

The Heppner Gazette

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The soil of Morrow county contains great riches if mixed with hard work, enterprise and economy.

Morrow county's greatest drawback is isolation, but the Oregon country is coming to the front and cannot be held back much longer.

Morrow county needs more people who are not afraid to get away from town and get in and work. There is always a demand for good hands.

With the growth of Morrow county the GAZETTE will endeavor to keep right in the front rank of the procession. For this year the GAZETTE hopes to be a better paper than last.

Down in the sand country along the Columbia river there are 100,000 acres of arid lands in Morrow county. Some day this will be reclaimed by irrigation and this will be one of the richest portions of county.

One of Morrow county's greatest needs is better roads. The large territory and small population makes it impossible to keep in repair so many miles of road by a few people. But this question will adjust itself with increase of population.

There are many able aspirants for the important place of United States Senator in the state of Oregon. The GAZETTE's first choice will be C. W. Fulton, of Astoria, for the reason that we believe that he is the best fitted man for the place. He is a clean, sincere, and conscientious man and a Republican that would honor the party.

Representative-elect G. W. Phelps will not go to the Oregon legislature with a back load of bills, nor will he be handicapped by any pet measures or pledges, but will be prepared to work for meritorious and needed legislation as a duty to his constituents and the state at large. In an interview in another column of this paper Mr. Phelps gives an outline of his intentions which can be endorsed by all.

A local organization known as the Heppner Wool Growers' Association has been organized in Heppner. Every sheep owner in the country should become a member, for at this time there are questions of vital importance to the sheep industry that should be looked after. There is danger of the introduction of a bill at the coming session of the legislature to prohibit the grazing of sheep within two miles of a habitation. If this bill is introduced and the sheep men are silent, it might be taken that this law was wanted. Matters of legislation slip through mighty easy sometimes if properly worked. Don't stand back on this proposition. If let alone the sheep industry will adjust itself.

THE GAZETTE'S HOROSCOPE.

The GAZETTE predicts a bright future for Heppner and Morrow county in general, and we believe that this prediction is founded on good reasons. Morrow county is a better county than appearances would indicate.

Today, good wheat lands in Umatilla county, adjoining Morrow, are worth from \$20 to \$40 per acre. Good wheat land in Morrow county is selling from \$6 to \$10 per acre. The only cause for this is that Umatilla county has more population and is farther advanced. Any business man can see that there is not such a great difference in real land values in the two counties. If agricultural land in Umatilla county is worth \$40 an acre it is worth more than \$10 an acre in Morrow, for the soil in this county is undoubtedly good as proven by the big crops produced.

At present there are over 2000 acres of land for every man, woman and child in Morrow county. This would impress the fact that this territory is capable of supporting a much greater population. The GAZETTE predicts that in five years, the present population of this county will be more than double what it is now, and still there will be plenty of room for many more people who will prosper in agricultural pursuits. Within the next few years there will be a great tide of Western immigration from the East. The Lewis and Clark fair of 1905, will do much to bring Eastern people to Oregon on account of advertising and cheap passenger rates. Oregon's population will be greatly increased, and Morrow county ought to have her share.

Morrow county's natural resources will not lie dormant very much longer. In fact there has been a great change within the past year. New people are coming in and land values have increased more rapidly than in any other year in the history of the county.

With the bright outlook for the county in general, Heppner, the county seat and principal town will grow and prosper, and ought to increase in population with the advance of the country.

Morrow county's recently discovered coal measures will add greatly to the wealth and development of the county, and will probably be of greater benefit to Heppner than to any other town, owing to the fact that Heppner is located near the coal field. It is estimated that it will require from 500 to 1500 men to operate the mines. While this will build a town at the headwaters of Willow creek, it will take nothing away from Heppner and all these people will be tributary for county business, school facilities, etc., that will greatly increase our trade.

It is very likely, and the GAZETTE is of the opinion that the time is not far distant when the O. R. & N. Company will make a cut off by going through the Blue Mountains touching at Sumpter and thereby cutting off 90 miles of the through run to the East. This would put Heppner on the main line and on account of location would make this point the terminal of a division which would add greatly to the city's interest.

There is another place that will make a good town from the fact that it is surrounded by a very rich agricultural district.

