

ROAD MAN GETS DATA

C. J. MILLIS GIVEN SOME VALUABLE INFORMATION

Harney County's Resources in Way of Railroad Business far Exceeds All his Expectations - Some Facts.

Live Stock Agent C. J. Millis of the O. R. & N. Co. has been making regular annual visits to this section for the past several years, but his visit of a few days ago will certainly be of more benefit to the people of Harney county and the railroad people he represents in a different line from his regular business capacity of live stock agent.

While his recent visit had no particular significance outside his regular line of business, he signified his desire to get information in regard to our resources other than livestock.

He had in his possession a recent issue of The Times-Herald in which a table of possible railroad business appeared. He indicated that this great religious weekly did not always strictly adhere to facts—in other words he was from "Missouri, and had to be showed". Accordingly, some thirty or more of our businessmen and ranchers of this vicinity met with the gentleman at the city hall on Monday afternoon and in the course of a short time convinced him that our figures, if anything, were too low.

In fact the table was increased in all instances where any changes were made.

Mr. Millis desired it strictly understood that he did not come to us as a railroad builder or to make any promises in that respect, but as his people depend upon him for information regarding this section and showed a decided interest he wanted authentic and verified facts to give them for such. He wanted to know what we produced in desirable tonnage for a railroad and what inducements we had to offer.

"I think the time is approaching when your section will receive recognition from the railroad people, especially since the Government has begun the preliminary work on your Silvers Valley reservoir site and it has become generally known what a magnificent country you have and the amount of rich, level land susceptible to irrigation," he said to The Times-Herald reporter.

"Your paper is doing good work," he continued, "and just keep at it. There is nothing lost in your continual kicking, and everything possible to gain." He then related the story of the two frogs that fell into a can of milk. The Boston frog gave up and drowned, while the Chicago frog continued to kick and was found by the housewife next morning on a pound of butter.

The meeting at the city hall brought out many favorable facts in connection with the resources of Harney county that were in the published table which was taken for reference.

The plats of the U. S. Geological survey showed a total of over 381,000 acres of land north of Malheur lake susceptible to irrigation under the Silvers reservoir site. Mr. Millis asked if this was all wheat land which brought out a discussion of the quality of our soil and to what it is best adapted. He was shown that practically all of this land would make excellent grain land with the exception of a few alkali spots which would raise sugar beets to perfection. Again Mr. Millis was skeptical and was astonished when told that specimens sent out for analysis were found to contain 17 per cent of saccharine matter. Sugar beets carrying 12 1/2 per cent saccharine matter are considered exceptionally good and above the average. The sugar beets grown in the county were found of higher grade than any other in the United States and even one per cent higher than Germany where the highest per cent is found.

Mr. Millis stated that this would prove very advantageous to us in future.

A calculation of the amount of foodstuffs on bench lands above the

irrigation line which Mr. Millis says are similar to the Eastern Washington and Columbia River Counties in Oregon, where the best winter wheat of the west is raised, brought out the fact that we had many thousand acres of such practically free from rocks and ready to put a plow in. This was cut in two about twice and left a total of 150,000 acres. Mr. Millis made a few quick calculations and the result showed that this yielding wheat at a very low estimate per acre would make a train of thirty cars each for 300 days per annum.

Notes on the margin of the maps of the Geological survey state "The finest bunch grass section in of Eastern Oregon". This means, according to Mr. Millis, the best kind of wheat land, as he says any place bunch grass will grow and mature, scattering its own seed, winter wheat is always a success.

Several who had been farming in this vicinity for as many as 18 years were present at this meeting and gave information in regard to various crops. Some of these same farmers made affidavit to crops which were recently forwarded to the reclamation department at Washington by Dr. Marsden.

The following average of cereals for the past 18 years in which 7 crops were raised without irrigation on the Mel Fenwick ranch: Wheat, 35 bushels per acre; barley, 46 bushels; oats 55 bushels. Wheat never went less than 30 bushels per acre.

Reference was made to large amount of hay raised here, as a possible tonnage for railroad business.

"The time has passed for stockmen to send their meat stuffs to the middle states for finishing," said Mr. Millis. "Keep your hay to finish and mature your meats here and keep the profits at home."

Another very material item in the line of business is that of dairying which has heretofore been overlooked, and which was discussed at the meeting.

