream. The largest bay and the only one of any size emptying into the ocean, is the Siletz Bay. This bay is about four miles long east and west, by about two and a half north and south, at the widest part. Lying on the bay are large bodies of the finest tide lands it has ever been our lot to see. The open tide land is high and from the vegetation growing on it, we would judge that it never overflowed except in the highest winter tides. Back further from the tidelands are large bodies of bottom lands, in the most part covered with alder and vine maple thickets. These lands are the very best of land when they are cleared and cultivated. There are heavy bodies of tidelands along the Salmon river and bay. Between Siletz and Salmon rivers, near the coast is a large lake around which are also hundreds of acres of good lands. Of course, at the present time it is impossible to estimate the amount of tillable land along these streams. Much land which at first observation does not look fit for agriculture, will be found to be good land, only covered with a heavy growth of alder, vine maple, cherry or crab apple. These lands will all be taken and cleared up, and they will surprise one by their fineness, after the brush and timber is cleared off of them. There are 366 sections of land on the reservation, containing 234,240 acres. Of this there has been allotted to the Indians 42,560. This leaves a total of 191,680 acres unallotted. Placing only one-fifth of this as good farm and grazing lands and it would make 38,300 acres in round numbers, or 240 homesteads of 160 acres each to be had on the reserve outside of the Indian allotments. This means 240 homes for actual settlers, homes where they may live and prosper. In addition to this must be added the fact that nearly, if not all of the hill land is well adapted to grazing for cattle, sheep and goats. In fact there are certain parts of the hills in the reserve that are said to be the best grazing lands in the state. They are in some places open mountains on which the grass grows waist high and is very nutritious. Cattle will and do live on these hills the year round, rolling fat. These hill mountains, as they are called, are the stockmen's paradise.

The timber lands of the Siletz are equal to any of the Coast range. The best timber is on the hills and mountains near the heads of the various streams, although all along the rivers are fine bodies of timber that would be considered simply first-class in every respect in other less favored countries. The timber consists principally of fir, both white and yellow, spruce, larch, alder and cedar. There are some of the finest bodies of spruce and fir contiguous to the Siletz and its tributaries that there are in the Coast range. The time is not far distant when there will be mills on the Siletz that will be sawing thousands of feet of fine spruce and fir lumber each day, which will be carried by the lumber schooners to all parts of the coast.

The fishing industries of the Siletz are in their virgin state. The Siletz is said to have the largest run of salmon of any stream between the Columbia and Rogue river. It is a virgin stream and has never been fished out of. On account of the large body of fresh water that runs down the Siletz it is said to attract the large number of salmon. The party or parties that get the first cannery on the Siletz river or Bay is going to reap the greatest harvest that has been had in the fishing industry since the palmy days of the canneries on the Columbia river. All the advantages are present on the Siletz for the successful prosecution of this industry, and it is safe to say that not many months will elapse before some man or firm will erect a cannery on the Siletz and reap the benefit of this great run of fish that are now going to waste.

#### HOW TO OBTAIN THESE LANDS.

As stated above, there will be on

July 25, 1895, at noon, 191,680 acres of land subject to settlement. Of this a portion has been surveyed, and all of that surveyed portion will be subject to entry at that time. There is no school land on the reservation, the state having already received its portion of this land in the way of selections of lieu lands in other parts of the state. The methods of obtaining these lands are through the homestead, timber and stone, and town-site laws. Some of these laws have already been published in this paper, but will be again published here. By the terms of the act ratifying the treaty made with the Indians the land entered under the homestead law will be governed by the general provisions of the homestead law with the following exceptions, to quote from the act, "Provided, however, that each settler under and in accordance with the provisions of said homestead law shall, at the time of making his original entry, pay the sum of fifty cents per acre in addition to the fees now required by law, and at the time of making final proof pay the further sum of one dollar per acre, final proof to be made within five years from date of making entry, and three years actual residence on the land shall be established by such evidence as is now required in homestead proofs, as a pre-requisite to title or patent." The provisions of the homestead law, to be brief are: That entrymen must be 21 years of age or over, or the head of a family; that he is a citizen of the United States, or has declared his intention to become such; must describe accurately the land he desires to enter; that he is not the owner of more 160 acres of land in any state or territory; that he is making the entry in good faith and not for the purpose of speculation, nor in the interest of person or corporation, but for his own use and benefit. The fee to accompany such entry is about \$16 for 160 acres, which added to the cash payment of fifty cents per acre makes a total of \$36 required to enter 160 acres. It is not absolutely necessary to enter a full 160 acres unless the entryman so desires, but he can enter 40 acres, or any amount from that up to 160 acres. The fees would be in proportion to those named above. Settlement can be made on unsurveyed land, and the settler has the exclusive right to enter said land for a period of three months after such land is surveyed and subject to entry. The time of actual residence may be counted in at the time of making proof.

