

Lower Rogue a land of Picturesque Beauty



Salmon Seining on the Lower Rogue.



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The mouth of the Rogue river, some hundred miles down stream from Jackson county, is one of the most picturesque spots in the entire northwest. It likewise possesses the finest climate on the coast, being almost the only spot north of southern California free from gray days and fog, where the sun shines through the summer season almost continuously. In addition to these lures, it offers the finest rod and line salmon fishing of any place in the west. The big fish, frequently weighing 60 and 70 pounds, readily take the spoon during the latter part of August, and in September, and fight like a trout, leaping again and again into the air.

The only drawback to Wedderburn is its present inaccessibility. It can be reached by auto from Crescent City, Cal., or from Marshfield, Or., or by horseback on the government trail down the Rogue river from Galice. Or the trip can be made by sea in the gasoline launches which ply upon regular schedule to Portland and coast points. However, the proposed extension of the Southern Pacific system from Eureka to Coos Bay will remedy the transportation problem, as the survey runs through this region.

Location of Towns

On the south side of the Rogue is Gold Beach, county seat of Curry county. On the north is Wedderburn, at which is located the cannery, hotel, merchandise stores, residences and other possessions formerly owned by the late R. D. Hume, now the property of the Macleay estate, of which Roderick Macleay of Portland is president. The cannery and allied institutions give employment to thirty people, and 100 are employed directly and indirectly in fishing. For the stores (one at Agnew), hotel, blacksmith and machine shop, ranches, hatchery, etc., twenty-five more are employed. W. H. Meredith whose photograph appears among pictures showing him holding a 60-pound salmon, is resident manager for the property.

Fishing is the main industry, 28,000 cans of chinook being packed in 1914, as against 26,000 Hume packed in 1910, and 56,000 packed in 1906. The decrease is due to the stringent regulations and unfavorable restrictions.

Farming and stock-raising are also chief occupations and extensive development efforts are being made to settle up the region. About \$15,000 worth of land has been sold on time payments to actual settlers the past season, and they are all improving their places. Fifteen families have recently settled on these tracts of land.