In fact, investment in Morrow county real estate is a good proposition in any portion of Morrow county.

THE PAST AND FUTURE.

The year just closed marked an era of prosperity for which we might feel truly thankful for the liberal gifts of nature, especially in the West. In Oregon, the year 1902, can be classed with the most prosperous in the history of the state. Of the many branches of industry, all show a handsome balance of profit.

The output of the principal products, of the state was greater than ever before known, and good prices generally prevailed. The output from the great forests of Oregon, heads the list, and the great trees that have been converted into lumber, represent more wealth than any other single product. Local and foreign sales for lumber and timber amount to \$10,000,000.

Livestock comes along next in line with an output valued at \$9,000,000. The grain crop follows a close third with a valuation of almost \$8,000,000. The mineral output is about \$5,000,000. The hop crop was sold for more than \$4,000,000. The fish cannery pack will amount to \$2,000,000. Oregon's wool was worth almost \$3,000,000. The fruit crop is valued at \$1,500,000. Dairy products \$160,000.

In the aggregate the values of the above principal products of the state of Oregon would average over \$100 for each man, woman and child. The entire output of the state will foot up in the neighborhood of \$45,000,000.

The three great staples, livestock, wheat and wool which constitute more than fifty per cent of the valuation of the products of the state, were produced principally east of the Cascade mountains, in that portion of Oregon known as the Inland Empire, of which Morrow county is a favored section.

The fact that the principal portion of over one half of the wealth of Oregon for the year 1902, was produced in a sparsely settled country, is certainly good evidence of the capabilities of Eastern Oregon.

The natural conditions that have caused us to be prosperous, have also been helped by a wise administration of affairs in our national government under the Republican banner.

We have also good reasons to believe that the new year for Oregon will bring forth plenty, for the people are encouraged to put forth their best efforts to again reap a bountiful harvest. Here in Oregon we do not fear a crop failure, a drouth or the terrors of a cyclone, because we always have and probably always will be free from such influences and we hardly appreciate our surroundings of peace and plenty. The new year is ushered in with encouraging prospects.

NEW YEAR GAZETTE.

In presenting this, our annual number, every article has been carefully prepared in a conservative manner, that Morrow county may appear to the stranger just as it is.

To the person looking for a home where natural conditions are encouraging and where there is a chance build up with a new country, Morrow county probably offers as much inducement as any other place in the great Inland Empire.

The supreme court of the state of Washington has decided that the inheritance tax law passed by the legislature of that state at the last session, is constitutional. It is very likely that a bill of this kind will be advocated at the next session of the Oregon legislature. The object of the law is to make wealthy estates, bequests or inheritances help to bear the burden of taxation, thus making all property pay a more equal proportion of taxes, which is right and just. The Washington law makes all inheritances and bequests subject to tax and also all gifts of property to take effect after the death of the donor. The law provides that the taxes must be paid to the state treasurer by the

administrator of the property of any deceased person. The amount of the tax is computed upon the value of the estate after all debts, funeral expenses, administration expenses, etc., have been paid. The tax is not imposed upon sums of less than \$10,000, and the rate varies so as not to do injustice to any one.

The holiday number of the Evening Telegram is a credit to the enterprise of this great paper and also to the city of Portland. The paper contains 52 pages with a handsome cover in colors and illustrated with half tones. It is filled with descriptive matter pertaining to the resources of the great state of Oregon and should be widely circulated for it will be the means of doing much good.

The prosperous little town of Lexington is looking up and has commenced to grow with the advancement of Morrow county. Lexington has the advantage of a splendid surrounding agricultural country which will soon have more population, and will make this place a good point.

The principal reason for Morrow county not having any more population is from the fact that people on the outside don't know anything about it. The county has never had any advertising in the East of Middle West. Nothing has been sent out to attract the attention of homeseekers and they have gone to other places.

Oregon has a population of about 450,000 people. The taxable property aggregates about \$135,000,000.

The Oregon Daily Journal, of Portland, issued an attractive and valuable Christmas number. The articles are ably written and furnish interesting reading. It is certainly a very creditable number.

Oregon's wheat yield last year was approximately 12,250,000 bushels, valued at \$7,962,500.

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