

The DesChutes Echo

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HERE'S CHANCE FOR INVESTOR

An Electric Railway From Sacramento Valley to the Deschutes Has Inviting Traits.

Before all the interest in the building of electric roads dies out it might be well to call attention to a route in the southern part of the state whose feasibility is best left to the imagination of the reader. The practical side of the plan can best be measured by the country through which a line from the Sacramento valley in California to some point on the Deschutes would pass.

It is stated upon reliable authority that a magnificent opportunity awaits the capitalist who would back the construction of an electric road from some point in that valley to the Deschutes river. It is also held that such a line would be on a paying basis as soon as put into operation and would triple its traffic as soon as a junction could be had with the Columbia Southern when it builds to Bend.

The Sacramento river, it is stated, would furnish an abundance of electrical power to maintain a line from either Sacramento or some point in its valley to the Klamath river, and relay stations along this would supply power along its entire course to Klamath Falls and points in that vicinity. From the Klamath river power would necessarily have to be transmitted until connection was had with the Deschutes whose terrific force would be sufficient at any point to establish stations. From the headwaters of the latter stream to Bend the contour of the country is the best that could be asked for and the territory one from which an enormous amount of traffic would be derived. The longest transmission of power would be from Klamath Falls across the Klamath Marsh, lying to the north, but this is not as great a distance by half as some of the commercial lines in California.

Such a route undoubtedly has possibilities before it beyond any conservative estimate which could be made. The new territory which such a line would open to the world has in it the natural resources and wealth of stock and trade which cannot be set down in figures. Although running parallel to the Southern Pacific the road would pass through a country whose trade and traffic is foreign to the line in the Willamette Valley and a district from which the Southern Pacific now derives but an inconsiderable part of its trade.

There is every reason to believe that a line along the eastern slope of the Cascades would be as practical as one in the Valley and a venture well worthy the investment. Timber alone in the immense forests of Crook, Klamath and Lake counties would put a road on a dividend basis, irrespective of the immense traffic which would come from stock and the opening of new agricultural districts and the communication with and the traffic derived from these

already established.

This same field was gone over a few years ago with the same idea in view, but it was not thought then to be a practical scheme owing to the sparsely settled districts through which the road would be compelled to build. But the past year has noted some remarkable changes, both in Crook county and the two counties to the south. Settlement is rapidly taking place, timber is being got into shape for the markets, stock raising is increasing and every indication points to the reverse of the decision reached by the party which, a few years ago, was looking for investment of this kind. The best thing that can be offered the members of it now is an invitation to come back and look over the field again. It is highly probable that their ideas would be more in touch with the progressive steps and great strides which the country is now taking.

Enthusiastic Meeting Held.

"Progress, investment of capital, and quick development" is the slogan which the Bend Board of Trade is just now shouting at the top of its voice, and the efforts being made by the organization, it is predicted, will bring about the desired results.

The regular meeting held Wednesday evening was largely attended and many points of interest pertaining to the development of the Deschutes Valley came up and were acted upon. Chief among these was the declaration adopted and forwarded to W. A. Laidlaw of the Three Sisters Irrigation company, Robert MacFarlane of the Deschutes Reclamation company, and President Lytle of the Columbia Southern, commending the enterprises in the hands of each, expressing the goodwill and best wishes of the Bend Board of Trade toward their several projects, and extending to them the earnest wish that each of their enterprises meets with an early and successful completion.

"We want these people who are working for the development of the Deschutes Valley to know that the residents of this community are watching them and are ready to give them a lift whenever it is in our power to do so," said Secretary Reed. "And that applies not only to the projects already under way, but to any that may start in the future, whether it be the individual effort of a single business man or an industrial move of a corporation. Every project ought to receive our hearty support, and from the looks of things every legitimate project will."

The building of a general merchandise store by W. H. Staats was endorsed and support pledged. Advertising discussed, the needs of the Deschutes Valley given a thorough airing and in fact for two hours there was business discussion which portends great results in the future.

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Board throws its meetings open to the public and every resident of the valley is invited to be present. The members of course are expected to be there without further notice.

Charges of Fraud Unwarranted.

Tallyrand, when asked to define truth, answered, "Language which is not false." The week before at the salon of Madame De Stael in answer to "For what was language invented," his reply was, "To conceal thoughts." Plato in his famous lectures defined a lie as "language used to deceive."

The Oregonian in its attacks upon the officials of the U. S. land department, and upon those who have taken up land in Oregon under the homestead law and timber and stone act, has used the philosophy of Tallyrand. It has accused those who have taken timber claims of not intending to live upon the land, well knowing the law does not contemplate residence. It has accused settlers of violating the law when they took homesteads and acquired residence on valuable timber lands, knowing full well that the homestead law was so broad the settler had perfect right to select any land he desired except certain mineral and coal lands. It has quoted Secretary Hitchcock, who accuses fraud in the man, or rather the family that borrows \$2075 to pay for timber claims, knowing full well that under the decision of the court of Appeals the government has no right to question how the applicant secures his money.

The minimum amount of pine on claims selected seems to have been two million feet—merchandise timber. According to the estimated value of fir claims by the Oregonian two thousand dollars would be an exceedingly conservative loan for any one to make. Consequently there can be but little evidence of fraud in this.

