

FOREST FIRES IN EASTERN OREGON WORST IN HISTORY

Whitman and Minam National Forests Suffer Great Loss as Result of Extreme Dry Season. CARELESSNESS CAUSED MOST

Stockmen and Campers Held Responsible by Supervisor Evans for 95 Per Cent of Trouble.

Baker, Sept. 20.—The most disastrous fire season that has ever desolated the Whitman and Minam National forests has closed, according to R. M. Evans, forest supervisor at Baker, who says that although the situation at times during the summer seemed hopeless, every fire was finally placed under control and in most cases abandoned before the recent rains brought relief.

Sixty-five fires destroyed 21,000 acres of timber and grass pasture during the season, but by heroic effort the firefighters confined the burned area largely to forests containing inferior trees and little saw timber. This, Evans says, was because the fire fighting force was concentrated upon merchantable timber wherever threatened, while the forests of no value were allowed to burn as long as the fires failed to become a menace. However, large areas of grazing land, of as much benefit to the stockmen as the timber is to the lumbermen, were rendered for the time being at least, useless as pasture.

SEASON DRIEST IN YEARS

Records show that the season just closed was the driest in years and accordingly fires this year as never before spread rapidly, often fanned by high winds, so that many reached enormous size before means to control them could even be brought to the scene. Also many of the blazes started in inaccessible places, where they would become conflagrations before fire fighters could reach them.

Sunday was regarded as an unlucky day in the Baker, Grant and Wallawa county region, for on that day at least two fires were started and in each case spread over a strip four miles long in a single day.

The first and largest fire of the season started July 3, on the John Day river in the Whitman forest, was not extinguished until September 3, and then only after 12,000 acres were burned over and after 125 men from Baker, Pendleton and Portland had been used on the fire lines. Range for three bands of sheep were destroyed and the sheep driven from the forest.

WATER SUPPLY MENACED

In the Minam forest the Main Eagle fire was started July 8 and burned 250 acres of pine before controlled by 40 men August 4. The Lynch creek fire, started August 6, had covered 1000 acres, 75 per cent of it bunch grass land and excellent winter grazing for cattle, when it was subdued four days later. This fire destroyed 24,000 feet of merchantable timber.

On August 16, 125 men were sent by the forest service and 35 by the state to cope with the Little Creek fire, which burned until September 4 and seriously menaced the Mill creek watershed, which supplies Cove, Union county, with water for irrigation and domestic purposes. To fight this fire men were called from the harvest fields in the Grand Ronde and High valley, from Baker, Union and from the state highway.

Jump-off Joe mountain in the Whitman district, was the scene of a 1200-acre fire that burned between August 17 and September 4, requiring the efforts of 22 men to control. In the Susanville district a fire was started on August 17 and had burned 840 acres

FOOD FOR FOREST FIRES AND ONE OF MENACES



when 25 men extinguished it August 29. Ninety men from neighboring logging camps were employed on the Mosquito creek fire, which started August 22 and was not controlled until September 4, burned 1200 acres of Minam timber and occupied the attention of 25 men, furnished by La Grande, Elgin and the Minam Lumber company.

Evans says that 95 per cent of all fires started in both the Whitman and Minam forests resulted through carelessness and negligence on the part of stockmen and campers.

The secretary of agriculture's regulation requiring campers to secure permits for camp fires between September 1 and 30, will not be enforced in the Whitman and Minam forests, Supervisor Evans says, because the recent rains have removed all danger from this source.

The criminal phase of the fire situation in this district includes four convictions for leaving fires unattended. Two men are in the Union county jail awaiting a hearing on charges of refusing to aid in fighting fires.

A convention of all supervisors and deputy supervisors in the Malheur, Umatilla, Wenas, Willowa, Whitman and Minam national forests will be held in Baker, November 6-8, to discuss experiences during the past season.



Above—Typical stand of natural yellow pine timber in Whitman national forest. Below—Ridge pole pine growth which constitutes a fire trap, menacing the main forests, along the edges of which it is usually found.

Eight Hours Is the Endurance Limit for Journey in Airplane

London, Sept. 13.—(I. N. S.)—"Eight hours is about the limit of time over which the average pilot could stand the strain with any regularity."

