

KLAMATH COUNTY at a GLANCE



THE LAKESIDE INN
KLAMATH FALLS OREGON



JUDGE G.T. BALDWIN



ALEX MARTIN, JR.
KLAMATH FALLS



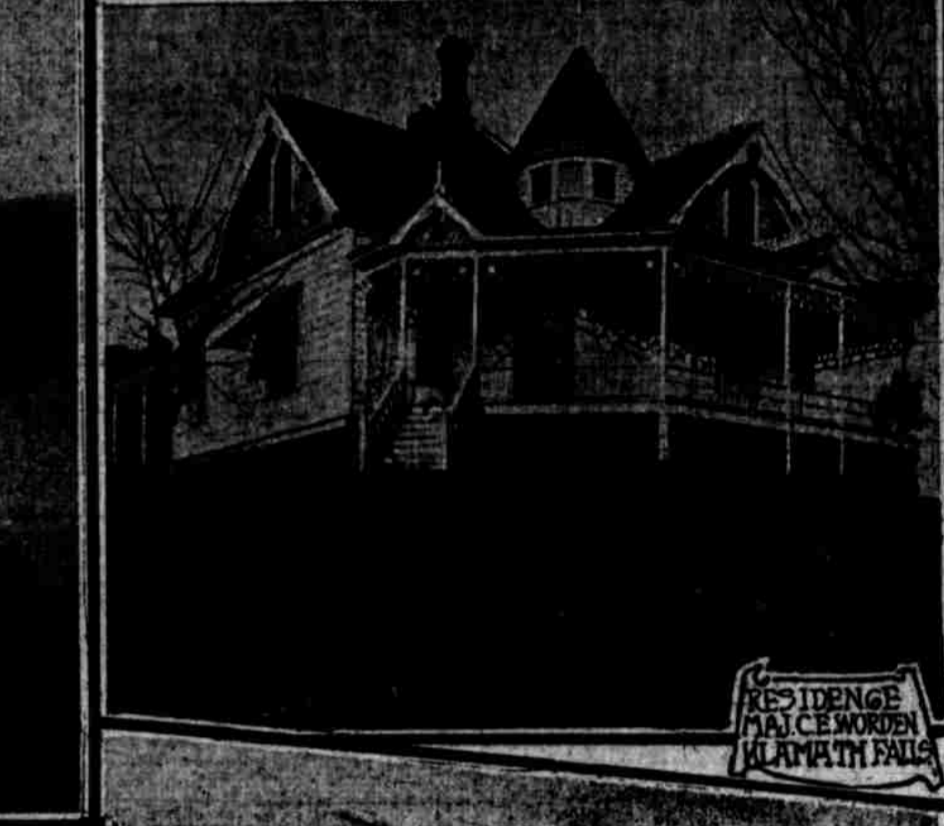
INTERIOR VIEW OF
HOUSTON'S OPERA HOUSE KLAMATH FALLS



GEORGE T.
BALDWIN BLOCK
KLAMATH FALLS



CRATER LAKE KLAMATH COUNTY



RESIDENCE
MAJOR C.E. WORDEN
KLAMATH FALLS



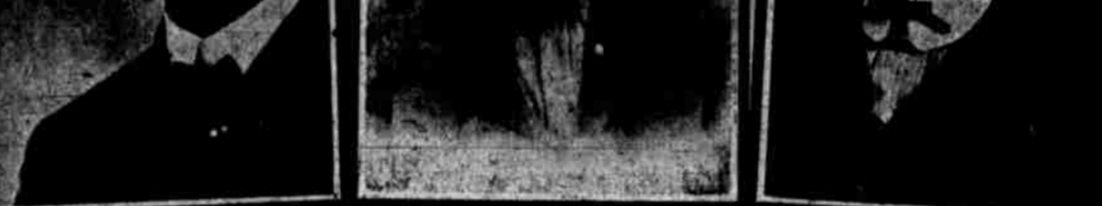
IRRIGATION
CANAL KLAMATH COUNTY



N.S. NEWELL,
COUNTY COMMISSIONER



REAMES AND
JENNINGS BLOCK KLAMATH FALLS



MAJOR C.E. WORDEN



B. ST. GEORGE BISHOP

(By Paul de Lanoy)
KLAMATH county is attracting more attention than any other section of country under process of development in the Pacific northwest. It is blessed with many superior advantages over what is known as interior Oregon, a vast region sparsely settled and isolated from the outside world, but teeming with opportunities for the homeseeker, the laborer, the man of capital and, in fact, every vocation where industry and conservative effort are brought to bear.