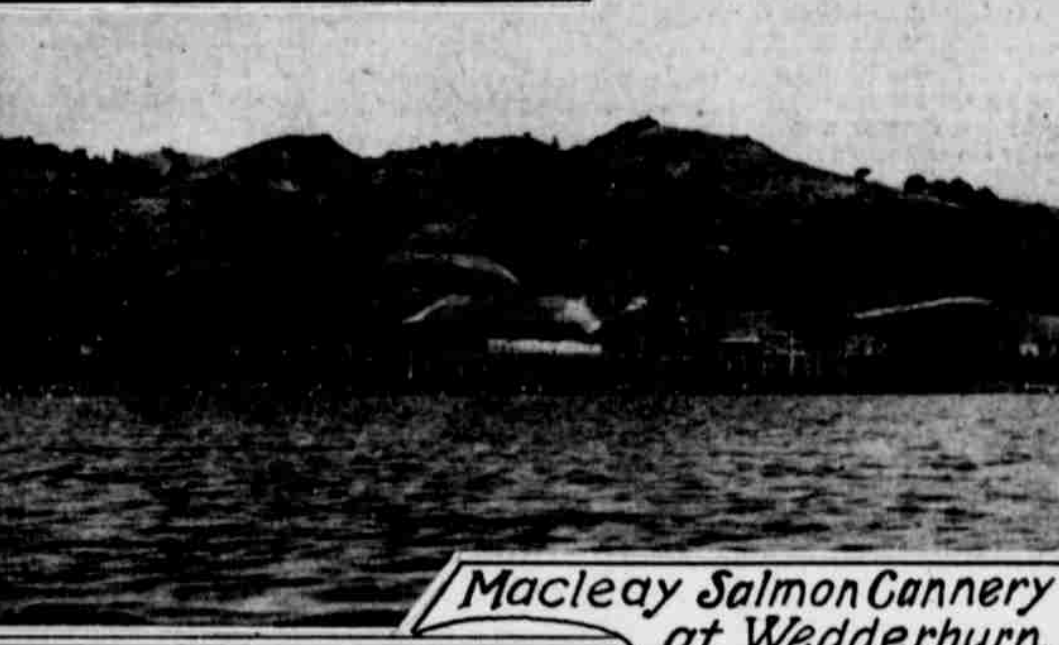
Developing Country

Next year the enterprises will be extended, as the Macleays are developers and not speculators. They expect to do an extensive business in tan oak bark, cedar railroad ties as well as operate a cheese factory. The black sands of the bars and beaches contain much gold and an extensive dredging apparatus will be installed.

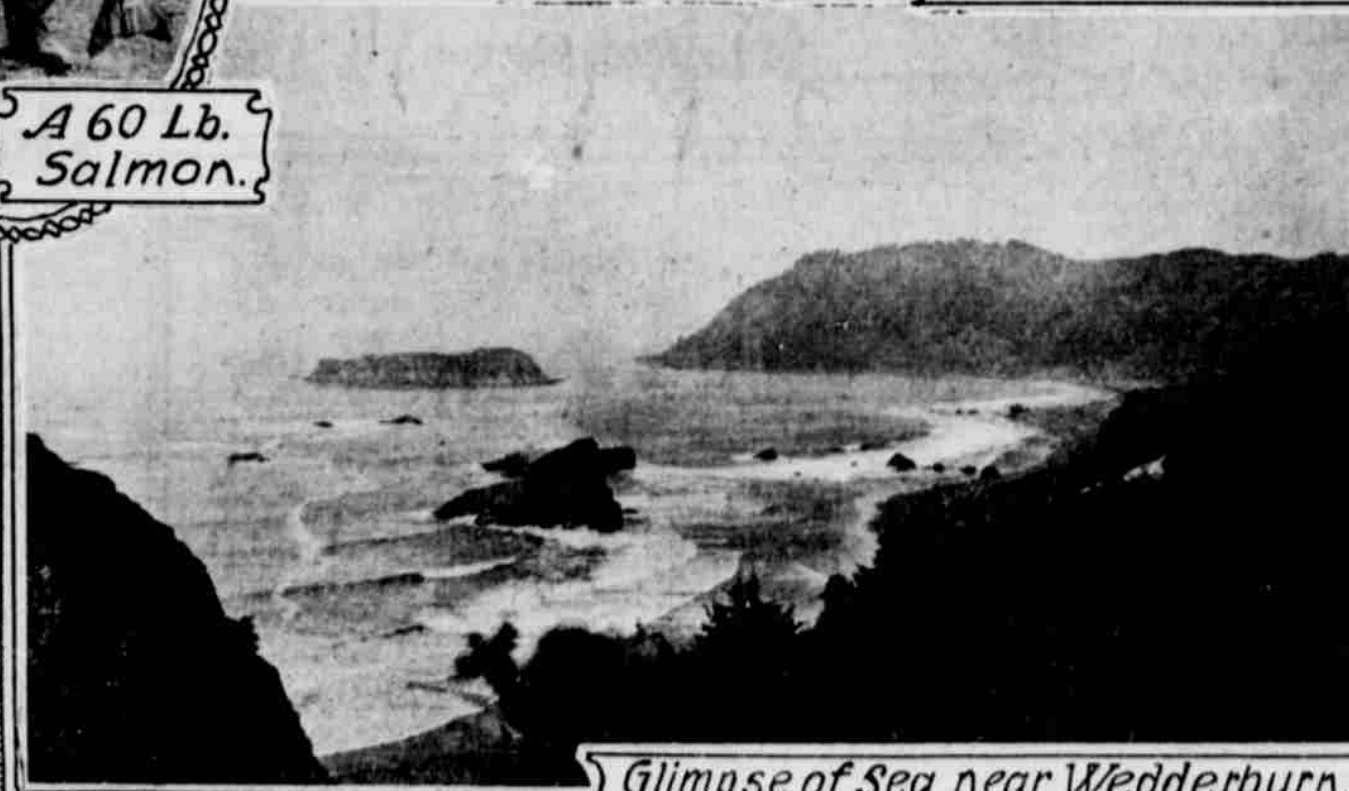
At Wedderburn, town, school, hotel, store, fishing rights, salmon cannery, lumber mill, big herds of cattle and sheep, extensive stock range, fertile fields under cultivation and vast timber resources are under one ownership. While the estate is a property which stands by itself and could exist alone and independent of the rest of the county within the bounds of its own fences and waterways, that is not the policy of the present owners. The whole property was formerly owned by the late R.



