

IMPRESSED WITH BIGNESS

Addison Bennett Carried Away With Greatness of Interior Oregon

THE SHAME OF ITS LONG NEGLECT

If People of Our Own State Realized What a Magnificent Empire Awaited Development at Their Very Door, Transportation Lines Would Follow--Necessary to "The Greater Oregon."

Burns, Oregon, Jan. 21, '09
Editor The Times-Herald:
Perhaps your readers in this vicinity would like to have the impressions of a new-comer in the valley; and likely such impressions will tend to give your "outsider" readers a faint idea of the magnitude of the Harney valley and its tributary country.

I quote the word "outsider" for the reason that since coming here a week ago I have been on almost all occasions greeted as an "outsider"; which is, I think, an indictment made against a resident of the State which shows plainer than any argument the complete isolation of your wonderful country.

I have for several years been in the newspaper business at points on or contiguous to the Columbia river, and like most newspaper men I have been interested in publicity and development work, and in such capacity I identified myself with the Oregon Development League at its inception, and have been a vice-president of the same from the beginning, in 1904. This is the league of which Hon. Theodore B. Wilcox is president, and that masterful organizer and publicity promoter Tom Richardson is secretary and manager. It is a well known fact that this league, through the able leadership of Mr. Richardson, has done a great work for Oregon, and all at the expense of Portland, the outlay last year being over \$60,000, (and I am glad to know that at the meeting of the re-organized Burns Commercial Club on Tuesday evening the members decided to affiliate with the state league.)

I have made this rather lengthy statement to show that I must at least be given credit for having ordinary intelligence, and that I must possess at least an average knowledge of my adopted State--dear old Oregon. And yet I came here a week ago to find that my former convictions and ideas of the "inside" were fallacious, and that I, like the vast majority of poor fellow Oregonians, was really and truly an "outsider," a foreigner, and had no adequate understanding of the conditions in a territory embracing nearly two-thirds of future arable lands of the State.

Taking the city of Portland as the populous center of Oregon and we will understand the present conditions of ignorance best by saying that from that city a trip to Chicago can be made almost as expeditiously, almost as cheaply and with far more comfort than a trip to Burns, the metropolis of interior Oregon, for the railway and stage fare alone is a matter of a trifle under \$50. for the round trip, and your baggage in excess of 30 pounds will cost you four cents a pound.

And as to the inconveniences of the trip, or the hardships as you may call them, I am at present too "sore" to dilate upon them. But when we merely think of a stage ride of 27 hours, from 3 p. m. one day to 7 p. m. the following day, through cold and sleet and snow and rain, with many changes made in the night, it will be seen that the trip from the "outside" is no picnic.

And the shame of it is that such conditions exist. The shame of it is that this section has so long been allowed to remain without railroad communication, for it is stated, and I believe on the most reliable authority, that when the resources, taken in connection with the area, of this vast section are taken into consideration that it is the largest and best area of land in the United States lying in such an isolated condition.

Let me revert to the day I left the little town of Irrigon, on the Columbia. I took the train on the afternoon of Jan. 13th, but would have taken one two or three days earlier could I have done so with any degree of certainty. But the snow was deep there, and the thermometer had reached a day or two previous 25 degrees below zero.

Hence I came here in the very midst of the most severe "cold spell" ever known in the sections along the Columbia, a section widely advertising its mild and equable climate and reached Burns after a trip of a little over 48 hours--to be exact, 49 hours, and I know, from newspaper reports, the "cold wave" held its grip in the country I left, for at least several days after my departure.

been so kind, so generous, so delightful that I at times feel almost ashamed to think you are entertaining me far above my deserts.

And yet I believe the way you are using me is but typical of your people. I do not think the citizens of Burns could be mean or small if they tried--there is something in the largeness of the country that develops big hearts--something in the general environments that tends to make "men" and "women" in the very best sense in which those words can be used.

I have been up to your school buildings and looked into the faces of your children, and I see intelligence plainly written there also; so that I know the future of your country is safe for the generation to come--doubtless I know this for I also attended Rev. Irwin's Sunday School, and found in many particulars the finest school of the kind I have attended for very rich forty years.

I wish ten thousand of the men of Oregon on the "outside" could be induced to come here and see you as I have seen you. I wish, particularly, that the 90 members of our legislature could be induced to come over here in a body. If this could be done you would not be on the "inside" by this time next year, for such a cry would go up that even heaven would know that the present isolated condition of South Central Oregon is not a calamity, not a misfortune, but a crime.

And not simply a crime against the people here, not simply a crime against this section; but a crime against the whole State, the whole people, even against the Nation. For here lies one of the richest portions of this great State almost helpless--gagged and bound--paying but a trifling tribute to the State, having but slight interests in common with the State, simply because of a lack of a few miles of railroads.

Who is to blame for the present conditions? That question is not worth answering, that fact is not worth considering. But let the whole State wake up now to the fact that the building up of "the greater Oregon" about which all are talking on the outside, this country must be "annexed to the State," and must no longer be left chained to the Past for the lack of railway communication.

Mr. Editor I have written at more length than I intended, but the subject is so large that I hope you will pardon my verbosity.
ADDISON BENNETT

Colds contracted at this season of the year are quickly relieved with Bees Laxative Cough Syrup. Its laxative quality rids the system of the cold. Pleasant to take. Best for children for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. Sold by The Welcome Pharmacy, Burns, Ore., Fred Haines Harney, Ore.

