

The Heppner Gazette

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THURSDAY,..... March 19, 1903

WHY NOT CALL A MEETING.

The GAZETTE has for some time been urging the necessity of a commercial club or board of trade in Heppner. Some interest is being aroused in the proposition, and it is time. Why is it that some of Heppner's trade is going to Ione? Why is it that people pay Pendleton merchants with checks on the First National Bank of Heppner. They do their banking business here. Why don't they trade here? It will be the duty of the Heppner commercial club to find out what causes this state of affairs, and then act. These are facts. There are many other things that could be mentioned. Heppner ought to have a commercial club and every business man in this city ought to be a member, and an active member. Why not call a meeting?

Real estate men who claim to know, say that 1500 families will locate in Morrow county within another year.

One advantage of the climate of the Inland Empire, we have a long working season. Early in the spring and late in the fall when the Willamette Valley farmers are handicapped by rainy weather, Eastern Oregon farmers have nice working weather and can accomplish a great amount of work during the year.

The opening of the Columbia river by canal and locks at The Dalles and Celilo, like irrigation, is a project that the government is slow to take hold of, but the matter will be taken care of in time and this will not be a great many years. The state portage railroad is small indeed compared with what the government will do, but the state portage road will serve as an object lesson in a measure that will bring results.

Fifty Fin and Norwegian families are expected to arrive in Morrow county to get homes, next week. This colony will settle in the northern portion of the county, where they will engage in agricultural pursuits. These people are all industrious and come from a school where economy is taught from childhood. Morrow county soil contains riches for them and they will work it out.

The government is becoming interested and has already commenced preliminary work in the matter of surveying for irrigation in the Inland Empire. In the first work to be undertaken by the government in this country, Morrow and Umatilla counties are fortunate, for this district to be watered will soon be reclaimed and settled which will be a great benefit to both counties. The arid district of Morrow county is estimated at 100,000 acres. This land is all productive when irrigated.

FUTURE OF SHEEP INDUSTRY.

The rapid settlement of lands in Morrow county is looked upon by many as the beginning of the end of the great sheep industry in this county. While the settlement of the agricultural lands will curtail the sheep industry to a certain

degree, the business will still remain a prominent feature for many years to come, for the reason that the natural conditions are such as to perpetuate the industry. From 80,000 to 100,000 sheep are now run on agricultural and arid lands. There is no question about these sheep being compelled to go, but this only represents about one third of the sheep in the county. The balance of the sheep are run in the foothills and on the rough lands unfit for agriculture, and as the rough lands bring more profit by running sheep than anything else the industry will not be stopped. The Western spur of the Blue Mountains which skirt a good portion of the county will furnish summer range which will not be molested by settlers for a great many years. The removal of the sheep from the agricultural lands will also take them from the now over crowded summer ranges which will be a benefit to the big end of the industry which will be left. Herds will be made smaller and more carefully attended to which will be more profitable, but the sheep industry in Morrow county will not go with the settlement of the agricultural lands.

INCREASING VALUES.

The GAZETTE predicts that lands in Morrow county will never again be as cheap as they are today, and that investment in these lands will be safe and profitable. Land values will increase with the development of the county for there are the resources, the soil and climatic conditions to back it up. There have been great changes in the Inland Empire in the past decade. There was a time when good agricultural lands could be bought for from \$1 to \$2 per acre in Morrow county, and at that time it was thought to be a foolish investment, but that day has passed. Owing to isolation it has taken a long time to make known the advantages of this portion of the Inland Empire. Climatic conditions have undoubtedly changed somewhat in the past 20 years. Take for instance, the Palouse country, which is now one of the greatest producing districts in the West. A man who now resides in Morrow county, went to the Palouse country 30 years ago. He says that at that time there were forsts every month in the year, and it was almost impossible to grow vegetables, or in fact anything else on account of frosts and drouth, and the severity of the winters. This same man tried the sheep business there for two years and after losing 12,000 head, he sold out his place and improvements that cost \$1000 for \$22.50.

The Palouse country today is very valuable. There is plenty of rainfall and the climate is undoubtedly milder. Similar conditions prevailed in old Umatilla county. Last season farmers were unable to put in a full crop because it was too wet. While climatic conditions have changed somewhat, better farming and more careful methods of cultivation is bringing forth the productive capacity of the land. Inland Empire wheat lands are becoming more valuable and Morrow county is following up the rear.

Morrow county lands have not yet reached their real value, and until this time the lands will gradually increase in values.

The will of the late E. L. Burdick, who was killed at Buffalo, has been made public. He cuts off his wife, who he was suing for a divorce, without a cent.

The Poas volcano, in Costa Rica, is in eruption and has ejected large quantities of ashes.

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Hand painted Souvenir Plates, Water Sets. Neat designs and beautiful combinations, with decorations to please, in large assortment. Inspection of our display will interest you.

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