A 60 Lb. Salmon.



Macleay Salmon Cannery at Wedderburn.



Glimpse of Sea near Wedderburn.



On the road to Wedderburn.

D. Hume, who was known as "The King of the Rogue River." The estate was purchased by the Macleay interests of Portland in March, 1910. Mr. Hume devoted many years to adding to his holdings and acquiring additional lands and rights. But the present owners are developing and have started to open the lands for settlement.

Extensive Rebuilding

After Mr. Hume's death and before the property passed into the hands of the present owners, the buildings were much run down. Mr. Macleay has expended many thousands of dollars repairing the buildings, putting up new ones where needed and building fences. There are now twenty-six miles of fences on the farms. More land has been put under cultivation than ever before. As a farm the whole place has been put in a workable condition and pending the time of settlement the property is operated as one big farm.

Improvements have likewise been made in the town of Wedderburn, which is opposite Gold Beach, the county seat, and connected by means of a ferry across Rogue river. Mr. Macleay had the hotel opened so there would be accommodations for the fishermen who wanted to board, or for travelers, and new houses for employes and other needed buildings have been erected.

16,000 Acres in Tract

The property consists of about 16,000 acres, about 5000 of which are farming and grazing lands. It extends from the ocean up Rogue river for about twelve miles, the estate owning both sides of the river for practically the entire distance. Along

the river there are fertile bottom lands backed by rolling hills rich in grass and used for grazing. Farther up the river are timbered lands. On the estate there are about 175,000, 000 feet of standing timber, but in addition there is a large amount of timber which is on adjoining land and which must eventually find its way through the Rogue river. The sawmill in Wedderburn can cut 50,000 feet of lumber a day. It has so far only been used for furnishing lumber for the estate and the local demand, but when the lumber market warrants it could be operated regularly. Mr. Macleay plans that he can build boats which can cross the bar of the river and carry 200,000 feet of lumber economically.

Wild Picturesque Beauty

Many claim for the lower Rogue river that it is one of the most picturesque parts of Oregon. There is one place on the Macleay property which Mr. Macleay claims affords as fine a view as can be enjoyed in the state. On the top of a hill at an elevation of 800 feet one can, without moving more than turning the head, look in one direction over cultivated fields, over the river and town and grazing lands dotted with sheep and cattle; in another direction at mountains 3500 feet high; while in still another direction one can view miles of the ocean beach and expense.

The farm management of the estate is quite a big business. Many hundred acres of land have been plowed and placed under cultivation, sheep by the thousands are herded over the hills and hundreds of cattle are grazed. It is the intention of the owners to cut down the number of

sheep to perhaps 1000 or 2000 and go more into the cattle business to save the pastures from the close foraging of the sheep which have for years past been raised in Curry county. There are several separate ranches which are numbered, but there is one main ranch about three miles from the town which is the headquarters of the farming. Here are located the foreman's house, quarters for the farm employes, big barns, harness shop, blacksmith shop, chicken houses, piggeries and every kind of building needed on a farm, numbering fifteen or twenty in all.

