

Adding \$5,000,000 Annually to Material Wealth of Medford

(Continued from Page 1.)

for. You see the factory will have to keep running in order to make them all a living. Now, each family must take \$1000 a year off of each 10 acres in order to live. This is what must be earned in a manufacturing center in order to keep a family comfortably. So this open air factory spread over 7000 acres of land must produce annually \$700,000. Will that not be a great benefit to the valley? Will that not add to the material wealth of Medford? Is that not securing a "payroll" which is said to be the greatest need of the city?

Other Facts.

But there are additional interesting facts. This factory must produce a profit, not alone a living for the toilers within its confines. There must be something to show for the year's work beside the money expended among the toilers for the year's daily endeavors. So here are figures to show what the profits will be, and they are conservative.

Each workman has 10 acres to care for. One of these acres we will reserve for his home and surrounding grounds for his lives within this factory. That leaves us nine acres. This we will plant to fruit which in five or six years will be bearing. In the meantime we will plant small garden truck between the rows of trees. These trees will require two acres of ground out of the 10 rows of trees. First we will plant an acre of strawberries. Actual demonstration has shown that an acre of strawberries will produce annually on this soil from \$250 to \$600, according to the age of the plants. We will average this and say that the workman will make \$430 from his acre of strawberries. Then we will plant two acres of cantaloupes. These tracts last year produced \$250 an acre but again we will be conservative and cut it in half. The two acres of cantaloupes will then pay \$250. Now we will plant an acre of onions which will be worth at least another \$250. Then a half acre of berries—and how those gooseberries do pay! One man took over \$800 off of an acre of these and says they were poor at that—and this half-acre should pay \$250. Then because the cannery wants them, we will plant an acre of tomatoes and from them will secure eight tons, which we will sell for \$10 a ton or \$80. Then we will plant an acre of alfalfa for the chickens and the cow. And so we have:

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now at Medford's gates will produce annually \$1,582,000. Truly the securing of this amount of added wealth will tremendously benefit Medford.

Now in addition to this the irrigation project as is being completed by the Rogue River Valley company, will place three times as much land of the same character as the company has in their Roguelands tract under cultivation. So their project really means the reclamation of 20,000 acres of land which can be made to produce no less than \$5,000,000 annually.

Unless these figures seem to be exaggerated I will quote a few instances of production on the so-called "desert."

Brommer Bros., the cantaloupe kings, last year off of six acres of cantaloupes took \$1500 net.

C. M. Parker off of one-third of an acre of strawberries took \$663. Joseph Stevens marketed strawberries April 14. He marketed three additional crates April 22, worth \$7 a crate.

R. A. Jones produced the first tomatoes as the tracts lie on high ground and produce early fruit.

Experimental Gardens.

In order to determine exactly what different vegetables and small fruits will do the company has established an experimental garden. They have planted two acres of tomatoes, five acres of Rocky Fords, one acre of alfalfa, four acres of strawberries, which includes 32 different varieties in order to determine the best, and 20 acres of pears. Aside from this they have 1000 chickens, 700 turkeys, full blooded cows, hogs and horses.

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Garden Truck Needed.

Records of the Southern Pacific freight department at Portland show that within the past 60 days about 40 cars of potatoes have been shipped into the state from Minnesota. If reports received by the railroad can be relied upon it is anticipated that the total movement before the new potato crop reaches necessary proportions we will have imported at least 75 more cars from the same source.

In addition to potatoes many cars of onions were shipped into the state. Over 200 carloads of butter eggs and poultry were received this winter from the middle west at Portland, two or three cars of which came on to Medford but a much larger tonnage moved to this point in smaller shipments. So there seems to be no immediate danger of any overproduction of vegetables and small fruits, for berries of all kinds are in heavy demand throughout the season. Hood River grows strawberries but the berries grown on these tracts are fully a month earlier, which means reaching the market first when big prices prevail. President Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college recognized the need of small fruit and vegetable growing recently when he urged the planting of them between trees and cited instances of returns from vegetables and berries ranging from \$200 to \$600 an acre.

Now let us turn from the Rogue-

lands tract and consider the project of this company from an irrigation standpoint.

Irrigation will bring into cultivation many thousands of acres now barren and bring into the valley thousands of homeseekers. There is no land that with water cannot be made to produce some kind of a profitable crop.

