

WHEELER COUNTY LAND OF LIMITED CAPITAL AND HOPE

Great Railroadless Area Offers Homes for Homeless Who Are Willing to Do Their Share to Win Success.

By James S. Stewart, Editor of the Fossil, Or., Journal.

Fossil, Or., Feb. 22.—Wheeler county, Oregon, offers a most inviting field for many hundreds of home-seekers, provided they are of the right sort, and not afraid of a little outdoor work now and then, accompanied by the slight inconveniences that of necessity are found in all new and partially developed countries. Especially is there a place here for the man of limited capital who desires to purchase a tract of land in a comparatively raw condition, and develop it into a costly and profitable farm home. For here, owing to being yet some distance from the railroad, good lands can be bought for a trifling sum, capable of producing crops that in point of quality as well as yield, can not be surpassed anywhere on God's great earth.

Here the homeseeker can procure land at from nothing up to \$100 per acre, the former being the price of a homestead on government land and the latter the price of orchard land and alfalfa land subject to irrigation. In between these minimum and maximum figures comes grazing land at \$10 and grain land at \$20 to \$30 per acre. For the benefit of the homeseeker who is too poor to buy land at any price, hundreds of 160-acre homesteads, containing from 40 to 100 acres of unimproved plow land, with the remainder of excellent bunchgrass, are still open to entry in this county. But even intending homesteaders should have a few hundred dollars in hand, to carry them through till their homesteads are in crop bearing condition.

Sparsely Settled District.
Wheeler county is about 80 miles long by 40 miles wide, and this vast domain is inhabited as shown by the statistics by only 2434 people, of whom about 500 live in the towns of Fossil, Mitchell and Spray. It is a mixed farming and grazing county, and, being exceedingly well watered, is especially adapted to diversified farming. The land is for the most part hilly and rolling, and abounds with countless springs of purest mountain water, there being from one to a dozen living springs on almost every quarter section.

Horses, cattle, sheep, and poultry are all raised here at much less expense than on the high priced lands of older settled sections, and the prices obtained are just as good as, and in some cases better than, they are in the east. In fact, it is a common thing for cattle, hogs and poultry to be shipped west from Nebraska and other eastern states to supply the rapidly growing Oregon market, at a considerably higher transportation cost than of the Wheeler county farmer, whose livestock raised on his land is therefore actually worth more on the farm than that of his eastern competitor who raises his stock on \$100 land, and still makes money at it.

Advantages of Stock Raising.
Another advantage that the Wheeler county stock farmer has over his eastern competitor is that here the winters are short, snow seldom lying on the ground more than one month each winter, while in the east the winter or stock feeding period extends over many months. This winter we have had one week of snow, and less than one week of frost, and today the pastures are all green with a bountiful crop of bunch grass, on which livestock are fattening from day to day without being fed a pound of hay or feed of any kind. And the fact that during the month of February milk cows are giving a plentiful supply of milk from pastures alone, gives birth to the thought that dairying, hitherto almost entirely neglected in this county, is a branch of diversified farming that could be, and no doubt soon will be, engaged in by many industrious homeseekers with both profit and pleasure.

Markets at Hand.
The towns, and the large stockmen, with their many employees, afford a market for good butter that is now largely supplied by importation, and a few good cows can very easily be made to provide at least half the living of a family on the farm. The other half can as easily be made out of turkeys and chickens, for the raising of which

the natural conditions in this county are unsurpassed. With almost no expense, 100 turkeys, and in many cases more, can be raised by the small farmer each year, and they will sell at Thanksgiving time, when any seven months old, for \$2.00 to \$2.50 each. The farms are so well watered, and the grass is so abundant and nutritious, that the rooster and his flock, roam around at will from spring till fall, picking up their living as they go, and the only feed they get is a small daily supplemental ration of grain during the last two or three weeks of their existence. Hens are likewise a very profitable side line on a Wheeler county farm, and the surplus eggs, to say nothing of the meat, go a long way toward furnishing the family groceries.

Hogs Pay Well.
Hogs are becoming a large source of revenue in this county, and will become more and more so as the years go by. The advent of the hog-tight fence within the last few years has greatly stimulated and almost revolutionized the hog raising industry, as it permits the hog to "rustle" his own living on the farm without damaging his (the farmer's) neighbors. The hog, like the turkey, is taken from the pasture in the fall and fattened on grain a few weeks before being slaughtered.

Beginnings of Bee Culture.
Bee culture is thus far in its infancy in Wheeler county, but those who have tried it in an experimental way have found that excellent honey can be produced at nominal cost on the farm. And while the raising of bees will, as a rule, be only a small side issue, it is not to be despised, for it is one of several sidelines that can with ordinary effort be made to pay all the expenses of the farm, the main crop of grain, hay, hogs, horses, cattle, sheep, or whatever they may be, for profit, to be expended in making the farm more valuable, or to be laid away in the bank for a rainy day.

