

SOUTHERN COUNTRY IS IMPRESSIVE

Much of Interest Encountered on 400 Mile Auto Trip to La Pine, Paisley, Lakeview, Alkali and Hampton Valley--Interior Towns Prosperous Homesteaders Putting in Large Crops

By G. P. P.
Like the bear that went over the mountain to see what he could see, we started last week on an auto jaunt through southern Crook and northern Lake counties; and we saw considerable--of a mighty good country, hospitable people and progressive communities. Altogether 400 miles of sage brush leaves one with optimistic impressions of the great big land south of us, and all kinds of optimistic beliefs in the prosperity and importance of its future.

In the first place, the roads just now are about as good as they ever are (excepting around Lakeview, where they were worse than--well, even worse than Judge Springer's logic!) A lot of good work has been done between here and La Pine, and the trip is easy to negotiate.

La Pine Up and Coming. Riley smiles at one hotel, and Raper at the other. That Commercial Club building which the members own themselves, and which has a larger membership proportional to population than any other in the state, looks substantial and inviting. And if one has time Editor Arnold of the Inter-Mountain will tell you some of the good things about his town--and if you haven't its always easy and profitable to read his paper.

Of course La Pine and Silver Lake and Crescent are counting pretty heavily on the land opening, and there seems little doubt that a lot of land seekers will come to them, and many of them settle and develop the country, all of which is good news not only for these communities, but also for Bend, which cannot but profit from all development of the interior.

This time we didn't go to Crescent, which, we understand, is doing mighty well, but hit the long road straight to Silver Lake. Incidentally, we hit fewer rocks than usual just this side of that town, for the good roads boosters had been out on the preceding Friday and boosted many of the rocks out of the road.

Silver Lake Prosperous. Silver Lake has a tremendous lot of land close to it that is to be opened for settlement this month, and folks are banking on much home-steading. That the town does a whale of a business is indicated by the large stocks carried by all the stores--good clean stocks too, up-to-date, active merchandise. It doesn't take much perception to realize that there is a lot of money stored up around Silver Lake, for the cattle business has done well by those who stuck to it.

Some Silver Lakeites were disposed to feel that Bend was not over friendly. However, when we got down to tacks it became evident that the "knocking" they alleged had come from Bend was confined pretty well to curbstoners, for those who complained most finally were unable to mention a single responsible person in Bend who had been unfair in this respect.

And the way Silver Lake people really feel about Bend, if they have the hand of goodfellowship held out to them and get a fair shake, is pretty well indicated by the following editorial from The Leader, which appeared after our visit:

"When such men as C. S. Hudson, of the First National Bank, and G. P. Putnam, Editor of The Bend Bulletin, assure Silver Lake that the relationship between the two sections of the country are identical, and that despite the adverse criticism of some of the 'rough stone' men of Bend, that town is friendly toward us, we are compelled to believe them. Why not? Bend is the natural outlet for Silver Lake's products. It is the railroad terminal; it is the destination of all the homesteaders. It is from Bend all freight is shipped to Silver Lake and all our mail is distributed there; in fact we depend on Bend and the future of Bend depends on Silver Lake. Our interests are identical. Let our public spirited citizens get together, help Bend, help La Pine, and help ourselves."

That's the sort of thing that pays all hands. Our interests actually are identical with Silver Lake's and the more we all do to show it, the better for us and the better for Silver Lake.

Midway between Silver Lake and Paisley is some exceedingly bad road, the first encountered on the trip.

Praise for Summer Lake. But just beyond that bad road, which is on the divide between Silver and Summer Lakes, comes one of the most pleasant experiences one can have in Central Oregon. That is an introduction to the Summer Lake country--a summerland indeed, and notably a land of good roads, good farms and good people. Which of those three is cause and which effect it would be difficult to say; the fact remains that they usually are encountered together.

A rarely rich strip of country bounds Summer Lake on the west, between the water and the rugged hills that shelter it. Here we saw scores of prosperous farms, long established, with large houses and barns, fine fences and well cultivated fields. In many cases little streams meander through the farms from the hills behind, and often their water power is used to supply electricity to the ranches.

There are a great number of orchards, prosperous in appearance, and all yielding remarkably well, judging from reports. Apple and peach trees were in bloom, and the road side was lined with wild plums whose fragrance filled the air. Lilies blossomed in the gardens, and flowers lined the fences. Altogether, a prettier spring time sight than the eastern borders of Summer Lake would be difficult to imagine. And no expert eye is required to see that with transportation this territory inevitably will become one of the great

fruit producing centers of the Pacific Coast.

Paisley's Future Big. Paisley itself is a prosperous little town, rich and stable. It has a large future, and a splendid territory adjacent to it, which will become famous when railroads arrive. Just to the north lies the irrigation project of the Northwest Townsite Company, the corporation interested in Bend and a dozen other Northwest towns. These lands are most promising in appearance, and the completion of the enterprise, which is backed substantially by eastern capital, must mean much locally and to the country at large.