The average farmer in Oregon has never appreciated the value of irrigation as a crop insurer. It may not be needed all year, but it always assures a good crop in what otherwise might be off years unusually dry.

Foothill lands are made by water more valuable than valley bottom land because freer from frost. Eventually in the progress of the valley every acre will be in demand and under cultivation, hence the irrigation project means more for the Rogue river valley than any scheme yet under way.

First Effort Made.

The first effort to provide a water supply for the valley as a whole was inaugurated about nine years ago by the Fish Lake Water company. This company constructed 16 miles of main canal and succeeded in bringing water into the north end of the valley, but difficult construction and apathy on the part of landowners in the matter of purchasing water rights prevented the further development. After lying practically dormant for six years, the possibilities of this project, through the efforts of Fred N. Cummings were brought to the attention of Patrick Welsh, a millionaire contractor, and R. K. Neill, mining and irrigation operator, both of Spokane.

Company Organized.

After making an exhaustive examination of the old Fish Lake Water company's properties, these men with their associates organized the Rogue River Valley Canal company, and on July 1, 1910, for a consideration of \$500,000; purchased the entire interests of that company.

The irrigation system to be built by the Rogue River Canal company

will cost \$2,000,000. It will consist of Fish lake and Four-Mile lake reservoirs, having a combined storage capacity of 35,000 acres feet of water; a connecting canal between the two lakes, a diversion canal 16 miles in length to bring the water from Little Butte creek into the valley; three main lines of distributing canals aggregating 100 miles in length, and 400 miles of laterals to convey the water to the land.

Low Price on Rights.

Notwithstanding the exacting conditions that on every hand involve heavy expense, the company, realizing that irrigation is practically new to the Rogue river valley, has placed a very low price on the first block of water rights to be sold. Perpetual water rights are now being sold to the consumer at a price of \$50 per acre, which is far below that being paid in such sections as the Spokane valley, where a price of \$175 and \$200 per acre is quite common. The cost of the water right is payable in five annual instalments.

The expenditure of approximately two and a half millions of dollars in developing these large projects means much to the Rogue river valley. Not only will every industry and business enterprise benefit directly from the putting into local circulation of the larger part of this great amount of money, but the assurance of our fruit crop and the great addition to our population resulting from the thick settlement of our idle lands means a great increase in the general volume of business in the future.

But let us turn from the advantages which will accrue to Medford from this great proposition and consider it from the standpoint of the man who takes up one of the company's 10-acre tracts. The price has been so arranged that any man of moderate means may secure one. He then owns his own home.

The Home Owner! What advantages in civilization are not his! What secret of the soil, what mystery of the growing plant has he not solved? What stronger thread in warp or woof of life than ownership of land—of roof and hearth? The beasts of the field fight for the

protecting shelter of the nook and cranny. The birds of the air are busied from the break of day to set of sun in preparation of a place to hatch their young. The very fishes of the water seek the protection of the jagged rock. Why should not man then, more permanent in his abode, strive to gain proprietorship of a plot of ground?

Here Die Ferne—the ever disappearing Beyond—will not call. The fixity of the population will be complete so far as the owners of these tracts will be concerned. The out-bound trains will bear no disconcerted. Here men will establish their lives and live them out. No Wanderlust will beckon. No will-o-the-wisp will lure him to swamps of discontent. No siren of migration will sing to him a siren song that he may be destroyed upon the treacherous reefs of Far Away.

He who owns a home! The answer to the prayer he prayed will lie blissful hidden in the vines that will blossom at his door.

The trip to the Roguelands tract was taken Thursday by a half hundred business men of the city. They are all boosting now for the proposition for they found a little something being done along lines worth while. They saw a great stretch of country which will support 700 families, learned a little something about their own country—about home. The trip was a "hurrah" trip to encourage optimism.

They found something worth while.

SPECIAL STANDARD SLEEPERS

On June 5th and June 7th tickets will be sold at a fare and a third to Portland and return for the Rose Festival.

A standard sleeper for Medford people will leave on first section of No. 16 on the 5th and another on the 7th. Reservations can now be made by calling, writing or phoning the passenger depot, Pacific 341. Home 34. 66*

ONE MORE WEEK

Of slashing at Edmeades' Brothers' Shoe Store.

I. O. O. F. NOTICE.
Monday evening, May 29, election of officers. All members of Medford lodge, No. 83, requested to be present. By order of the noble grand, W. L. MILLER, Sec.

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