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VALLEY MAN WRITES OF EAST. OREGON

Willamette Valley Not to Compare With Section This Side of Mountains, Says Matthew Gibson.

(Silverton Tribune)
Editor Tribune: Kindly give me space in your valuable medium for a brief account of my trip to Eastern Oregon. This is not as complete as it might be had I taken notes as I traveled over this section on this, my first, trip.

In company with one of my neighbors, H. E. King, we left home on Saturday, March 3, and got to Portland that evening. At 7:30 next morning we boarded the O.W. R. & N. and proceeded up the south side of the Columbia river. To any one who admires the grandeur of nature this is a most excellent trip, as it presents to the windows of the soul many interesting sights not soon to be forgotten and perhaps more especially at this time of year, as the lofty peaks that seemed to predominate, looked more majestic in their robes of white. We arrived at Heppner Junction about 2 p. m. Here we stopped ten minutes for lunch and on time proceeded to Morgan, where we stopped for a few days. The country between Heppner Junction and Morgan, especially along the railroad track, is a very fertile and productive valley, ranging in width from one to three miles. In this valley are raised immense crops of alfalfa, peaches, onions and other vegetables, crops, also immense herds of cattle and flocks of sheep that are being wintered and fattened for market. I was told that one man thinned out his flock of sheep and sold "netting" 2000 head at \$10 per head, "netting" him \$20,000, and this was only a part of his flock.

Emerging from this valley and going up over the ridge, on either side we behold vast and seemingly endless tracts of wheat land that have netted the ranchers of that section a small fortune in last year's wheat crop.

At the little station of Morgan, Morrow county, there are now in storage over 50,000 sacks of wheat averaging 140 pounds per sack, and the writer was told this was grown within a radius of five miles. A large per cent of this wheat is stored in open warehouses, or rather platforms, and is exposed to all the winter's storms, and is dry and sound despite the snow. About four miles up the railroad track is another open platform, upon which is piled a large quantity of wheat, also exposed to winter's storms and still in a condition for milling purposes. From here we went to Ione, where we remained about two days. At this place, like the two former, were more warehouses filled to capacity with wheat. We were told that 360,000 wheat sacks were distributed among the farmers in that immediate vicinity each year. The land in this vicinity, like that at Morgan, is somewhat of a volcanic ash and seems especially adapted to wheat growing, as is seen by the number of sacks put out.

One strange sight that greets the eye of a farmer from the valley is the fact that the farmers haul their barnyard manure out and dump it on rock piles instead of putting it on the land. They stated to the writer that the manure had a tendency to burn the land and absorb the moisture that might be conserved therein. Another rather strange sight was the rock formation on either side of the railroad track. Here can be seen rocks almost square, varying in size from six inches to 30 inches, standing on end and laying together in rows as though put there by human hands and might indicate a vivid imagination that at one time it might have been a wall or part of ancient buildings.

There is no timber for fuel purposes within a radius of 30 miles, but old fir can be delivered there by rail for \$5 to \$5.50 per cord.

Ione is a hustling business town, containing one bank, a large modern, up-to-date hotel, a large graded school, where several teachers are employed, several stores and implement houses, lawyers and hustling real estate agents. From here we made extensive trips over some fine farming country, going first to a Swedish settlement, where we were shown over the ranch of a Swedish farmer who desired to retire from farming on account of old age, and whose family consisted of two charming daughters, both school teachers, and at present engaged in that vocation. This gentleman was farming about 800 acres and had to rely on hired help most of the time. Wages in that part about \$40 per month in winter and \$90 in summer, until harvest sets in, and help is not available even at that. In this section we met a Mr. Witzel from Salem prairie, who is farming about 1000 acres and annually is adding a neat amount to his bank account. At a short distance from here is the ranch of Mr. Vandevort and W. C. Winslow of Salem, who received \$10,000 as their share of last season's wheat crop off of 1000 acres of land.

From here we returned to town, where we made the acquaintance of Mr. Benedict, owner of one of the finest ranches in that section, known

as the "Diamond T" ranch. This place contains about 1400 acres, from which the owner sold about \$20,000 worth of wheat the past season. Mr. Benedict gave us an invitation to go home with him and have lunch and he would show us some farming country. We accepted his invitation and went to his home. He is now finishing a \$4000 residence. After dinner our kind host made good his promise and showed us over a large portion of western Morrow county and eastern Gilliam county, where a large acreage of fine land is lying idle for lack of farmers to cultivate the land. The large tracts are owned by syndicates who are holding it for speculative purposes. Mr. Benedict informed us that the main reason why that county is not more thickly settled was on account of lack of water in former years, as every one had to haul water for all purposes; but this difficulty has been removed, as most of the farmers now have bored wells, varying in depth from 250 to 400 feet, and which furnish an endless supply of water. Mr. Benedict is well equipped for farming, as he owns all kinds of machinery, from a plow to a combined harrow, also some 50 or 60 head of horses and mules.