In former years this great scope of country was the stockmen's paradise. Men grew rich in a few years from the results of the superior grazing on the hills and in the valleys of the frass and unmoisted range. Thousands of horses, hundreds of thousands of cattle and millions of sheep browsed upon the bountiful pastures that nature provided, while their owners took life easy, surrounded by a small army of employes, and prospered as though by a magician's wand.

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But a change came. Owners and their stock of all kinds increased, and the range began to diminish. Heretofore the settlers had depended upon pasture to do it all, not dreaming what she could accomplish with a little assistance. They began to fence the rich valleys, and some even ventured to use the plow and seed the lands to domestic grasses to meet the demand brought about by the rapid depletion of the ranges.

Wherever water could be procured it was found that the soil was the most productive ever discovered. The whole region was once a volcanic-ridden country, and in the valleys was deposited a volcanic ash, a pulverized soil of unknown depth and rich in the production of vegetation of all kinds where water can be obtained. This soil is probably unequalled elsewhere in the world.

Experimental Farming.
 But as the ranges gave way before the increasing herds of stock, the demand for domestic grasses so urgent that hundreds began the industry of hay-raising in every county of the inland Empire. It was not long until every available acre of land accessible to water was taken and fenced and used for raising hay. Some even braved the ridicule of their neighbors and tried vegetables. These proved a success and later grains, fruits and berries were raised in abundance. Further experiments were made and it was found that practically every crop that mother earth will produce could be raised successfully in interior Oregon.

But water soon became the most important object in the cultivation of the land. Millions of acres of the richest soil under the sun lay parching and barren for the want of moisture. The farmers tilled to the waters' edge of the lakes and streams, and built crude reservoirs and ditches and wheels, utilizing every inch of water and land that limited capital could procure. But still it was the reclamation of but a dot of soil here and there in the vast area of interior Oregon—an inland empire, more than 400 miles long and 200 miles wide.

By the constant effort of the advocates of government irrigation, attention was finally attracted to the Oregon country. Throughout the arid region the engineers and experts have sounded and measured the lakes and water courses and analyzed the soil. They have found in many places adaptable water sites, and wherever the soil is pronounced the best.

A number of projects for irrigation

have been favorably reported upon, and many are under favorable consideration, and it is believed that millions of acres will be reclaimed in Oregon under government supervision within the next five years. Hundreds of private corporations have entered the field, and a large amount of development and reclamation work is being done already.

The second great requirement of the inland Empire is better transportation facilities. This has been her long standing need, and now with irrigation prospects and the increase in population, railroads are speed to water in demand. But the former are promised. From every point of the compass railroad surveys are being made and men are behind the projects who give weight to the popular belief that within a few years the congested condition of the inland traffic will be overcome by steam transportation.

Klamath County.
 Klamath county has become the favored spot of this vast country of magnificent resources. Her citizens claim that her superior natural advantages have brought this about, but be this as it may, she is soon to have all that the inland Empire has longed for.

Over 300,000 acres of land are to be reclaimed by the government, and a contract has been entered into with a strong corporation within the past few days whereby a railroad is guaranteed from Weed, a town on the Southern Pacific in northern California, to Klamath Falls, the county seat of the county. Besides this gigantic scheme of the government, a large private corporation is in the field, advancing work for the reclamation of a large area of land. There is also a number of other smaller irrigation enterprises, which already have thousands of acres under their system. But these matters have already been covered in the Journal of prior date, and it will be here the purpose here to tell of the general features of Klamath county, its opportunities, its towns and its business institutions.

The county has an area of over 4,200 square miles. This comprised of beautiful valleys, rolling hills, towering mountains and magnificent lakes and water courses. Besides, its splendid farming and stock raising facilities, it contains the finest timber belt in interior Oregon. It is conservatively estimated that there are at least 15,000,000,000 feet of pine now standing awaiting the loggers the mill, and the transport of this into the east, where the timber consists of both yellow and white pine of a superior quality, which gives it a demand in the east, where the white pines have been exhausted.