General Crops Profitable.
Wheeler county produces alfalfa, hay, grain of all kinds, potatoes and other vegetables, and all hard fruits, including grapes, apricots and peaches, in abundance and of unsurpassed quality. Add to these products an annual revenue derived from a few colts, a few milch cows, a few hives of bees, and a few dozen turkeys and turkeys, and you have the ideal diversified farm—the kind that many thousands are looking for—and it can be obtained here on easier terms than anywhere else in the world.

Irrigation and Water Power.
For the man of large capital who desires a larger outlook than this Wheeler county offers the many available irrigation and water power projects of the John Day river, which flows through the county from one end to the other. There are many thousands of acres of richest river bottom lands, capable of producing ten tons of alfalfa to the acre, or fruit and hops sufficient to supply the entire Pacific coast, lie dormant awaiting his coming.

In homes of agricultural industry in Wheeler county want never peeps, while prudent economy invariably brings a competency and in many cases wealth. On a farm in this new territory, over and above the farmer's lands, the silent, certain advance in the value of his property, works for him day and night. Here the lack of riches does not bar any one from social life of the best character, as it does in the older settled sections. Here every good man is as good as his neighbor, if not better, and is so regarded.

Diversified Farming.
All the elements required to make the best type of diversified farms are here, and the few settlers on the ground have barely scratched the surface. The climate is well high ideal, with its clear and bracing atmosphere, neither too hot nor too cold. Here cyclones never darken the sky, nor blizzards rage and blast with icy breath, and prostrations from excessive heat are unknown. The next few years should see a wonderful transformation in this county. The towns of Wheeler county—Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray—are all supplied

with excellent public schools, and there is a county high school in Fossil, the county seat, whose graduates enter the state colleges and universities on even terms with those from the high schools of the largest cities. The towns are all well supplied with churches and lodges, and are up-to-date in all social affairs. There is also at least a six months' term of school in every rural district.

There is excellent daily mail service, with rural deliveries, throughout the county, and almost every farm has rural telephone service, connecting with long distance lines.

Millionaires Do Not Trouble.
There are no millionaires, nor near millionaires, in Wheeler county, and no paupers. Poverty, in its generally accepted sense, is unknown. The man who wants to be a millionaire need not come here at present, as the conditions are not ripe for the accumulation of vast riches, but he who, despising not small things, believes with the Scottish bard Robert Burns that:

"To make a happy fireside clime
To weans and wife,
That's the true pathos and sublime of human life,"
will make no mistake in casting his lot in this field, and if he fail to make the happy home the poet alludes to, it will be his own fault and not that of the land or the conditions. Here his children will find breathing space and elbow room, and will grow up strong in mind and body. Fit for any tasks or honors they may in after life be called upon to undertake or assume.

Mrs. Mary Van Meter Dies.

(Special to The Journal.)
Forest Grove, Or., Feb. 22.—Mrs. Mary Van Meter died at her home in this city Tuesday, age 58 years, and was buried in Forest View cemetery yesterday, Rev. Hiram Gould officiating. Mrs. Van Meter was born in Overton county, Tennessee, in 1855. She was married to Martin Van Meter in 1882, and the family came here in 1907. Besides her husband and one son, Mrs. Van Meter is survived by three sisters and one brother.

Last of Tribe Dies.

(Special to The Journal.)
San Jose, Cal., Feb. 22.—Mrs. Josephine Candiano, 92, last surviving member of the Tule Indians, is dead here. She was born near the first site of the Santa Clara mission and lived there under three flags.

Aged Woman Passes.

(Special to The Journal.)
Forest Grove, Or., Feb. 22.—Mrs. Martha Powers, age 83 years, died at her home one mile east of this city Tuesday

CHURCH MAY SELL EELLS' PROPERTY

Forest Grove Pioneer Church Allowed to Dispose of Land Not Needed.

(Special to The Journal.)
Forest Grove, Or., Feb. 22.—By the action recently taken by the heirs of Cushing Eells, who in 1837 gave a block of ground in this city for church purposes, a considerable addition to the business property of the city will in the near future be added.

Rev. Cushing Eells was missionary to the west in the '30s, being located in the Spokane country before the Whitman massacre. He came to Forest Grove to teach school in the '50s, and while a resident of this city donated a block of ground to the Congregational Church society, providing that should the property ever be used for other purposes than for a church the title should revert to his heirs.

This is one of the most valuable blocks for business in the city, and the church people, who have no need for more than a quarter of the block, have long desired to sell a part of it. This has heretofore been refused by the heirs of Cushing Eells, but the only surviving son of the old missionary was in Forest Grove this week and stated he, together with the other heirs, would agree to let the church dispose of at least one half of the block for business purposes. The south half of the block, which is in the very center of the business district, will be sold. The north half of the block will be retained by the church, and after a lapse of a certain number of years this half of the block will come into the absolute possession of the church society.