There were men present who have been raising alfalfa for several years without surface irrigation very successfully. Two crops are cut each season and a third could be cut, but the crop matures at a season when the stockmen are riding. As it is the pasturage is first class and it is frequently necessary to mow it down even though there is no time to put it up. Mr. Millis said we certainly did not seem to appreciate the fact alfalfa would grow without irrigation. It was also demonstrated that the soil of this valley sub-irrigates much better than is usual or can be found in many places.

Mr. Millis was then taken in hand by a delegation of merchants and teamsters and given accurate data on freight matters, distances of shipping points and the cost of bringing goods in and shipping out wool, etc.

The gentleman seemed well pleased and even expressed astonishment after receiving the information from our people and being convinced that our section is more resourceful than ever pictured by the public press.

Just before leaving Mr. Millis said: "I know of no other section that has come under my observation that has a more promising future than the great Harney country promises to be. I am interested in you and if I can help you it will be my pleasure."

Worth of Tracts Fixed.

The State Land Board has made the official apportionment of the land on the 27,004.83 acres of land held by the Three Sisters Irrigation Company. This apportionment fixes the price which settlers must pay in order to secure the land from the state.

Under its contract, the reclamation company has a lien for \$27,700 on the entire tract, or a little more than \$10 per acre. This lien is apportioned to the relative value of the tract. The value depends chiefly upon the amount of tillable and waste land in each tract. Settlers secure the land from the state by paying off the lien.

HAS BIG COLONIZATION PLAN

HOW BOOTH-TUCKER WOULD AID THE POOR OF CITIES.

Salvation Army Commander Proposes That Government Shall Lend Money to Settlers--Place on Land.

"We are becoming a nation which dwells in single blessedness," said Frederick St. George de Lantour Booth-Tucker, commander of Salvation Army, in all America, to the Oregonian. "In our city life there is becoming less room and less for the family. The single man and the single woman, the childless married couple are usurping the places their fathers held."

"And so," continued the commander, "we have evolved a plan to send the poor families to farms of their own. As President Roosevelt says, 'give every man who wants it a chance to own a home on the land.'"

Thus out of the mouth of the Salvation Army, a political babe and a suckling, cometh forth wisdom in the form of a scheme to colonize the west. In those halls of Congress where the railroad lobbyists, the trust manipulators and the would-be appointee are wont to stay, will be seen next session the scarlet jerkin of the Salvationist. Had it not been for the death of Senator Hanna the attention of the Senate and of the house of representatives would ere this have been called to a bill, conceived by Commander Booth-Tucker, framed by skilled attorneys and entitled:

A bill to create the Colonization bureau and to provide for advances to actual settlers on the public domain.

As it is, Senator Fairbanks will probably introduce the bill at the next session, and the militant host that has sprung within 30 years from the loins of the little mission in the east end of London, will bend its zeal and the mighty influence of its mighty friends to the task of persuading Congress that the bill is as good as it looks.

"It will replace the dummy homesteader with a genuine farmer," said Commander Booth-Tucker as a preface, and then he explained what the bill would do if it passed.

Briefly stated, the bill proposes that a colonization bureau be established under the direction of the Department of the interior. Fifty million dollars' worth of 3 per cent bonds are to be issued for the purpose of advancing bona fide and worthy families of settlers from \$500 to \$1500 in cash or materials for the purpose of enabling poor people to make farms, not exceeding 40 acres, for themselves upon the public domain. Such loans are to be repaid to the Government in easy installments.

"The present land laws are good enough for the rich man and even for the man who has a little money," said the commander. "But what are we going to do with the man who has a family and only \$60?"

"What would such a law do?" he echoed. "It would place unemployed labor on unemployed land by means of unemployed capital, and thereby convert this trinity of waste into a unity of production, 'It would assist the worthy poor without pauperizing them. Not only would the money advanced be repaid, but interest would be required. It would be a strictly business proposition in which charity would cut no figure. The Government would make its interest, the great cities would lose some of their poor, the Nation would gain in the next generation a race of sturdy men builded into strength by contact with the soil."

"It would find a way out for the middle-aged workman who is at present not wanted by the employer, and who in case of losing his position finds it exceedingly difficult to get another. It would mitigate the friction between capital and labor by giving every one the opportunity to work. It would check the trend of population to the cities.

(Continued on next page.)

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