There is a first class slaughter house and a sheep-shearing establishment. Every kind of machinery needed for modern farming is to be found.

In addition to the sheep, wool and cattle produced, hogs are raised on a large scale. When ready for market they can be shipped to any port on the small gasoline ocean-going schooners which regularly make the port. Grain crops and general farming are important factors.

Salmon Fishing Important

From a business standpoint the salmon fishing and packing is the most important feature of the big estate. In fact it affords the only big payroll for that part of the county, and each year does much in giving employment to the people and circulating cash. As high as \$100,000 is paid out by the company in a fishing season.

The Rogue river salmon are famous for their quality and the Wedderburn Trading company has every facility for catching and packing the

fish. The fishermen are paid 50 cents each for chinook salmon and the company furnishes the fishing gear. In enormous warehouses are kept everything that may be needed in fishing. The company owns about 250 big nets. The cannery has been equipped with the most modern machinery. Experts are in charge of the departments and Chinamen are imported for much of the work in the cannery. The plant is built along big wharfs and consists of a number of buildings, including a modern cold storage plant.

Cannery a Busy Place

The salmon is put up in attractive shape in cans and also a large amount is mild cured and packed in trolleys. All through the season fishermen are at work on the river and receive money for the fish while the cannery is a busy place taking care of the catch and shipping out on schooners the finished product. Later on in October silverides are caught and canned. On account of the existing laws of the state the Rogue river salmon fishing is conducted under disadvantages not suffered at other fishing places on the coast.

After September 1 the fish are not as good and do not bring as good a price as earlier in the year. Until that time only gill nets can be used. Seines can only be used after September 1, when the fish are not so good.

There are also restrictions regarding steelheads. They cannot be caught during the summer. This is because the people of the upper Rogue river wanted to protect the game fish.

Jackson County Climate

The climate of Jackson county may be somewhat judged by its location and surroundings. Being situated west of the rugged Cascade mountains and with a comparatively low altitude, the Rogue River valley has the same mild climate found along the entire Pacific coast, from Puget sound to southern California, due to the influence of the warm Japan ocean currents. The winter months are mild, the slight snow fall in the Rogue River valley usually melting very rapidly. The greater part of the precipitation is in the form of rain, averaging between twenty and twenty-eight inches annually, according to the location in the valley, and coming mainly in the fall, the winter and spring seasons. Only occasional light showers may be expected during the summer months. There are on the average from 270 to 280 days of sunshine during the year. There is almost always a breeze during the summer days, which are often warm, but never hot. Also, the humidity is almost always very low, modifying the summer heat. The summer nights are usually comfortably cool. The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Rogue River valley was three degrees below zero, while the average minimum temperature during the winter is just below the freezing point, about 31 degrees Fahrenheit. Damaging winds are not experienced in the Rogue River valley.

Medford Water System

(By W. J. Roberts, C. E.)
There are three points in the game of municipal water supply: Quantity, quality and cost. Medford won on all three points.
The quantity delivered at the city reservoir exceeds the original estimate by a third; the quality is better than was originally proposed, and finally, the total cost of the gravity portion was \$32,000 less than the \$300,000 allowed.
An issue of \$365,000 of bonds was authorized in May, 1908, of which \$65,000 was to be used for cast-iron pipe within the city proper for distribution, hydrants and accessories, and \$300,000 was allowed for the gravity supply and reservoir.
The citizens of Medford may well be proud of their water supply. No better water is furnished any city in the state.
The supply is adequate for 20,000 people without restrictions, and figured upon such averages as apply in the middle west, the quantity daily delivered to the distributing reservoir go a little lower, and gravity systems is sufficient for 25,000 to 30,000 people.
In this connection it may be interesting to note that the average cost of a municipal water supply for cities of this class is not far from \$50 per capita. Pumping systems are a little higher. Medford's gravity supply has cost less than \$50 per capita of present population.