There is another farmer of whom mention should be made—Mr. Palmateer, brother of our fellow townsman, Henry Palmateer. The gentleman of whom I write moved into that country seventeen years ago with \$15.10 and two old stakes (you know what they are). Mr. Palmateer went in debt for 400 acres of land and machinery sufficient to work it. After three years' farming he paid off his 400-acre ranch and his machinery. Today he owns 800 acres of fine land, has a large and modern barn, a large, two-story residence that would rival any in the valley, a large machinery shed filled with all kinds of machinery, owns a complete equipment of everything in that line from a garden cultivator to a threshing machine, a large bunch of good work horses and a bank account sufficient to buy another 800-acre ranch. Although we are not lately from Missouri, show us a valley farmer who has accomplished so much in the same time.

Farming in the sections we traveled over is carried on much more economically than in the valley. There they plow and sow from 40 to 50 pounds of wheat to an acre. During harvesting it is estimated that enough wheat scatters out for a second crop, and all that is necessary is to disc the land and it produces a good crop, even though not a pound has been sown the second year. Land in these sections range in price from \$12.50 to \$30 per acre.

We will now leave these lands for a short time and proceed homeward. Before doing so, let us not forget to state that Morgan contains many comfortable dwellings, a large merchandise and implement store, post office, a large graded school under the supervision of Miss Echo Githens of Estacada, Clackamas county, a large dance hall and I. O. O. F. hall, and most of the men of this place and surrounding country belong to the "chain gang."

When leaving the roads in most places were dry and dusty. Now if we should take some of our eastern Oregon neighbors for a drive on some of our (?) muddy roads and he should incidentally inquire the value of good tillable land adjoining these roads, it would be necessary for us to examine him up against a post and stand him heart before telling him the price ranged from \$100 per acre up, and then you would undoubtedly notice him search his pockets to see if he still retained his return ticket to take him back to the land of sunshine and favoring wheat fields. The writer is so warmly impressed with that country that he anticipates taking another trip before harvest.

MATTHEW GIBSON,
Shaw, Oregon.

MORGAN NEWS.

D. L. Johnson of Gresham is back in our midst again.

Lera Githens spent the week end with her parents in Heppner.

Mrs. Shurte and Mr. Pittman visited the Morgan school on Tuesday.

The boys and girls of the Morgan school are very busy putting up play apparatus.

The educational meeting which was held at Morgan April 16 was a very successful affair. Many people throughout the country attended. They all appeared to enjoy the interesting talks given by Mrs. Shurte and Mr. Pittman. The following program was rendered: Song, America, all participating; recitation by Ellen Ely; reading by David Ely; "Our Schools and How to Improve Them," by Echo Githens; song "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," all participating; song by four children; "Why I am Proud of My Country," George Ely; recitation, Gussie Lindstrom; song, "My Dream of the U. S. A.," 3 children; talk by Mrs. Shurte and address by Mr. Pittman; "Star Spangled Banner," all participating.

ROCK SPRINGS COAL.

I now have on hand a good supply of Rock Springs lump coal and can make prompt deliveries to any part of Heppner. Will also be prepared to furnish either cord or slab wood in any quantities desired. It will be my aim to give complete satisfaction in the fuel business to the Heppner public and I respectfully solicit your orders. Phone Main 393 or 396.
C. H. GOLDSMITH.

FIGHTING FOR PEACE AND SAFETY.

It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful country into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations, and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.—From President Wilson's Address to Congress.

PRESIDENT WILSON MAKES PERSONAL APPEAL FOR AN INCREASED OUTPUT

"The supreme test of the Nation has come. We must all speak, act and serve together," said President Wilson in an address to the first week. It is an appeal to every man and woman in the country and farmers especially are urged to act. Food without end is needed and quick action is necessary. The President says that putting the Navy on a war footing and raising a great Army are the simplest parts of this great task ahead.

In this great fight which we have entered, a fight for the rights of mankind and the future "peace and security of the world," the President says that abundant food is needed. "We must supply abundant food for ourselves and for our armies and our navies not only, but also for a large part of the nations with whom we have now made common cause, in whose support and by whose sides we shall be fighting."

Among the many vital issues confronting industrial America as pointed out by President Wilson in his address are: supplying hundreds of ships in which to carry foodstuffs and other materials across the Atlantic to the countries with which we are co-operating; producing abundant materials out of our own mines and factories; clothing for our own soldiers and those of our people, of

whom gallant fellows under arms can no longer work; clothing and equipment of armies with which we are now co-operating; keeping the factories of the allied nations supplied with raw materials; supplying coal and steel and everything else with which the people of France, England, Italy and Russia formerly supplied themselves.

