

PRAIRIE CITY PROPOSITION.

Plat of Townsite Finished and Activity Inaugurated.

Lon and E. E. Cleaver, who are handling the Prairie City townsite proposition, have been in Sumpter more or less during the past week. They make a talk that interests, astonishes and convinces the most hardened townsite skeptic; claiming the while that the proposition needs no booming, that the hardest task they have on hand is to convince the public that one half of the unadorned truth regarding that section of country is not the siren song of the professional boomer.

At first glance it might appear that they were bringing coal to Newcastle, in carrying on their missionary work here in Sumpter, but such is really not the case. This is the headquarters, the center, the heart of all such operations in eastern Oregon. All that country is tributary to this camp and will continue so until the Columbia Southern railroad is completed to Prairie City, when there will be a partial realignment of commercial, industrial and speculative operations. Prairie City is lining up for the position of the most important town in Grant county, or anywhere west of Sumpter.

Engineer Philbrick has completed the plat of the Prairie City Land company's additions to the town, consisting of 364 acres. The original townsite contained about eighty acres. The additions are situated south and west of the old town. Much of that on the west has been reserved for railroad purposes, yards, depot, repair shops, etc. South of the river are 240 acres of platted ground, where the company will endeavor to build the metropolis of John Day country. Mr. Philbrick says it is the handsomest townsite in eastern Oregon, being a gradual slope from the foothills to the river bank. This land has been under cultivation for years, being planted in wheat. Part of it was used for the race track and fair grounds.

A bridge will be built across the river on Johnson avenue, which thoroughfare is intended for the main business street. The avenues running north and south, are 100 feet wide; the streets east and west are 80 feet and the alleys 30 feet. Lots are 50x125 feet in size. Street grades are already being established.

It is claimed that the finest water supply in the West can be secured from a lake up on the mountain top five miles away, at an elevation above the town of about 2000 feet, and that a company from Portland will construct a system of water works there this season.

Mysterious Dead Sea in Lake County.

The following paragraph, relative to a body of water well known to Harney county people, is taken from a Wallowa county exchange: A wagon has been discovered in Albert Lake, a large body of water situated about forty miles north from Lakeview, in Lake county, Oregon. The wagon is in the lake near the eastern shore, in about twenty feet of water, and just under the rimrocks. It is supposed to have been there for twenty years or more, but how it got there nobody knows. It is difficult to reach that locality, as the trail to the desert lies on the opposite side of the lake. This lake is a remarkable one. It is another dead sea. It is about twenty miles long, from one to ten miles wide, and from one to seventy five feet deep. It is fed by a number of springs and small streams and creeks, and the Chewaucan river, but it has no outlet. Its rise and fall is perceptible; and its waters are so heavily impregnated with alkali that no animal can drink or live in it. At the mouth of the small streams

that flow into it, hundreds of dead fish are found that have drifted into its waters and died. At the mouth of Chewaucan river tons of fish can be found, and the shores are composed of fish bones. Ducks and geese only approach its waters at the mouth of the fresh water streams, and no living animal is ever found on or in the body of the lake proper.

Another Fool Father Given the Slip.

An irate father, with blood in his eye, was at the court house yesterday. He was on the warpath, and didn't care who knew it. He accused Joseph Manary of committing the crime of perjury in order to obtain a license to wed his daughter, Miss Myrtle Lee, of Baker City, and he left vowing vengeance upon the man who had robbed him of his daughter. It seems that when the young people in the case decided that life would be one great blank unless they could spend it together, the father was approached and put his foot down on the proposed marriage. The young people thereupon decided to wed, notwithstanding the objections of the father, and Monday, boarding the train at Baker City, where the young lady resided, came to Boise. Arriving here on the 5:30 train, the young man appeared at the auditor's office and made the required affidavit for a marriage license, which specifies that the ages are what the law requires. There was nothing in the appearance of the young man indicating trouble, and nothing to do in any event but issue the license after the affidavit had been made. Deputy West thereupon did so. The young man hastened back to the office of Judge Herrick, where the young lady was anxiously awaiting her lover's return, and the judge promptly tied the knot in his most approved and courteous style.—Boise Statesman.

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