

Strahorn Tells of Growth of Resources of Central Oregon

(The Sunday Oregonian.)

Preliminary surveys on the Oregon California & Eastern Railway will be completed by the middle of summer, and further development will be pressed forward as rapidly as possible, says Robert E. Strahorn, president of the road, who has just returned from an extensive tour through Central Oregon.

Mr. Strahorn is thoroughly encouraged as a result of his trip. He traveled more than 900 miles, starting at Bend and leading through La Pine and Fremont to Silver Lake, thence through the whole length of the Fort Rock and Christmas Lake valleys and by way of the Narrows of Harney and Malheur lakes to Crane Creek Gap, the proposed western terminus of the Oregon Short Line.

He proceeded southward through the town of Harriman, around the east side of Steins mountain to the Alvord lake country in extreme southern Oregon; thence around the southern and western sides of Steins mountain through the Catlow valley, Warner Lake and Albert Lake regions to Paisley. From Paisley he went to Lakeview and to Klamath Falls, returning to Bend by way of Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath Marsh. A number of side trips were made from several of these points and a large portion of the 450 miles of the surveyed lines of the Oregon, California & Eastern Railway was closely followed.

Developments are Gratifying.

Mr. Strahorn was much gratified at the many developments which have taken place in the past year in this country. No part of it seems to have stood still. For example, he reports about 100 families have located in Catlow valley, a section 20 miles wide and 40 miles long, and but a small fraction of Harney county. "Catlow valley," said Mr. Strahorn, "is one of the highest elevated districts in Central Oregon, and even here fruit trees of various kinds were found in blossom and vegetation well advanced."

"Many of the homesteaders were making permanent improvements of such a character as to insure thorough stability of the country. They all talk confidently of their future notwithstanding the nearest railroad point is about 150 miles distant and that they have to haul their building material, fencing and other supplies from a point north of Burns about 100 miles distant."

"The group of valleys on the east side of Steins mountain, including Happy valley, Anderson's valley, Wild Horse valley, and others, form a connected arable district about 85 miles long and from two or three miles to 20 miles wide," said Mr. Strahorn. "This is all in Harney county. These valleys, lying around the base of Steins mountain, while so isolated, enjoy a very happy combination of the immense summer range covering Steins mountain and vast stretches of hay lands and winter ranges around its base."

250 Mile Auto Trip Is Made.

"It required about a 250 mile automobile trip to encircle this mountain from the north end of which, stretching 50 miles northward to Malheur lake, is the great Blitzen valley region which has been so well developed by Colonel William Hanley. This property recently changed hands, now being owned by the Swift interests and the Corbett family, of Portland. This is regarded as an ideal stock raising section, probably the best in Eastern Oregon."

"The whole Steins mountain country in connection with Harney valley offers splendid opportunity for development by the Oregon Short Line approaching from the east and our proposed line to be built eastward from Bend to a connection with the Oregon Short Line somewhere in the Burns territory."

At Lakeview, Mr. Strahorn was advised by the officials of the United States Land Office that an average of 100 land entries have been made per year for the past three years. As this district includes only Klamath and Lake counties and a small portion of Crook county, it will give some idea of the activity existing in Government lands. Another striking fact was the census recently taken of Fort Rock valley which lies mainly in Lake county, showing 521 families with 27 school houses. This valley lies about 50 miles south of Bend and will be crossed from north to south by the Bend-Lakeview line of the Oregon California & Eastern.

Probably the most important agricultural development is in Klamath county where the valleys may not be quite so large as in Harney county but the very large proportion of reclaimed marsh lands are said to be among the richest in the world. There are several hundred thousand acres of these marsh lands in Klamath county of which several thousand acres are being reclaimed every year. They at once become thickly settled and developed. Their productivity is so prodigious that 40 or 80 acres is considered a good farm. It will be the cattle and dairy country par excellence, says Mr. Strahorn.

Dry Farming Progress is Made.

"While the marshes are being thus rapidly drained and developed,

great progress is being made on the upland dry farms," he explained further.

"Many new tracts are being cleared of sage brush and put into crops this season. It is believed that the usual wheat yield in the vicinity of Klamath Falls amounting to about 250,000 bushels per year, will quickly double. Klamath county has also in the past year shipped about 10,000 hogs and considerably more than \$1,000,000 worth of beef and many sheep."

"The development of new farm lands, irrigation projects, etc., is also very active in the Silver Lake region and about Paisley. Private irrigation projects are being pushed on a considerable scale, while the larger projects under the district plan are being organized and placed in a fair way for early construction."

Mr. Strahorn found large quantities of wool being hauled north from the Lakeview and Paisley districts to Bend, a distance of from 100 to 150 miles, for shipment to Portland; also that a Paisley firm which last year shipped 350,000 pounds of goods from San Francisco is this year buying its entire stock at Portland. He also learned that there are 350,000 head of sheep grazing in the country tributary to his projected railway with an annual wool production of about 3,000,000 pounds. Contrary to reports broadcast during the winter, the losses of sheep and cattle were comparatively small. While there was an unusual snowfall in the higher districts the winter ranges reinforced by large amounts of hay brought the cattle and sheep through in good shape. Meanwhile the heavy snowfall has left the soil in fine shape for dry farming.

