

LORENZ & HOYT

—Dealers In—

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

CLOTHING

Our men's ready to wear suits are right, as to style, fit, quality and price. We sell only dependable clothing and stand back of every garment we sell. Our fall stock will be larger than ever. Prices \$7.50 to \$25.00.

OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT

is always busy because we always have the best to be had for the money.

DRY GOODS

This department is running over with useful and pretty goods of latest patterns. The ladies of Bandon and vicinity are invited to see this stock.

SHOES

Please visit our shoe department. We have the largest stock and we sell well known makes. Every pair will give satisfaction.

We are preparing for a big business this fall and intend to make it an object for you to trade at this store. We have the goods and will make prices that are attractive and sure to please you. Come and see us.

Lorenz & Hoyt, - - Bandon, Oregon.

THE FOURMILE COUNTRY.

Section South of Bandon That is Rapidly Settling Up by Homesteaders. Conditions as They Exist. Much Information for Prospective Settlers.

This section of country seems to be in favor with the homesteader. Within the last two years nearly a score of these claims have been taken, and by the nature of the improvements it is plain to be seen that in almost every instance the purpose is to comply with the requirements of the law in making the homestead truly a home.

The Fourmile creek is about eight miles below Bandon regardless of the name which is very misleading. The creek does not seem to be four miles from any particular spot nor does the name refer to the length of the stream. I have never been able to find anyone who could tell why it was so named. Some portions of this country were settled many years ago and a few of the farms are under good cultivation, the most notable being the dairy ranch of the Cope brothers, on the South Fork, and that of Mr. Shaw near the mouth of the creek.

During the past week three new filings were made in the immediate vicinity of my home, and every week some one in quest of land may be seen toiling up the mountain side or slowly picking his way through the mud as he tries to follow the course of the winding stream. The land is rough and mountainous, but there are always desirable building spots even on the roughest. It is more easily cleared than is usual in these wooded countries, and the soil is very productive, especially on the hillsides and flat tops of mountains. The bottom land here has proven to be inferior in quality when compared with the higher lands; the finest gardens are found on the uplands.

The Fourmile country is fast settling up, and yet there is land to be had if one will go back among the hills to look for it. It is to be expected that the first settlers will take the land nearest the streams, and consequently most accessible. At the time these lands were taken, the discomforts and hardships were even greater than are to be met with at the present time, yet how common it is to see the look of disappointment on the faces of those who are looking for land when they are told that they must strike out into the woods.

The first settlers have made it possible for those who come later, opening up roads, clearing away timber and letting in the sunshine, so that now these openings furnish grass in abundance. One young man who has taken a claim here finds that he can cut a good crop of hay the first year just by making a blockade to keep out the neighbors' cattle. The fires that swept through this country about forty years ago cleared up a large section. There are tracts of prairie land covered with mesquite or velvet grass, and not a stump to be seen, only a few charred tree trunks. These places are back in the mountains, it is true, but there are trails leading to them, and they are better traveling than the roads on the river bottom, for the hill roads are dry most of the year.

The big fires cut into the valuable tracts of timber so that at the present time only a small amount is to be found of the old growth, while a heavy new growth covers a large portion of the land. The destruction of the large timber makes the land more easily cleared and more valuable for cultivation. The most fertile of all is that which has a growth of vine maple or alder. These strips are very easily cleared and make the best building spots on account of the close proximity to water.

With the rich soil and our unrivaled climate, this country is destined to be the garden spot of Oregon. Vegetables of all sorts, berries and other fruits, thrive here with very little care, and no insect pests worth mentioning. Wheat, oats, rye, and barley are cut for hay, while clover and vetches are raised for the dairy cows.

The principal industry of the past has been sheep and cattle raising, but as the land is being taken for homes the ranges are cut up and this industry must give place in a great measure to the cultivation of the soil. There are portions of lands known as Indian Allotment lands dotted here and there through the whole length of the Fourmile country. These lands will continue to be used as free range for all until some action is taken toward throwing them open for settlement; this may not occur for several years. It is seldom necessary to feed stock in the winter, and many stockmen never make any hay at all. Sheep and cattle live out on the open hill-sides all winter and are fat in the spring. Sometimes at long intervals there have been heavy losses on account of severe weather, but it is very unusual. The man who prepares for emergencies has nothing to regret, at least, and nothing to lose.

This country has always been the hunters' paradise. By the elk horns now found we know that the elk were very plentiful at one time; it is said that there are a very few in this vicinity yet. Deer are found in large numbers, but with the coming of the settler they are more shy, keeping further back in the hills. Within the last year I have seen four in my dooryard and several others out on the hills. Bears, wildcats, and panthers also inhabit this region. Only a few days ago a very large black bear came

out on the open hillside, in broad daylight, among the sheep, just above the house and in full view. The alarm was given and the whole neighborhood started in pursuit. We do not know that the animal was killed, but he has never been back. The tracks were at least eight inches across and the bear looked to me as large as a cow; that may have been due partly to my excited imagination; others have been affected the same way. Early this spring a neighbor smoked a bear out of a hollow tree and killed it; the carcass weighed eight hundred pounds, and the skin, when stretched out on the side of the barn, measured over eight feet in length. Another man killed a wildcat a few days ago that looked more like a young panther in size, and the track was as large as that of a good sized dog.

Sheep raising can never be an entire success here until these animals are exterminated. I do not think they will attack a person but I should not want to meet one in the road.

Our school is prospering as well as the inclement weather will permit. There will be six months of school this year. The district is very extensive and some of the pupils are unable to attend, but this will be adjusted in time.

The land along the streams for a distance of five miles is all taken; the railroad will cross the creek about a mile from its mouth. There is a good wagon road now, which, with a little improvement, will make a highway with an easy down hill grade by means of which the timber and produce can be taken out to market, and we predict great changes in the near future affecting the prosperity of the Fourmile country, both materially and socially.

There is still some very fine timber on the sheltered portions which escaped the ravages of the big fire; immense firs, Port Orford and red cedars. Even in the burned districts there is a large quantity of down tim-

ber of the red and white cedar which will be in demand for matchwood and shingles. This will furnish employment right at home for a man and his team and make the building of good roads an object.

There are several good locations in this vicinity for a shingle mill and timber enough to keep it in operation for some time to come. An industry of this kind would help the clearing of the land and be a general benefit to the community.

The second growth fir of this section is of exceedingly fine quality being unusually tall and straight and free from limbs. Much of this timber is large enough to be sawed into lumber while the smaller growth may be used for piling. A sawmill and a pulp mill are projects worth considering by enterprising business men looking for places for investment of

capital. A branch railroad or tramway can be built connecting with the main line. This can be done at a nominal expense and the raw material or the finished product can thus find an outlet.

With the opening up of the county new industries will spring to life. In a very short time a creamery will be not only a convenience but a necessity.

The greatest factor in the prosperity of a community is contentment, without it there is little incentive to the promoting of permanent institutions. It is rare in this community to hear complaints and wherever this is encountered it is from some "chronic kicker" who has the habit of being dissatisfied. It is pleasing to note the cheerful hopeful atmosphere and one can but wish success and prosperity to those faithful toilers who are straining every energy in the building up of that greatest of all institutions, the home.

E. M. SACKETT.



GOVERNMENT LIGHTHOUSE AT BANDON.