This is the opinion of Captain Sir John Alcock, conqueror of the Atlantic in the first non-stop flight.

"This, if nothing else, will probably limit the endurance of commercial aeroplanes to non-stop journeys of from 800 to 1000 miles.

"A servo motor to operate the controls, such as is fitted to some of the large flying boats, might do something to relieve the strain, but even then the mere mechanical effort would be very great.

"Although I managed to win through I would not care to try to fly the Atlantic again."

Reservation Lands Of Klamath Indians Offered to Buyers

Klamath Falls, Sept. 20.—Lands in the Indian reservation are being offered for sale by R. C. Spink who recently opened a real estate office here to deal exclusively in such properties. Spink's operations are under control of the department of the interior and he is required to give bond for \$10,000 to protect his clients against fraud.

Lands in the reservation are extremely fertile and many of the Indians have deeds to their holdings. Unfamiliarity with business methods has prevented any extensive trading between Indians and whites and the field opened by Spink is considered a profitable one.

500 IMPROVED MILES OF HIGHWAY OUTSIDE PORTLAND IN COUNTY

Automobile Can Hardly Cover the Paved Stretches in Day; Figures Show Activity.

Examination of the records of Roadmaster W. A. Eatchell's office discloses that a day's motor trip is not more than sufficient to cover all the roads of Multnomah county which are either paved, macadamized or gravelled. The trip includes only roads in first class condition.

There are approximately 500 miles of roads in the county outside of Portland. Of these 95 are in pavement, 83 in bitulithic and 12 in concrete, with eight additional miles to be paved in the coming year. There is four tenths of a mile in wood block pavement and one tenth of a mile in brick.

In the 83 miles of bitulithic pavement there are 889,648 square yards, costing an average of \$1.25 a yard, or a total of \$1,112,060.

There were laid in 1915 and 1916, 102,920 square yards of concrete pavement at an average cost of \$1.38 per yard, or \$142,029.60. In 1919, 10,000 yards of concrete pavement were laid at a cost of \$2.70 a yard, or \$27,000. These costs do not include the cost of grading or the rock used in the base or shoulders.

There are 98 miles of first class macadam roads in the county. A 16-foot macadam road formerly cost the county about \$4500 a mile, but at the present time is being laid for \$6000 a mile. An average cost for these roads is about \$5000 a mile and the total expenditure for macadam amounts to \$750,000. In 1915 and 1916 about 45 miles of macadam roads were covered with pavement.

There are 138 miles of gravel roads in the county. These were built of bank river gravel at a cost of \$1500 a mile. There are still left about 170 miles of dirt roads, all of which are either graded or partly graded.

Pavement contemplated for 1920 consists of two miles on the Base Line extension connecting that road with the Columbia river highway at the Auto Club, two miles on the Foster road from large cooperative livestock shipping miles on Columbia boulevard and one mile on the Marquam hill road.

Macadamizing of two miles on the St. Johns river road and one mile on the hospital road as well as graveling 15 miles of various roads will also be provided for in the budget for the coming year.

WIDE VARIETY OF RESOURCES INVITE TO LANE COUNTY

Timber and Farming Industries Receive Attention From Easterners Who Have Eyes on West

CHAMBER GETS INQUIRIES

Western Oregon County Has an Area Equal to That of Connecticut; Mining Carried On.

Corn, clover, hogs and dairy cows—the good old Middle Western standbys—in the midst of a dramatic and distinctly Western forest, are the things that are drawing numerous inquiries concerning Lane county from homeseekers and industrial concerns of the East.

Daily numerous inquiries are coming to the State Chamber of Commerce concerning this county, which stretches from the shores of the Pacific ocean, over the Coast ranges, through the Willamette valley and to the farthest eastern summit of the Cascade mountains—a distance of 160 miles—and contains territory almost equal to the state of Connecticut.

RESOURCES ARE VARIED

That equal interest is felt by the residents of the county in developing their vast resources is manifest in the equally large number of inquiries coming from them to the chamber exhibiting interest in the progressive movements in the state.

The northern boundary of the county lies approximately 110 miles south of Portland and the district averages 20 miles in width. In addition to the wealth of timber and bounteously producing soil, mining, stock raising, horticulture and dairying have a large part to play in the development of this section.