Under the timber law the applicant must file with the register and receiver of the land office a statement, in duplicate, setting forth the exact description of the land, and a sworn statement that it is unfit for agricultural purposes and valuable only for timber; that it is uninhabited, and is not used for mining purposes; that the applicant is not acting to acquire title for anyone else, but in good faith for himself. A notice must be published for sixty days in the county in which the land is located, and at the expiration of such notice the applicant must pay the land office \$2.50 per acre for such land. Should there be no adverse claim the patent will be duly issued.

The principal provisions of the town-site law have already been published, and will be of no material interest at this time.

The principal and most important question to be determined by the prospective settler who would make a home on the Siletz is this: Is all the good land allotted to the Indians? To this we would say, not by any means. It is true that allotments have been made of all the improved lands, and in fact, of all the land close to the agency. But as you go up and down the river there can be seen hundreds of acres of just as good land as any of that owned by the Indians yet unallotted. There are large bottoms in bends of the river that yet open for the sturdy settler. What is true of the Siletz is also true of every other stream in the reservation in proportion to the size of the streams. Many of the Indian allotments have been taken solely with the view of fronting the river,

and the land is wholly unfit for agriculture. In no instance after you leave what is known as the lower farm six miles below the Agency, does a single allotment reach more than a half mile back from the river, and in many cases they do not extend nearly so far. There are bottoms that are two or three miles wide. There are many good homes in these when the strong and willing arm of the farmer puts them in shape.

For the man who wishes to settle on the Siletz and feels uncertain of making a living for year or two, or until he gets his ground partly in a state of cultivation, there is a chance to lease Indian land for cultivation. The Indians can now lease their lands for from one to three years for farming purposes. This would give a man a chance to get a home started, some land cleared up and a start made.

In conclusion we would say that the Siletz country does not have all of the advantages in the world, but to the man who is toiling his life out on a rented farm, offers a home where he can be free and independent. It offers an opportunity for a man of limited means to get a good piece of land in a good county in a good state. The country is going to settle up. There are hundreds of men who are looking for just such a chance to get land. So if a person wants to make a home where every effort of honest toil will be rewarded; where the killing hot winds and the destructive cyclones are unknown; where it can be truly said that, "the husbandman tickles the earth with a hoe and it laughs forth an abundant harvest;" where nature has been so prolific that man can live with the smallest amount of effort, and the balance of his labors be fully rewarded, then let him come to the land of the Siletz in Lincoln county. We can picture in our minds the happy, prosperous and contented people that the land of the Siletz will contain and shelter in its beautiful valleys and on its sunny hill-sides before many years have passed away. Can anyone imagine a more entrancing picture than a home on the banks of the beautiful Siletz, with the field and the orchard on which the husbandman can rely with calm content, knowing that he has only to put forth the effort of his labor and it will be fully rewarded. His flocks and herds pasture on the hillsides and in the glades; his garden, grain and fruits ripen in the sun, his bees gather honey from the clover fields, the buds and the blossoms; the timber furnishes his fuel, fencing, etc.; the river gives him fish, and in the forest are deer and other game. Should not peace, prosperity and contentment rest upon the man who makes his home under these conditions? Then come and view the land of the Siletz, one of the last Indian reservations ever to be opened for settlement by Uncle Sam. You may not like it. You might wish for the broad acres of a prairie where you could wear mind and body out trying to grow corn or wheat. You may not take kindly to our country with its diversified products. But come and see the land anyway. View its hills and its valleys. Gaze on its tall, majestic trees. Take a canoe ride down the river and pay tribute to old Medicine Rock. Gaze on the grand old Pacific ocean as it breaks on the shingly beach. See all of it that is to be seen, and then if you do not think you could not live and prosper amid its hills and valleys, return from whence you came. But come and see the land of the Siletz.

An exchange says: "The much talked about bloomer bicycle outfit for ladies is simply a pair of trousers, very baggy at the knees, abnormally full about the pistol pocket, and considerably loose where you strike a match. The garment is cut decollete at the south end, and the bottoms are tied around the knee to keep the mice out. You can't pull it over your head as you do a skirt, but you sit on the floor and put it on just as you would your stockings, one foot in each compartment. You can easily tell which side to have in front by the button on the neckband."

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## BARGAINS IN REAL ESTATE

We have some good Bargains in Real Estate placed in for sale. Below we give a description of a few of them:

160 acre ranch on Beaver creek; good house, barn and outbuildings; this farm has lots of meadow land and is an ideal dairy farm. Price \$1,200, and worth double the money.

159 acre ranch on Big Elk five miles above Elk City; some plowed and 7 acres slashed and in timothy; house, good barn 40x48; on county road, school within 1/2 mile. A good stock ranch. Price \$1,400 on good terms.

120 acre ranch five miles from Toledo; frame house and barn, about 40 acres under fence, orchard and small fruit. A splendor of land with a good body bottom. Price \$600 cash.

Two lots in Prior Section to Highland; one on one inside. Price for the all cash.

Two lots in Stanton's Toledo, well located and school house. Price \$75.

A well selected stock of dise to trade for a good Yaquina Bay; must be or bottom land and be a good trade will be given right kind of a ranch.

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