Paisley, by the way, has no municipal tax levy. The income from three saloon licenses (\$1800) pays its running expenses. East of the town lies the great Chewaucan Marsh and many fine ranches occupy the adjacent acreage. The stores of Paisley are well stocked, and recently it has added to its prestige by the establishment of the Paisley National Bank, which is getting an excellent start under the guidance of Cashier Conser.

At Paisley one begins to breathe



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Yours truly,

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In the coming primary election, Charles A. Johns, of Portland, will ask the vote of every person who believes the State of Oregon needs to have taxes reduced and expenses cut down. The only way to reduce taxes and cut down expenses is to apply the same principles in running the State that you would apply in running your own business.

How many institutions would run along with an increase of operating expenses from year to year? Not many. Well, let's reduce our taxes and cut down our expenses. Charles A. Johns, of Portland, is running on that platform and stands on his platform. Get him on the job! Start thinking about this today!

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(Paid Advertisement.)

the air of California, so far as commercial relations are concerned. For there, and southward, the country buys from San Francisco and Reno, and Californian advertising, newspapers and brands of foodstuffs take the place of the accustomed Oregonian ones seen hereabout.

Roads are Poor. Perhaps half way between Paisley and Lakeview one strikes the "all the year around" road which Prineville folks are boasting between that town to Lakeview. Well, ten days before we struck it no car could get through without an auxiliary of four horses to do hauling at the mudholes.

No doubt it is a fine summer road. But it is equally sure that for three or four winter months portions of the route are impassable. The whole country seems saturated with water. The soil is sticky gumbo and in many places seemingly hard to drain. Altogether, it is a miserable highway, even as Central Oregon roads go, and in comparison the rocky roads of Crook county are infinitely preferable.

However, Judge Daly has big crews at work, and great improvements are being effected. But even with these, there never will be a time when the north and south route from Bend to California will not be far better, for all year going, than this pet scheme of the Crook county seaters, who, nevertheless, deserve full credit for their enterprise in starting the move and making so much of a poor bargain.

Lakeview is Rich. Lakeview, too is rich. It has an appearance of substantial age and of prosperity. Incidentally, there are more white buildings with red roofs there than anywhere else in the world, proportionally to size! Somebody must have inherited a lot of red and white paint. Add a hundred gallons of blue, and Lakeview would be more patriotic than a Hearst newspaper trying to stir up a war.

The Lakeview Examiner is an example of a well equipped printing plant which turns out a first rate paper. And another Lake county institution (he oughtn't to mind being called that) which folks up this way see and hear of, is Lair Thompson, state senator from this district.

From Lakeview to Alkali Lake occupied a long afternoon's run, past the 30 or more miles of Abert Lake's shoreline, and through, for the most part, an unsettled sagebrush country.

Soda Deposits at Alkali. At Alkali Lake the Oregon Borax Company, with F. L. Young in charge has filed on a great natural deposit of soda, or, technically speaking, sodium carbonate. Just now G. S. Young of Bend, acting as a U. S. Government deputy mineral surveyor, is running out the boundaries of the company's claims, which are soon to be patented, and embrace about 3 1/2 square miles.

The soda, which is white and chalky, lies along the edges of the lake,

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occupying a great patch perhaps a mile or more square, and much more of it hidden beneath the surface. Its value is for fertilizer, baking soda and in the manufacture of iron and steel. It has been tested out thoroughly, and found of great value. The company has invested heavily at Alkali Lake, and with the advent of transportation will reap enormous profits. It is estimated that there is enough soda practically in sight to ship 30 cars a day for 30 years, thus insuring a big industry for this now isolated corner of the interior.

Room for Many Settlers. Northerly from Alkali Lake a poor road ultimately connects with the Bend-Burns road, passing through Butte and Lost Creek Valley. The first portion of the journey shows few homesteaders, and the great expanse of rich looking and rockless sagebrush plains indicate that there is yet room for hundreds of more landless men who would get land from Uncle Sam.

At Butte Mrs. I. McDowell, at the post office, said she has raised everything in her garden but tomatoes and cucumbers, indicating what can be done out there.

Lost Creek Valley is settling up fast. We were told that O. C. Henkle of Bend had just located a settler on the last bit of untaken land there.

Much Homestead Development. Then comes the Bend-Burns road, now in good condition, and through Hampton Valley and on practically all the way is one continuous succession of homesteaders, with fences, plowed fields and many substantial improvements. All along the way we were told that practically every one is living on their claims and that this year the acreage cultivated will be about twice what it was last year.

Brookings, of course, is busy, acting as the half way house between Bend and Burns and caring for the heavy auto travel and other travel between the two towns. The day before we were there 18 people were fed, and the day before that, 30. For the month of April 300 travellers registered.

Altogether, when one gets back to the watered streets, electric lights and cement sidewalks of Bend, it is with a renewed enthusiasm, not only for Bend itself, but for the big country south and east of it, to see which is to feel with redoubled certainty that a great future lies in store for it--a future which is yet scarcely guessed--and that its ultimate development must mean a like development and prosperity for Bend.

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