The present assessment rolls of Klamath county show that only 68,714 acres of land are now assessed as tillable. The value of these is placed at a little over \$280,000. The number of non-tillable acres appearing on the roll is about 420,000, with a value of about \$1,500,000. The improvements on decided land amount to \$168,000, while those on town-lots amount to \$190,000. The value of steamboats and machinery is placed at over \$12,000. The demand on the horse market has decreased the number to about 6,000 head, while there are about 25,000 head of cattle appearing on the assessment rolls. There are less sheep in Klamath county than the average interior county, there being about 10,000 head appearing on the tax roll. The present total valuation of

property in the county is a little more than a half million dollars.

Schools Are Excellent.
 Klamath county, like all of the interior country, is in the advance on the subject of education. It is the ambition of all the people to see their children educated, and they have all encouraged the construction of good buildings, modern equipment and the employment of good teachers. The county is divided into convenient school districts and these, like with one another in making the best showing. The sentiment for education is so universal that the county court at its first sitting of the present year made the provision for the construction of a modern high school building to cost when completed \$25,000. Work will begin on this structure early in the spring and it will be completed before summer is over.

In nearly all of the towns of the county there are beautiful churches. Christianity is forging its way, as well as the business institutions of the country. The different denominations are pretty well represented and people coming in from the outside usually find a church of their preference with which to unite.

The county offers superior opportunities to the sportsman, the camper and lover of outdoor life to any portion of country in the Pacific northwest. It has its high mountains, its beautiful lakes, wild game, consisting of deer, elk, bear, antelope and moose, and the most famous animals which roam the plains and forests, and its lakes and streams are filled with fish of every quality. The lakes and streams teem with water fowl of every kind. Hundreds of wild geese and ducks of the finest species brood their young on the waters of Klamath county. In fact, every kind of water fowl known to the sportsman may be found in abundance.

Scenery of the County.
 The magazines and newspapers of the country have been telling for years about the beautiful scenery of Klamath county. Crater lake, the most famous production of nature, is here, and is a portion of a panorama of grandeur which has been converted into a national park and to which thousands come annually to visit. It has the most beautiful lakes in the world. The Upper Klamath is 40 miles long with an average of 10 miles in width, and is navigable throughout its entire length and breadth. It is fed by two large rivers and numerous smaller streams and many of these are navigable for smaller craft. Into the lake the men with the rod and gun may penetrate and enjoy unexcelled sport.

This lake is connected with Lake Ewauna by Link river. The two lakes are one mile apart, and the river is a gradual fall, the water tumbling over the rocks with a roaring noise, the foot of which on the shores of Lake Ewauna is situated the town of Klamath Falls, the county seat of the county. From Lake Ewauna flows the Klamath river into the Lower Klamath lake, another vast body of water lying in Ore-

gon and California, which is also navigable. In fact, Lake Ewauna, Klamath river and Lower Klamath lake are all used at present for navigation purposes, with Klamath Falls the market for the products of the country adjoining them.

Opportunities Are Many.
 The opportunities are vast in this county. For the farmer and stock-raiser superior inducements are offered. The demand for stock even at the present time is beyond the capacity to supply. It is the same with the products of the soil and with the reclamation of nearly 400,000 acres of now lying idle and the introduction of 1,000 or more new families into the county, the demand in every way and the opportunities will increase.

Business and the professions of all kinds are prospering in the small towns of the county. None of them is overdone, but to the contrary, there are many openings. The business man must have money and possess good habits and business tact, for he finds here men possessed of all of these. It is the same in the professions. In fact, there are no drones in any line here and this class is not acceptable.

Owige to the lack of railroads, many necessary business enterprises have been kept away. Among the most noticeable institutions in demand are laundries, creameries and small manufactories. The persons first to establish these will reap a rich harvest. Skilled mechanics and carpenters will also be greatly in demand in the coming spring. New buildings are going up everywhere, and this class is already largely in demand. Painters, paperhangers and sign-painters as well as plasterers, stone and brick masons and brickmakers will all find a rich field here.

