

Passing of "Oregon Desert."

The old maps of Oregon show an enormous area east of the Cascades and south of Prineville nearly to the California line bearing the ominous and forbidding label, "The Oregon Desert." Millions of acres were so abandoned to the coyote and a few jackrabbits. Herds of half-wild cattle and wholly-wild horses roamed at will. The streams are few and far between, but many lakes and marshes are dotted over at wide intervals. The vegetation consists mainly of sage brush, some bunch grass and varieties of wild bay grasses covering the moist areas. The western flanks of the Cascade Mountains are covered with yellow pine timber. When this gives out, as what was known as the desert proper, is reached, no natural tree growth but small and scattering willow existed for very many miles.

For the map of today the former title of "The Oregon Desert" is both obsolete and misleading. The first discovery was that the central belt, reaching from the Cascades to the Snake, could be reached with abundant water. The snows of the mountains supplied streams and springs of continuing and unvarying flow. The peculiar formation of lava beds, and volcanic ash, tufa, and the like, which cover the whole eastern flank of the range, fulfil two purposes. The one has been to cover the elevated plateau of Eastern Oregon with coatings of volcanic ash and pulverized rock, which hold material for the richest fertility when dissolved by water and brought into contact with plant life. The other has been to provide channels and watercourses, under ground and protected from evaporation, which issue many miles away from their mountain sources, or else through wide expanses furnish water-saturated strata but a few feet from the present surface of the ground.

The great central depression is the irrigable area. It begins at the Deschutes River, where the town of Ierd has sprung into life; it stretches eastward through the Malheur valley and canyon to the Snake. It is needless to describe the tide of settlement now following the life-bringing water through-out this region.

This, however, is not all by any means. Not only are wheat and barley farms spreading over the whole district to the north and reaching to join hands with the farms belonging to the Columbia basin, but cereals there are growing today on unirrigated lands. Farm life is spreading over the upland expanses.

The stretches of sage-brush-covered areas south of the irrigable area have recently been tested on a wide scale. Water in abundance was found at from 10 to 20 feet from the surface, and this not in isolated spots, but in section after section. The Silver Lake and river country is the most recent land of promise. The first wave of new settlement touched there last week and brought thirteen heads of families who selected permanent locations. These people found as their headquarters and trading point a little town with about 150 people, hotels, stores, school and church.

These men, and those who will follow them along the road they travel, have truly taken their courage in both hands. It is four days' good driving from the nearest railroad to the north of them and 60 miles to the nearest little town to the south of them. Five days from Portland. Do Oregon people realize that the Oregon, Nevada & California Railroad, pushing northward from Reno is at Madeline, less than 100 miles from the Oregon boundary, with an easy country between?

A youngster has been named Theodore Roosevelt Henry Clay Payne Brandenburg. It is to be hoped that the young man will not feel cheap when asked for his full name.

The Albany Commercial Club is doing good work for Albany and Linn county in general, reports the Herald.

Beer Treasure is Found.

After a most diligent search the treasure removed from Pretoria before the arrival of the British soldiers has been found. Its value is estimated at \$1,250,000, of which the government will receive half. The search for health is still being diligently searched for by thousands of people who have been sickly for years. They try this or that remedy without success. They should follow the example of thousands of others who have found the secret of good health, and commence taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It is the best health maker and preserver in existence, and for 50 years has never failed in cases of poor appetite, general debility, headache, pains in the stomach, dyspepsia, indigestion, constipation, colds, la grippe or malaria. Try it today.

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COFFEE—Mocha and Java, best 50c per pound; next grade, 45c per pound; package coffee, Lion and Arbuckle, 20c lb; Columbian coffee, 6 packages for \$1.
RICE—Best head rice 10c per pound; next grade 6½ cents per pound.
SUGAR—Cane granulated, best \$6 85 per sack; do 13 pounds \$1.
SALT—Coarse 75c per 100; \$15 00 ton.
FLOUR—\$4 65@5 00 per barrel.
BACON—15@20c per pound.
HAMS—16@18c per pound.
COAL OIL—\$1 45@1 75 for 5 gallons; \$3 25 per case.
VEGETABLES.
POTATOES—1c per pound.
CABBAGE—4c per pound.
ONIONS—3c per pound.
FRUITS.
APPLES—Green 2c per pound.
BANANAS—40c per dozen.
LEMONS—30c per dozen.
ORANGE—40c@60c per dozen.
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.
Prices paid by dealer to the producer.
CHICKENS—\$3 50@4 00 per dozen.
BUTTER—ranch, 50 and 60c per roll.
EGGS—25c per doz.
BEEF CATTLE, ETC.
COWS—\$2 50@3 00 per hundred.
STEERS—\$3 50@2 75 per hundred.
VEAL—Dressed, 6c per pound.
SHEEP—\$3 50@4 00.
HOGS—Live, 5½c@5c; dressed, 6c@7c per pound.

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Morrow County, Oregon.

Morrow County is a new country, and like all other new countries, is awaiting development.

Located in the Columbia river valley, and skirted on the South with a spur of the Blue mountains, the boundaries of Morrow county is a territory 75 miles in length by 35 miles in width, and containing 1,313,280 acres of land. Formerly stockraising was the principal industry, but lately the fertility of the land is bringing agriculture to the front. Immense wheat crops are grown with little cultivation, the soil being mixed with a volcanic ash which is very rich in wheat-producing qualities. The 1904 crop will aggregate 1,400,000 bushels, much of it from virgin soil.

Morrow county has thousands of head of sheep, horses and cattle. The wool production for 1904 was 2,500,000 pounds. Alfalfa and fruit growing are profitable industries, rapidly growing in importance. The county has also a great coal field, soon to be developed.

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