

# The DesChutes Echo

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## A GREAT FUTURE IN VIEW.

### TREND OF RECENT EVENTS MARKS THE DAWN OF A PROSPEROUS ERA IN THE DESCHUTES VALLEY.

#### A Boom Time Is Predicted When Local Activity Begins in the Spring. Irrigation and Lumbering Interests Will Be Important Factors.

The Deschutes Valley is just now upon the threshold of a new life, a wide and diversified development—a growth, both in population and wealth, and a future whose possibilities can be measured only by the energy and capital which will be invested in building up its trade and industries. The opinion expressed by scores of capitalists and business men who have visited this section is that Bend (Deschutes, as it will be renamed) has before it a future unequalled by any other district in the state.

It is the natural outlet of the enormous wealth stored up in its pine forests, a natural center for the trade and business accruing from a rapidly settling country and the establishment of new industries. From all sides come the indications that a year's time will note a greater change in this district along the Deschutes than is possible now to depict. New life, new energies, new ambitions have seized the people who are now looking forward to a period of growth and advancement and who will use their influence and energy in bringing the change about.

#### The Irrigation Projects.

The convention in Portland on the 18th of last month marked the first step which will be taken in the development of the country adjacent to the Deschutes. The convention commended all legitimate irrigation enterprises and the latter are now ready to begin their work as soon as the contracts are signed by the department of Interior. To the east, west and south of the river desert lands of fertility and productiveness under irrigation have been selected by the companies which stand ready and eager to commence operations. A few projects under the management of local residents, have already brought small tracts of land under irrigation and cultivation, showing the success which has met their efforts to conquer an arid and originally unproductive soil.

Under private control the Deschutes Irrigation company has brought several thousand acres under its ditches; the Cline Falls Power company is irrigating now about a thousand acres with more in sight for next year; and the Little Deschutes Irrigation company, the largest of all the private concerns, has in the neighborhood of 12,000 acres under its lines and laterals. Under the Carey act the Three Sisters Irrigation company has appropriated 80,000 acres in a rich district lying a few miles west of Bend; the Pilot Butte Development company, with head quarters in the immediate vicinity, has segregated 86,000 acres, and the Oregon Development company, at

work in the Walker Basin, has applied for 76,000 acres.

All of the land under process of irrigation, both by private and corporate capital, is directly tributary to Bend and the Deschutes river, a fact that marks this point as a future center—a center of trade, business and population arising from the settlement of the lands contiguous to it.

#### A Future For Agricultural Pursuits.

It has already been fully demonstrated that the district so long known as the "Oregon Desert" is composed of a volcanic ash whose powers of production have reached their full height in the Yakima country of Washington. This portion of Eastern Oregon will probably never produce the varieties of food-stuffs found in that section owing to the higher altitude, but the limit to the possibilities in the agricultural line, once the field is irrigated, will be difficult to establish. There is plenty of room for diversity, and time alone will determine what products can be raised to the best advantage.

#### Wealth in Lumber.

The immense tracts of yellow pine lying along the Deschutes will soon be marketed in the east. Billions of feet of accessible timber stand now inviting the investment of capital in the establishment of saw-mills. The first planing mill is being erected now which will soon be followed by a shingle mill. Only a short time will elapse before the larger mills for converting the logs into marketable lumber will be on the ground and the falling of trees commences. Nearly three hundred million dollars worth of yellow pine stand tributary to this point. Large bodies of it have been deced for years. The Scanlon-Gibson Lumber company's tract, the Diamond Match company's holdings and the Bliss tract, together with several other bodies owned by various eastern firms aggregate 200,000 acres.

Timbermen in the position to know say that operations will begin next year. The rapidly diminishing supply of available pine in the east together with the rapid advance in prices, they declare, make necessary the opening of Crook county's timber belt, the sole remaining virgin forest in the United States. Railroad communication alone is wanted to bring this portion of Eastern Oregon's timber wealth into the markets.

#### Railroad Communication in Future.

Judging from the facts in hand at present, the Columbia Southern will in all probability be the first road to push through from the north, although the Corvallis and Eastern, with its road graded to the summit of the Cascades, has

by far the advantage and best route. Operations, however, which are being carried on in the southern portion of the state may have a tendency to push matters. The Salt Lake-Coos Bay line apparently has been established on a solid basis, and if construction on that road, as is given out, commences in the spring, then either the Columbia Southern or the Corvallis and Eastern must build to gain the advantage both in position and traffic. Pressure which has recently been brought to bear upon the Columbia Southern from Portland is likely to see the extension of that road put through and it has been given out that construction will begin early in the coming year.

#### Commercial Organization to Advise.

In the meantime the residents of Bend will be wide awake to the business interests of the place and its future growth. The Board of Trade which was organized nearly a month ago has the development and welfare of the country at heart, and every effort will be put forth in properly advertising to the world what the Deschutes valley is, what it can do in the line of advancement, what it's going to be in the future and the resources back of it.

The irrigation convention in Portland was a running mate to this step which the board will take. Bend, the Deschutes Valley, and the country around it was thoroughly advertised at that meeting and it is not proposed that interest shall be allowed to wane. Outside capital is to receive the best inducements which can be offered, business opportunities will be opened, property will be thrown open to investors and homebuilders, and no stone left unturned to push forward growth, population, and every business project which will give to Bend and its adjoining territory a solid seat in the list of energetic spots of Eastern Oregon.