There will be as much honor for the worker in the industrial field as for the soldier on the battle field as the President points out that the war will be decided largely on foodstuffs. In this regard he calls upon the South to turn from the temptation of growing so much cotton and to turn toward feeding the people of this nation and the people of other countries.

President Wilson issues a warning to the middlemen and he asks them to forgo the usual profits in order that the greatest efficiency may be obtained in feeding the nation in this time of serious food shortage. In closing he delivered a straight arm blow to extravagance and implored the people of the nation to forgo the many unnecessary luxuries, and asks every housewife to practice the strictest economy.

WHEAT REACHES A HIGH FIGURE HERE

Farmers Who Held, Sold For \$22.
Frank Anderson Garner \$22.-
590 From 540 Acres of
\$25 Land.

Wheat reached the record high price in Heppner Monday when Frank Anderson of Mack Rabbit Canyon sold 11,250 bushels to the Northern Grain & Warehouse Co., of Portland for \$2.00 per bushel. The deal was made through Spencer Akers, the local agent of the company.

Mr. Akers also bought in several small lots, remnants they might be called, for farmers are finding an excellent market for those few sacks of seed wheat which they happened to have left over.

Mr. Anderson's check for his 1916 wheat crop amounted to \$22,500 and represented a return of \$43.50 per acre, as the 11,250 bushels were raised on 540 acres. Besides this, Mr. Anderson also got his seed and feed. His 1916 crop also included \$1000 worth of barley. The land which Mr. Anderson farms is valued at \$25 per acre. His farm totals 1140 acres and half of it is in crop each year.

The name of Frank Anderson has become a synonym for good farming in this county and his scientific methods have always rewarded him with bumper crops. Not only is his place one of the best farmed in Eastern Oregon, but it is one of the best improved.

KNIGHTS WILL HOLD DISTRICT CONVENTION

The lodges of Knights of Pythias comprising the counties of Gilliam and Morrow will convene in Giffon on Tuesday, April 24. On this occasion the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Vice Chancellor and the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal will be present. The President authorizes the statement that all such fears are entirely unfounded. The Government of the United States will in no circumstances take advantage of a state of war to take possession of property in which international understandings and the recognized law of land give it no just claim or title. It will scrupulously respect all private rights alike of its own citizens and of the subjects of foreign states.

Chas. Nizer went to Pendleton Friday to meet his wife, who came from Grand Rapids, Michigan. They returned to Boardman Saturday morning.

HOW WOMEN MAY HELP WIN THE WORLD WAR

Some Ways Pointed Out by Mrs. Clara H. Waldo, Member O. A. C. Board of Regents.

O. A. C., Corvallis Ore., April 17—Sharing in the toll of the fields, sacrificing all individual tastes that interfere with bountiful production of food supplies, practicing rigid economy, and avoiding neighborhood suspicion, are some of the ways in which women can help win the big war, as pointed out by Mrs. Clara Waldo, the woman member of the Oregon Agricultural College Board of Regents in speaking to the women students.

"Women's help is better in time of stress than at any other time," said she, "for it is then that their intuition comes in—comes straight from the spirit. You are to be joint tillers of the soil in war time. You can help in the food and labor shortage by writing to the home folk what are the best crops to grow. Plenty of beans, potatoes and carrots for winter use will cut down the home living cost and release much other food material for other use.

"Grow Belgian hares. They are a good cheap food and can be grown on the clover cuttings from the parks and lawns.

"Canneries and homes that are going to depend on tins might begin to evaporate surplus fruits and vegetables when possible because there is going to be a great shortage of tins. Doubtless many canneries will be unable to run during the summer months.

"America has no quarrel with any nation but is opposed to autocratic militarism. Nor should we be suspicious of our neighbors—the secret service men are paid to be suspicious. We shall need all the charity we can command."

BROTHER OF HEPPNER MAN IS HONORED

(Seattle Sunday Times.)
William F. Allison, professor of municipal and highway engineering at the University of Washington and a veteran of the Spanish-American War, was yesterday notified by the chief of engineers of the United States Army that he had been granted a commission as major in the reserve corps of engineers in Class "A."

A commission in Class "A" of the engineering corps differs from Class "B" in that it requires a knowledge of military subjects and calls for service with the troops in the field. Class "B" requires no knowledge of military subjects and is a specialized civilian engineering along military lines. During the present year at the university, Professor Allison has organized a company of engineers among freshman students in the principles of field fortifications and trench digging.

Professor Allison's military service was with the militia of South Dakota Territory at the age of 16. From that time he belonged to the militia until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, when he was commissioned as major in the First Regiment of South Dakota Volunteers, upon the recommendation of Col. Frost, U. S. A.

Major Allison was recommended for the grade of brevet lieutenant on March 26 and 27, 1899.