County Organization.
 Klamath county has made but few mistakes in selecting the men to fill her county offices. The county is sparsely settled and most of her citizens have been here for years, and all are well acquainted. By this means they have been able to elect honest and conservative men to office, with very rare exceptions. Especially is she favored with her present incumbents, George T. Baldwin, the county judge, and N. S. Merrill and Fred Melhaas, the two commissioners, form a stronghold as the executives of the county affairs. They are among the wealthiest and best business men of the county, and belong to the old Jeffersonian Democratic school, in which they make economy and careful business-like management of county affairs their motto. Still, they are broad-minded in public affairs and have made the improvement of roads and building of bridges a specialty during their administration. They have also just ordered the construction of a new \$25,000 public high school building. Since they are among the largest taxpayers in the county, there is but little complaint of any public improvement

ordered by them. The only complaint that can ever be made would be by some one who should attempt to graft the public treasury, for this would never be entertained by the present county court.

Silas Obenchain, the sheriff, won out by his popularity and is making the county a good officer. George Chastain, the clerk, is a Democrat, and carries out the orders of the court with economy. J. G. Wright, the county superintendent of schools, is a broad-minded educator and has improved the entire system during his term of office. J. P. Lee, the assessor, understands the valuations of property and is getting the rolls in excellent shape. Mont E. Hutchison is county surveyor, and knows every line in the county, having lived here nearly all of his life. Dr. George Merryman, a well-known young physician, is the county coroner. Alex Lewis, the county treasurer, is a young man who has made a success in the economical management of his own affairs, and is giving entire satisfaction as county treasurer.

Klamath Falls.
 Klamath Falls, the county seat of the county, is today the favored town of interior Oregon. It lies in the great Klamath basin at the mouth of Link river, near which point the great irrigation canal will receive its water to irrigate 300,000 acres lying in Klamath county and northern California. The town is an old one, but within the past 12 months it has put on a new appearance and is now building and increasing as if by magic. It was originally called Linkville, and around it cluster many stories and legends of the olden times. It was at Klamath Falls that the temporary fort was constructed, and to which the people fled for safety during all the early Indian wars of the Klamath country. It was from this point that the stories of the bloody massacres of the early pioneer days, the Ben Wright raid, the assassination of General Canby and his staff, the terrible struggle with Captain Jack in his stronghold and the long-drawn-out battle in the lava beds, were sent out to startle the world.

It was the central point of all the stirring events of the many Indian wars. It has been the central point of the great stock industry of southern Oregon, and it is now to be the central point of the most gigantic irrigation project yet undertaken in the United States. It is beautifully situated on Lake Ewauna, which in Indian lore means "Elbow," the lake forming a complete elbow, connecting the upper Klamath with the lower Klamath lake, with the assistance of Link and Klamath rivers. Sheltered on the north by a low range of mountains, it is never gets extremely cold here in winter, and the breeze from the many lakes surrounding it make it a delightful place in summer.

From its early history it has been a good business point, and now its few dozen business houses are expected to be increased by 100 within the next two years, and its population of 800 or 1,000 is expected to increase 3,000 within the same period. There is an opening here

for nearly every class of business, and for all of the trades and professions. Not that most of them are unrepresented, but because of the rapid increase in population. But a few business enterprises are greatly in demand here. A steam laundry night and day from the start, and all the small manufacturing enterprises would meet with success.

Business Institutions.
 The town now has two good sawmills, which will be taxed to their utmost to supply the demand upon them in the early spring.

Ackley Brothers have a new sawmill on Lake Ewauna in Klamath Falls. This sawmill has a capacity of 12,000 feet daily, and although it was only completed last August, it is doing a thriving business. The capacity is being increased through the winter months for the spring work. This mill procures its logs from the Keno country, 12 miles distant, which are towed by boats up the Klamath river, and through Lake Ewauna. The lumber consists principally of fir and pine and is of good quality. The mill cuts to a local trade, and is not yet able to supply the demand. It expects by the end of the coming season. It has electric lights, telephones and modern improvements, and the young men behind it are worthy of the strong support they are receiving.