Lumber Industry Being Developed.

The lumber interests are being very rapidly developed. Besides the two great mills recently completed at Bend, the starting of one of which Mr. Strahorn witnessed while there, new mills of considerable capacity have been built on Upper Klamath lake and smaller ones in various other sections. In Klamath Falls several factories are utilizing lumber for boxes and other by products on a large scale. The largest mill at Klamath Falls, having a capacity of 250,000 feet for each 10 hours, is now arranging to put on a night shift so its production can be increased to 500,000 feet per day.

One of the big Bend mills is doing the same, and the capacity of one of the Bend mills will be doubled in the near future. All of these lumber manufacturers advised Mr. Strahorn that they had booked orders for a long time ahead and that these orders were well distributed throughout all of the Central states, reaching as far south as Texas.

About 300 miles of the Oregon, California & Eastern lines have been surveyed, while several hundred miles of preliminary surveys have been run in addition. The two parties now in the field are expected to complete the engineering work by mid-summer, after which several months of office work by the draftsmen will place the whole project on paper in good shape. The most important field work now going on is the new line being run south from Silver Lake via Ryan Marsh and Sprague River to Klamath Falls.

This is an important diversion from the line originally run from Silver Lake to Klamath Falls via Kirk. The new line is about 40 per cent complete and is thus far very favorable.

Meetings Held At Towns.

Besides endeavoring to complete his knowledge of the entire Central Oregon country lying tributary to these proposed lines, Mr. Strahorn held meetings with the people at such points as Bend, Silver Lake, Lakeview, Paisley and Klamath Falls to adjust terminal and right of way details which have arisen since surveys were commenced. All of these meetings were largely attended and enthusiastic, and assurances were everywhere received of unanimous support of the people. In the language of several, "anything that was asked for would be produced." This is being made good by the constant free tenders of rights of way and station grounds by the various communities.

Among other developments which promise large tonnage to the Central Oregon railway are the great soda deposits estimated at from 700,000 to 1,000,000 tons of solid crystallized soda at Alkali lake, owned by the Spreckles interests. These people have just sent in two large auto trucks loaded to the guards with machinery for a plant which they will immediately establish at the deposits to extract the moisture from the product, thus reducing the weight of the material about one-half and leaving it so near chemically pure as to be readily marketable at good figures.

When the plant is completed the trucks will be used to haul the pro-

duct to Lakeview, whence it will be shipped over the Nevada-California Oregon Railroad to San Francisco. These trucks will be able to deliver 10 tons to the railroad per day. There are also signs locally of the development of Summer and Abert lakes project as a result of the activities of Jason Moore, Mr. Strahorn reported. It is reported that machinery will be shipped in at an early date to distill the valuable salts said to exist in great quantities in these lakes.

Cut This Out—It Is Worth Money.

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THE TIN CAN FARMER.

By Stanley F. Morse.
Farmer Jones was a tin-can man; He lived and ate from an old tin can. Canned beans for breakfast, beef for dinner; Canned stuff made his family thinner. Even in cans came his gasoline. And his tin-can cow's milk had no cream; Canned peaches, strawberries, tomatoes and beans. From his tin-can garden, with its lack of greens, Even his spouse was made of tin. And the half fed people who lived within Sometimes ventured to spend some "tin."

For an apple, orange, pear, or plum Which might just as well have been raised at home. Till at last the farm adviser came And said, "It is a beastly shame. These boys must have fresh fruit to eat. And vegetables, too, and home-killed meat. Why don't you raise some home supplies?"

A garden's a profitable enterprise; And keep some hens, a cow, a pig. The labor of it is not big. The boys and girls must join a club To teach them how to raise good grub."

The farm adviser went away, But soon returned another day. A change he saw in home and man, And not a single old tin can; A garden fine, an orchard fair; The house and tools in good repair. The farmer and his wife explain With smiles, they have not worked in vain.

O r children in the club did win And now we're saving all our "tin."
—California Cultivator.

TEN REASONS FOR DAIRYING

The Pacific Homestead gives the following reasons for dairying:

It enables the dairyman to anticipate and receive a neat and regular income from the sale of milk.

The sale of surplus young stock and cows furnishes an income in addition to the income for milk, that adds to the profits materially.

It provides a home market and pays higher prices for farm crops than are ordinarily paid at commercial centers.

It utilizes grass and various kinds of feed that have no market value except as they are converted into milk or other salable products.

It provides a means of employing labor regularly and profitably at all seasons of the year.

It makes the farm permanently productive by the utilization of feeds on the farm and the use of farm manures.

The regular income from the sale of dairy products and stock enables the farmer to keep up permanent improvements and to take pride in the possession of a farm home.

Dairying offers one a great opportunity for becoming a thorough business manager and enjoying the game of trying to make everything pay.

It produces a human food for which there is no substitute and for which there will always be a constant demand and an opportunity to supply at reasonable prices.

It offers a most suitable environment for the development of high standards of living both for a family and a community.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Notice is given to all contractors and builders that no work should be begun on any building within the city limits of Bend until the owner of the property has secured a building permit under the recently enacted building ordinance of the city of Bend.

L. A. W. NIXON,
Chief of Police.

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