Professor Allison is a brother of Dr. H. T. Allison of this city and was formerly on the faculty of the University of Oregon at Eugene.

BOARDMAN ITEMS.

Mrs. Chas. Hango and children arrived last week from Hood River.

Jesse Lower went to Hermiston Saturday, returning Sunday.

The parents of F. A. Price arrived Sunday from Portland to spend a few days.

J. E. Heard arrived Tuesday to look over the project with a view to filing.

Mrs. J. C. Ballinger is enjoying a visit with her mother, Mrs. W. A. Murchie.

C. G. Blayden came in from Scotts Mill, where he recently moved with his family.

Joe Simmons arrived Friday from Portland where he spent the winter with his sister.

MRS. W. T. MATLOCK PASSES IN PORTLAND

Mrs. W. T. Matlock died at a Portland hospital Monday April 16, after a short illness following an operation.

Laura E. Matlock was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brown and she grew to womanhood in the Lone Rock country. Mr. and Mrs. Matlock made their home in Heppner several years prior to moving to Portland. A host of friends here will be shocked to learn of her untimely passing away. She was 41 years of age.

The funeral was held from the family residence in Portland on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. R. A. Thompson, a sister who resides in this city went down to attend the last sad rites.

RELIEF MEETING TOMORROW NIGHT

Starving Belgians Will Receive Regular Aid From This City—Meeting Tomorrow Night.

In Heppner nearly every citizen is asking himself the question, what have I done and what am I doing for the stricken people of Belgium? The reply is nothing, absolutely nothing. This spirit has been growing until a movement has been started which is bound to result in great good. As per a former announcement in The Gazette-Times, the citizens of Heppner will gather at the Opera House Friday night for the purpose of organizing for permanent relief work.

The committee in charge has arranged for a program and those attending are assured of entertainment. At a recent meeting held in the Christian church, a collection of \$37 was taken, but the opinion was prevalent that Heppner should do something permanent and hence the meeting tomorrow night. The present movement has the backing of practically every fraternal order in the city and every fraternal order will have a member on the general committee having the relief work in charge.

The appalling fact that women and children are starving to death in Belgium and the added fact that the United States, the richest of all nations, is contributing only 7 per cent of foodstuffs to that country, is awakening America to greater efforts than ever before. Relief work of a permanent nature is being more efficiently organized and the time is held ripe for Heppner to enter into this great undertaking.

HEPPNER IS NOW PREPARED FOR INVASION

"Preparedness" has been the cornerstone of all recruits advancing to the sentries who guard the outer entrances to the Hall of Fame where rest the trophies and championships of other years, captured in other battles by the valiant warriors of Heppner High School. Since the reported invasion of the battle scarred veterans from Ione into this city tomorrow afternoon, trench digging has been lively and the local patriots have planned to give their foes, who are worthy of their own steel, a battle royal on the depot grounds. These grounds have become historic from past gory spectacles and especially on account of the hard fighting there last Spring. The enemy was victorious then but our warriors expect to gain back all this lost territory and restore the lost laurels to their former resting place in the Hall. Press correspondents, historians and everybody else not actively engaged in the battle will be charged the nominal sum of twenty-five cents.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor:
Many questions have been asked recently in regard to matters arising out of the conditions which necessarily prevail on account of the state of war which exists. Many things which are permissible in a time of peace are not permissible in a time of war. It is the policy of both the National and State Governments to cause as little inconvenience to citizens and others as is consistent with the proper protection of the rights and dignity of the country.

Citizens are urged to refrain from talk and actions which are calculated to stir up trouble with foreigners who may be within our borders or with our citizens of foreign birth. If any citizen comes into possession of any knowledge or rumor of any acts or talk inimical to the interests of the country, he should not peddle the same about, but should communicate it to some peace officer, who will take such steps as are necessary in the premises. If this policy is pursued, foreigners and foreign born citizens will be saved humiliation and much ill feeling will be avoided. Those who sympathize with the countries with which the United States is at war are admonished to follow the rule laid down by the Attorney General of the United States, "Obey the law, and keep your mouth shut." If this plan is followed no inconvenience will be experienced.

People should inform themselves in regard to the law touching the desertion of the flag. This is not a time for any foolishness in this line.

Strangers need not be surprised if they find themselves the objects of observation. And strangers in the community who do not appear to have any employment need not be surprised if they are held to answer to a charge of vagrancy. It is a poor time for loafers anyway, and loafers who are not known and who can not be vouched for had better seek employment or keep moving. Careful instructions touching this matter are being prepared by the Federal and State authorities, and all officers will be fully informed within a short time.

Respectfully,
S. E. NOTSON,
District Attorney.

Alex Lindsay and son James are up from Jordan Siding today.

Mrs. W. C. Cason visited with friends in Ione this week.