Job printing--The Times-Herald

SENATOR GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN.



Governor Geo. E. Chamberlain, the choice of the people for United States Senator at the last general election, was elected to fill that position by the Oregon Legislature in last session, receiving a total of fifty-three votes.

TO BROADEN DESERT LAW

The Burns Commercial Club Suggests Practical Amendments To It

THE VIEWS OF EXPERIENCED MEN

Recommendations be Forwarded at Once to Our Representatives in Washington and Favorable Consideration Asked--A Solution to Present Complications and Extending its Uses.

The Burns Commercial Club has had under discussion needed land legislation and many suggestions along practical lines have been advanced looking to a solution of vexed clauses, impractical construction and interpretations of the existing laws. The Mondell bill with Smoot amendment was favorably considered by a large number of local people and yet the non-residence clause did not appeal to all.

From what information obtainable through the newspapers and other sources, it appears that his proposed measure has no show of passing congress--and the non-residence clause is what is credited as the cause of its defeat.

The following outline of a bill, which is an enlargement on the present desert land law, has been suggested by the Club and a resolution embodying this outline has been forwarded to Oregon's congressional delegation as a suggestion toward bringing about the desired relief, or rather, a practical solution of present day perplexities and a really beneficial law as viewed by men who have studied the situation and understand conditions in actual public land districts:

An Act entitled an Act to Amend an Act Entitled an Act, etc. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for any citizen of the United States, or any person of suitable age ("who may be entitled to become a citizen and who has filed his declaration to become such") and upon payment of twenty-five cents per acre, to file a declaration, under oath, with the Register and Receiver of the land district in which any desert land is situated, that he intends to reclaim a tract of desert land, not exceeding 320 acres, by scientific dry land farming or by conducting water upon the same within the period of seven years thereafter. Provided, However, That where the mode of reclamation is by means of water the right to the use of water by the person so conducting the same on or to any tract of desert land shall depend upon bona fide right, appropriation, and use; and such right shall not exceed the amount of water actually appropriated and necessarily used for the purpose of ir-

take effect in the states of California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Dakotas and the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the determination of what may be considered desert land shall be subject to the decision and regulation of the General Land Office.

That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

THE CLUB HAS A GOOD MEETING.
The Merging of the Two Clubs and Much Accomplished of Great Benefit

The Burns Commercial Club held another interesting and profitable meeting last Tuesday evening. Because of the broadness of the scope of its discussions and the absence of local interest shown by the members the Club has impressed outside visitors with the evident desire and sincerity in promoting the interests of the entire Southeastern Central Oregon. It was organized for that particular purpose. While matters of local importance will have attention from time to time, such matters will not be taken up to the detriment or neglect of the larger purposes of the club.

Vice-President Rembold occupied the chair in the absence of President Hanley. Judge Miller submitted a proposed amendment or enlargement of the present desert land law as a substitution for the suggested resolution on the Mondell bill and with very little discussion the proposed bill was favorably considered and copies were ordered forwarded to our representatives in congress. A copy of this bill is published elsewhere.

The committee appointed to confer with the Burns Athletic Club relative to the merging of the two clubs made a report favoring consolidation and this was adopted. The Athletic club boys also adopted a similar report of their committee the following evening and all that remains to be done is the formal transfer of the Athletic club property together with the lease on the building over to the Commercial Club. This was a most gratifying move and showed much wisdom, as it makes one strong organization.

In discussing progress on the dry land experiment station it was finally decided that a committee be appointed to draft a bill to be submitted to the state legislature for that purpose. C. A. Sweek, Judge Miller and G. A. Rembold were appointed and given the privileges of outlining the bill and forwarding it at once to our representatives at Salem without submitting it to the Club.

Secretary McGowan read several communications of more or less interest, among them being one from the National Irrigation Congress asking for suggestions as to how that organization could help this section. Wm. Farre called attention to the law giving the Secretary of the Interior full power to appropriate funds with which to demonstrate the artesian flow of any district. This, he considered, was a matter that would be really beneficial to this section. Mr. Farre, Judge Miller and C. W. Ellis were appointed to draft proper resolutions on this subject and forward to the Irrigation Congress officers.

Addison Bennett took a decided interest in the discussions and addressed those present in which he complimented the club and its officers for the business like manner in which the business was disposed of and the commendable spirit shown in the matters of great importance to the big interior rather than local.

Mr. Bennett referred briefly to his trip in from the railroad which caused A. Schenk to recall his experiences on his first stage trip in. Mr. Schenk gave a very humorous description of that trip which kept his hearers convulsed with laughter from the time he started talking until he took his seat.

That all lands exclusive of timber lands and mineral lands which will not, without the scientific mode of dry land farming or cultivation, in this act referred to, or irrigation, produce some agricultural crop, shall be deemed desert lands within the meaning of this act, which fact shall be ascertained by proof of two or more credible witnesses under oath, whose affidavits shall be filed in the land office in which said tract of land may be situated.

Such this act shall apply to and furnish, Oregon, Nevada, Wash-

ington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Dakotas and the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and the determination of what may be considered desert land shall be subject to the decision and regulation of the General Land Office.

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