The secretary of Interior and the Oregonian imply fraud in the vast numbers from adjoining and distant states flocking to these Pacific states to secure timber, when for years the coast has been boasting of its forests. At all the great expositions for years past, it has had samples of its trees and forest products. Outside of the cypress belt of the Gulf states one cannot find a market that is not supplied with Pacific coast lumber and shingles. It was the Pacific states that asked congress to pass the timber and stone act, and it was many years before this act became a general law. Yet after years of advertising and much concerted effort, and as soon as the people awaken to the value of these lands, the very powers which produced this result have raised the cry of fraud, using their best reporters and ablest writers and giving column after column of valuable space on the single phrase, "Fraud—Fraud."

There must be a motive in these attacks. We, as residents of the state, have the right to seek this motive. We have the right because the language which the Oregonian has used has concealed its thoughts. On December 4 the Oregonian published a notice that the Northern Pacific railroad company had filed patents embracing over sixty thousand acres of land with lieu land scrip. It is a well known fact that this Northern Pacific lieu land is already under contract to one corporation. This corporation is to the lumber industry what the steel trust is to

the steel industry.

It should be known that there is enough of this lieu land to cover all the valuable timber land in the United States, and that this great corporation in order to preserve the values in this lieu land is employing its energies to have the timber and stone act repealed.

We have the right to assume because the Oregonian is so unfair that it is selling its space to this great corporation. The Oregonian knows that the irrigation fund receives \$2.50 per acre for all timber land bought, while there is not one cent received if lieu land scrip is laid. It is not very difficult therefore to see the reason of its animosity toward national irrigation and its favor of the Carey law.

T. W. W.

Give Them Fair Treatment.

To treat all matters fairly and impartially ought to be the governing motive of all deliberative bodies, but it is not the case with the Crook County Irrigation Association. In opposition to companies striving to obtain contracts under the Carey act in this county it is only necessary to set up the facts in order to defeat their schemes. But the association has adopted a formidable set of "whereases" and resolutions which only serve to show utter ignorance of the matters involved. We refer to the "shoestring" part of the resolutions adopted by that body.

Nature determined the course of all irrigating canals that may hereafter be constructed on the desert and had a hand in forming the alluvial tracts that would be benefited thereby and no blame can or should attach to the Pilot Butte Development company for its vagaries. The land embraced within the "horseshoe" tract is too high to admit water to be carried on to it from the canal and worthless for agricultural purposes if it were irrigated. These are facts that may be verified by the most casual inspection, and while they may not remove the objection to the selection of lands by the company in that shape, it does show that the motive for so doing was not such as is ascribed to it by these "resolutions." Honor to whom honor is due, gentlemen. Let your fight be on fair grounds, and you will receive the support of all who have the best interests of the community in view.

"Get All You Can."

"Whenever you see an opportunity to purchase any land near Bend," said a wealthy resident of Portland the other day, "make the most of it and get all you can. The time is not far distant when you'll be sorry if you have let a single chance slip past to secure an acre or two of ground in a district where great things are in view for the future. I have seen Portland grow from a little village to its present size, and I know that this spot in Eastern Oregon called Bend has a brilliant future ahead of it. Get land—get all you can—and hang onto it for awhile and see for yourself. If the natural resources around the Deschutes don't make it valuable then the railroad will."

"But what assurance have you that there will ever be a railroad?" was asked.

"The best in the world—facts. It will be there, don't worry, and if you have any money to invest in real estate invest right here on the Deschutes river."

Echoes Along the Deschutes.

M. F. Hodson and wife came over from Sisters the first of the week.

John Sismore is hauling lumber for his new hotel building, construction work on which will begin next week.

C. G. Richardson returned the first of the week with a party of thirteen which he located on claims.

Eight inches of snow fell Sunday, the first heavy storm of the season. Monday a Chinook wind took off over half of it and in the three days following only patches here and there in sheltered spots could be found.

Wm. St. Thomas was here on a business trip the first of the week from Portland. He left Tuesday for Odell to look after some property he is interested in.

Miss Jackie Brock left for Prineville Tuesday to make final proof on her timber claim.

Attention is called to the full page advertisement of Deschutes town property which was inserted last week. The interest which has been aroused by property along the Deschutes being placed upon the market is evidenced by the flood of inquiries which have been received during the past week. Quick sales have been made and indications point toward a season of building activity beginning early in the coming year. At least the world is becoming acquainted with the fact that there is such a place as Bend—odious as the name is—and Deschutes town property will not go long a beggin'.

School Building Completed.

The new district school building, work on which was begun in the fall, has practically been completed and with the finishing of some interior work will be ready for the seats and equipments which are on their way from Shaniko. The old seats and desks will be used in the new building by the pupils until the new furniture arrives.

The new building is a credit both to the district and the community. The best of workmanship and materials have made it one of the best district buildings in the county, and one large enough to accommodate the increase in the number of scholars which will be in attendance next fall. At present about thirty pupils are enrolled. Four grades are being conducted by Mr. Hampton with a complete line of studies in each, and the full attendance during the past term marks the interest with which the pupils are pursuing their work. Bend prides herself on the fact that the district has the best school of any in the county.

New Store to Be Built.

W. H. Staats will begin the construction next week of a store which he expects to have completed and stocked with general merchandise in time for the spring trade. Mr. Staats is the first one to make a move toward supplying the heavy demand for general supplies in this section and will no doubt meet with success in his undertaking. The building will be erected near the post-office, will have several departments, and will carry as complete a line of merchandise as will be possible to crowd into it. Charlie Dennison of Prineville has taken the contract for the building and work on it will be pushed to an early completion.