Most important of the natural resources of the county is the timber, as Lane county contains over 60,000,000,000 feet of high-grade standing merchantable timber, one seven-sixths of the timber stand in the state of Oregon.

TIMBER OUTPUT EXTENSIVE

About half of this immense stand is on privately owned lands, while the other half is in the Cascade and Siuslaw national forests. The variety of timber and hemlock is found in the western part of the county, and large forests of sugar pine in the Cascade mountains.

Varieties of other timber, including oak, ash, alder, cottonwood and maple are found in the low-lying ground. Lumber will be one of the leading products of the county for many years, the output a few years ago more than equalling in value the combined agricultural, livestock and dairy output.

Most important of the natural resources of agriculture in Lane county after reading reports of the possibilities there. This is due to the terrain. From the low-lying coast country with its heavy timber, over the coast mountains, into the fertile upper Willamette valley and thence into the snow-clad Cascade mountains opportunity for all manner of production presents itself.

CLIMATE IS MILD

In general the locality has very mild climate, light snows and is seldom troubled by high winds, hail storms, floods, lightning or heavy frosts or droughts. Seldom in the farming districts does the day temperature exceed 92 degrees and there is very little freezing weather. The rainy season begins in the fall and extends to the springtime with occasional sunny intervals.

From the fields comes corn, clover, wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa, potatoes and rye. In the pasture are raised cattle, hogs, sheep and thoroughbred horses and from the orchards come vast amounts of cherries, prunes, peaches, pears and grapes.

Of the small grains, wheat, oats and barley are produced extensively in certain sections of the county. Rye has recently become an important crop because it affords pasture for the livestock through the entire mild winter. Corn is rapidly becoming an important crop, both as silage and a grain crop. Yields of from 40 to 85 bushels of corn an acre have been obtained and the average yield is far above some of the distinctly corn growing sections of the United States.

CANNERIES DO BIG BUSINESS

With practically all kinds of fruit being grown on an extensive scale, cooperative canneries have been established by the farmers and their crops of prunes, cherries, apples, pears and berries go mainly to these plants.

The canneries in 1918 did a business of over \$1,000,000. Fruit growing has always been very profitable in Lane county and because a large portion of the various crops are handled by the local canneries there is no difficulty in growers finding a market for their products.

Most extensively over the whole county is dairying. There are five creameries in the district, the largest being a cooperative creamery which ranks among the largest in the state. Dairying is prevalent mainly because of the mild climate which permits of a long pasture season and the production of a variety of feeds.

The county is noted as being one of the largest hog producing sections in the Northwest. Corn and pasture with the by-products of the dairy make this class of livestock raising very profitable. The largest cooperative livestock shipping association in the Northwest has grown out of this hog industry and through it marketing of hogs at a good price is guaranteed.

MINING INDUSTRY GROWS

Of approximately 2,000,000 acres of land in private ownership, almost 800,000 acres is in commercial timber, partly tillable, 135,000 acres is under cultivation, about 225,000 acres is tillable but unutilized and 355,000 acres is non-tillable.

Mining is a principal industry in many mountainous sections of the county. Gold and silver, quicksilver, cinnabar, copper, lead, zinc, limestone and sandstone are some of the products of the state. Mining is divided into three principal districts, Blue river, Bohemia and Quartzville sections.

Cottage Grove is the city immediately adjacent to the mining district now under development, the Bohemia section. This district is fast developing into one of the leading gold mining camps of the Pacific coast. Numerous large stamp mills, concentrating plants and other industries are operating in alliance with the mining work and combined they are

REUNION IS HELD OF BAUGHMAN FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Baughman and their five children, Mrs. Elizabeth Gerrum of Eugene, Grace Sweeney of Smiley, Canada; Henry Delbert Baughman of London Springs, Jessiel Taylor and Belle Taylor of Cottage Grove. Baughman was representative from Lane county in 1892 and 1893.

Cottage Grove, Sept. 20.—At a family reunion at the home of D. C. Baughman, all five children were present, Mrs.

VANDALS PLUCK AND DESTROY FLOWERS ON MT. HOOD ROADSIDE

Ranger Complains of How Rhododendrons Have Been Wantonly Destroyed.