C. S. and R. S. Moore are the pioneer sawmill men of the county. Their mill is situated at the head of Link river, on the shore of the great Upper Klamath lake, a mile from town. They draw their logs from the great timber belt surrounding the upper lake, which is regarded as the largest in southern Oregon. For many years they have supplied the entire Klamath country with building material, and state that they will make night and day runs during the coming season to meet the demand made upon them.

General Merchants.
 Klamath Falls has some large and enterprising mercantile establishments. Among this number are Reames & Jennings, George T. Baldwin, Duffy & Co. and L. F. Willis.

Reames & Jennings have one of the largest blocks in town, and consider themselves the pioneers in their line. They have the largest quarters and probably the most extensive stock in the county. Their financial rating is practically unlimited. They do an annual bulk business of at least \$100,000.

George T. Baldwin has the most beautiful business block in the town. He considers that he is the pioneer merchant of Klamath Falls, having been engaged in business here since May 5, 1851. He carries a large line of general hardware and implements and vehicles. He is one of the most conservative and successful business men in the county.

Duffy & Co. general mercantile dealers, is composed of two enterprising and thorough business men, Fred L. Houston and E. B. Henry. This institution has been established five years and does an annual volume of business of \$40,000.

L. F. Willis, ex-county judge, runs the Electric store, a general merchandise establishment, where everything is kept in that line. He has been in business eight years and does an annual volume of business of \$30,000.

George R. Hurst is doing a good hardware business. He handles all kinds of hardware and implements and is preparing to enlarge his business the coming season. His establishment has been open four years and he reports a satisfactory trade.

Shallock & Daggett have the leading

grocery store in town. They are young men of special enterprise, and are doing a remarkably large business. The freight alone by way of the Klamath Lake railway amounted to over \$60,000 pounds the past year.

B. St. George Bishop has a furniture store that would rival those of the cities. He owns his own building and has a large stock of the best quality of furniture ever brought into the interior. Besides being one of the most enterprising business men in the town, he is a councillor, and prominently spoken of as the next mayor of Klamath Falls.

H. J. Winters has the modern up-to-date jewelry store. He is an enterprising young man, and is forging his way to the front among the Klamath business men.

The Klamath County bank with Alex Martin, Jr., as cashier and manager, is one of the most substantial institutions in the county. It is a pioneer enterprise and backed by strong financiers.

Worden & Son have the largest real estate business in the town. They own a number of their own additions, and are supplying business and residence sites. Major C. E. Worden, the senior member of the firm, is one of the best business men in Klamath county. He is a large property owner, a strong backer of the First National bank of Klamath Falls, and is in the lead in promoting public improvements.

Thomas Newton owns the Mammoth livery stable. While a very young man, he is regarded as one of the most enterprising business men in the county.

The Klamath County Abstract company is one of the most reliable in the state. It has a complete set of abstracts to date. J. G. Pierce is its manager.

Martin Bros. flouring mills, situated on Link River, near town, is a modern up-to-date structure with the latest equipment. It has a large capacity, and is kept running on full time to meet the demands upon it. It turns out the very best grade of flour, and this is sold to local dealers, and to a trade in a radius of 100 miles. The Martins are born millers. Three of the brothers have mills at Klamath Falls and Merrill, while their father, who learned his trade in England, has a large mill in Rogue river valley.

The Lakeside inn, conducted by Mrs. M. McMillan, is the finest hostelry in southern Oregon. It has been recently remodelled, and additions built, which increases its capacity to 75 rooms. It is newly furnished, sets a splendid table and is taxed to its utmost limit, owing to the great bulk of travel into the Klamath country.

Lewis & Pell have a modern up-to-date blacksmith shop, and do work equal to that of city machinists.

M. H. Wampler has a first-class butcher shop.

Captain T. W. Siemens and Ky Taylor each have modern barber shops. They are pioneers of the place, and skilled artists in their line.

The Klamath Lake Navigation company has a well equipped steamboat service plying on the lakes and water courses of Klamath county. Captain Woodbury, the manager, is an affable gentleman, and splendid sailor. He took the government party which was here recently on a tour of the lakes, and showed them the wonders of those bodies of water.

Houston's opera house is one of the institutions of pride to the community. It was built long in advance of the town, but the latter has grown not only to appreciate it, but to patronize it.