#### RAILROAD NOTES.

##### Wireless Spectals to the ECHO Over the Stage Line.

The board of Directors of the Columbia Southern extension into Crook county has taken final action on the surveys which have been filed for right of way across government territory. President Lytle gives out that construction work will begin in the spring. Announcements of this kind in the past have been instrumental in settling up a large portion of the district through which the new line will be built, but the policy seems a good one. The new road will have a well developed territory to run through which is somewhat better than having to build up the country as the road is constructed.

Some one either on the inside or outside of the Great Central railroad proposition, which proposes to establish headquarters at Roseburg, has thrown a slam which may or may not be well founded. It is from the Myrtle Point Enterprise and is as follows:

"The promoters of the Great Central (paper) railroad are receiving

some hard knocks by recent developments which go to show that the proposition is a fake pure and simple, and is simply a scheme to create a boom for the purpose of selling off a lot of land which has been bonded and laid off into town lots. If it wasn't for the advertising the company gets through subsidized papers, business would be slow with the great promoters. The editors who are willing to "stand in" and fake the people will soon find themselves done up in business. Persistent lying and misrepresenting matters is sure to prove a boomerang."

#### SOME TIMBER FIGURES.

##### Interesting and Unusually High Prices Paid for Stumpage in Sale of Minnesota State Lands.

In the sale of timber, owned by the state of Minnesota, which took place a short time ago, stumpage prices were the highest ever recorded in the state. The top note was reached when the Mashek Lumber company bought in two million feet, paying \$10.60 per thousand for the timber. The Stillwater (Minn.) Gazette in commenting upon the transaction says:

"Prices were remarkably high in some instances. State Auditor Dunn was not present but a letter from him was read by Deputy Auditor Iverson.

"In the letter the auditor stated that the proceeds of the five previous sales had put more money in the state treasury than had been derived from all the timber previously sold by the state, and the state had been disposing of its timber for more than forty years. The results obtained, the auditor said, were largely due to the improved method of selling and especially to the publicity given the sales.

"The amount realized at the sale yesterday was \$507,000. The price was \$2 per thousand higher than ever before secured and the average was \$8.35 per thousand. The Mashek Lumber company of Duluth bid \$10.60 per thousand for two million feet. This was the highest price for which any of the stumpage was sold. There were about 200 lumbermen present."

The facts presented are sufficient to convince the most skeptical that the safest investment that can be made at the present time is in timber. When lumber companies with millions of dollars back of them go to a public auction and succeed in buying two million feet and then go away happy the inference can be easily taken. Not many years can possibly elapse before western pine will be supplying the markets in the east.

On the basis that the pine lying along the Deschutes will some day be worth the stumpage value paid for Minnesota timber, the standing value in round numbers of the tract in this vicinity represents nearly six hundred million dollars.

The remaining turkeys in the neighborhood are beginning to show a sad and dissipated expression on their faces in anticipation of the Christmas festivities.

#### Echoes Along the Deschutes.

Mrs. J. R. Brock left for Prineville Tuesday to be gone several days.

Will Vandever left the first of the week on a business trip to Prineville.

John Bloss is in The Dalles attending to business matters.

Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Mayfield and W. G. Mayfield and wife were Rosland visitors Monday who made final proof on timber claims.

W. L. Phillips and wife were here from Airlie the first of the week to make final proof.

John McTaggart left for The Dalles Monday with a party which he located on timber claims.

Arrangements are being made by the Sabbath-school for an entertainment to be given Christmas night. The committee in charge consists of Messrs. C. J. Cotter, L. D. Wiest and A. C. Hampton. The entertainment will be held in the new school house and it is expected will be enjoyed by a large number. The program will be announced inside of a fortnight.

A. S. Sholes and wife of North Branch, Mich. were here Monday to make final proof on timber claims.

M. Middaugh was a business visitor from Portland the first of the week.

Wm. Holder and Judd Palmer were Prineville visitors the first of the week. The "lord of the Revue" had two B's in his hip pocket.

The United States District Weather Bureau reports the following on the weather for the month of November: maximum temperature, 60 on the 2nd; minimum temperature, 11 during the nights of the 21st and 24th. There were ten days during the month that were clear and eight partly cloudy. The rain-fall for the month was unusually heavy for this time of the year amounting to 2.09 inches. Thirteen nights during the month the temperature was above the freezing point and twenty-one days the temperature ranged from 45 to 60 degrees.

One of the largest cougars which has been killed in the vicinity of the Deschutes river was shot a few days ago by Will Bogue who was driving a bunch of cattle at the time near Lava. Mr. Bogue's dog treed the animal and stood guard until Mr. Bogue returned from his house with a rifle. The cat was an unusually large one, measuring over seven feet in length.

W. H. Hollinshead had the misfortune to break several bones in his hand the first of the week. He was riding after cattle and was thrown against a fence the left hand receiving the force of the fall.

P. B. Doak was in Bend Friday on his way to Prineville. He was returning from a trip to Silver Lake.

If the Columbia Southern adds much more rolling stock to its present supply it will have to build a switch down this way at least on which to store the cars not in use.