Forest Grove Pioneer Church
Allowed to Dispose of Land Not Needed.

after a protracted illness, Mrs. Powers was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1828. She was married to J. H. Powers in 1851 and came to Washington county with her husband from Missouri in 1833. Mr. Powers died in 1903. Mrs. Powers is survived by four children: View cemetery.

Mrs. Mary Traub, Warrensburg, Mo., Lewis Powers, Cornelius; Miss Sallie Powers, at home, and W. R. Powers, Salem. Funeral services were held today at their residence, Rev. C. H. Hilton officiating, with interment in Forest View cemetery.

Positively the last week of our alterations sale. Prices are reduced so that any one can afford to buy. Terms made to satisfy the customer. Call and look over our bargain list. Kohler & Chas., 375 Washington street.



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Week End Bargains of Our Removal Sale!

Money Saving Opportunities in 25 Depts.

Special Sale of "Cross" Gloves will end on Saturday—you will have to hurry if you would be fitted.

<p>Removal Sale Prices Rubber Goods FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</p> <p>\$2.00 Red Combination Water Bottle and Fountain Syringe, 2-qt., guaranteed\$1.29</p> <p>\$1.25 Red Fountain Syringe, 2-qt., guaranteed, rapid flow tubing, 3 hard rubber fittings93¢</p>	<p>Removal Sale Prices Toilet Preparations TAKE ADVANTAGE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</p> <p>50c Pompeian Cream.....29¢ 50c Capillaris29¢ 50c Pinaud's Eau de Quinine.....29¢ 25c Holmes' Frostilla, 2 for25¢ 25c Euthymol Tooth Paste.....9¢</p>	<p>Removal Sale Prices on Bristle Goods FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</p> <p>\$5 Military Brushes.....\$3.98 Ivory, Ebony and Rosewood backs, fine bristles.</p> <p>\$1.25 English Hair Brush.....89¢ Bristles set in rubber.</p> <p>40c and 45c Kent's English Tooth Brush at33¢</p> <p>EXTRA SPECIAL \$2.25 and \$3.25 Parisian Ivory Mirrors priced at98¢</p>	<p>Removal Sale Prices Bath Towels FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</p> <p>Supply your needs at these removal prices, fine bath towels of ample size.</p> <p>75c Turkish Towels now29¢ 35c Turkish Towels now19¢ \$2.50 All-Linen Towels, 39x72, \$1.49 5c Face Cloths, now 7 for25¢</p>
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<p>Removal Sale Prices Medicinally Pure Wines, Liquors</p> <p>\$1.25 Old Taylor, full quarts, bottled in bond 98¢ \$1.00 Old Lewis Hunter89¢ (3 for \$2.50, 5 for \$4.00)</p> <p>\$1.00 Chicken Cock, 8-year-old, bot. in bond 89¢ (3 for \$2.50, 5 for \$4.00)</p> <p>\$1 Old Carlisle, bottled in bond, at79¢ (3 for \$2.25, 5 for \$3.50)</p> <p>\$1.25 Old Tom Gin.....97¢ \$1.75 Imported Macon 98¢</p> <p>50c Claret, Burgundy, Angelica, Sauterne, Zinfandel, Muscatelle, Riesling, Port and Sherry, 3 for.....\$1.00 Good medicinal California Port, Sherry, Claret, gal. \$1 Extra fine medicinal California Port, Sherry, Sauterne and Tokay, per gallon.....\$1.50 Very best medicinal California Port and Sherry, per gallon.....\$2.50</p>	<p>Removal Sale Prices On Novelty Jewelry</p> <p>Of course you want the newest and the best in Novelty Jewelry—in that event you will buy here. For Friday and Saturday we offer an exceptional opportunity to lovers of original and exclusive jewelry.</p> <p>SEE OUR 98¢ WINDOW DISPLAY</p> <p>consisting of handsome rhinestone rings, sterling baby brush and comb sets, barrettes, belt buckles, match safes; values up to \$3.00; also a complete assortment of neck chains and necklaces in pearl, German silver, platinum and gold effects, some with pendants set in semi-precious stones.</p> <p>Values to \$4.00—Your choice, any piece in the window at only 98¢.</p>	<p>Removal Sale Prices On Game Sets of 500 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY</p> <p>\$3 and \$4 leather case 500 Game Set, including score cards and pocket for two packs of cards, for\$1.00</p> <p>\$5.00 Leather Case 500 Game Set, including two packs of Congress Play Cards, pad of score cards and pencil. Extra value at \$1.79</p>
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