That the entire roadside between Portland and Welches on the Mount Hood road has been despoiled of rhododendrons through the wanton plucking of the flowers by motorists who fill their machines with the blossoms during the season of bloom, is the assertion of Ranger Hanson, a Zigzag ranger station, who, together with Ranger Wilcox, is spending a few days at the forest service office here.

Each year other evidences of the apparent carelessness of visitors in the forests have been noted by Ranger Hanson, not only in leaving campfires burning, but leaving camp sites dirty and falling to clean up their rubbish, thus

rendering the spot unsightly for the next arrival.

"The public needs to be educated to the importance of leaving the forest as it is found," said Hanson. "While the national forests are maintained largely for the recreational use of the public, it is not intended that they shall lose their natural beauty and attractiveness through the thoughtlessness of persons who scatter paper wrappers and tin cans broadcast, despoil the forest of its shrubbery and otherwise disfigure the scenery for future visitors."

Hanson and Wilcox are in the city to appear before the grand jury as witnesses in the case of J. H. Larson, charged with allowing his sheep to graze upon the Bull Run watershed. They are also conferring with Forest Supervisor T. H. Sherrard of the Oregon national forest, relative to forest service problems.

Silver Creek Ranch Sold to Jones & Lane

Burns, Sept. 20.—Through negotiations recently closed by the Harney County Abstract company, Mrs. America Foster and her son, Frank Foster, transferred their ranch on Silver Creek to Jones & Lane of Lakewood. The ranch comprises over 300 acres of fertile, well watered land and will be used by the new owners in connection with their sheep raising operations.

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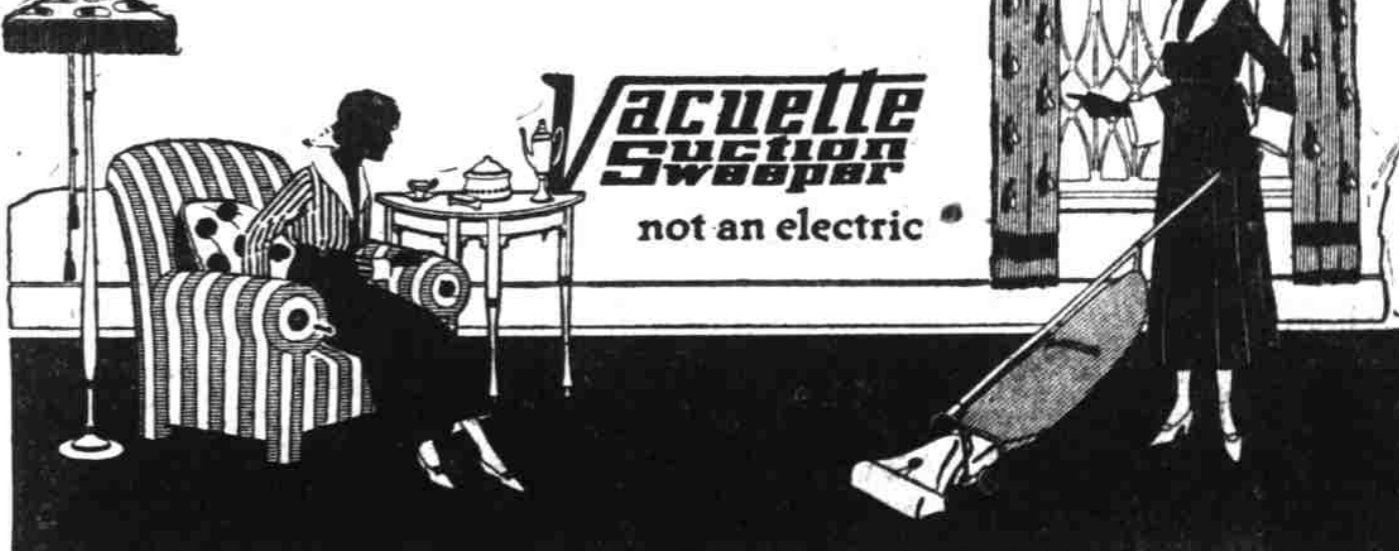
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