

Lake County Examiner

VOL. XXVI.

LAKEVIEW, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JAN. 12, 1905.

NO. 2.

A GOOD SHOWING FOR LAKE COUNTY

Labor Commissioner O. P. Hoff Makes His
Report to Governor and Legislature--
Made Tour of Every County.

HIS REPORT ON LAKE COUNTY.

Through the courtesy of O. P. Hoff, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor, we have received a copy of the First Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the State of Oregon to the Governor and the 23d regular session of the state legislature, which met Monday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics and Inspector of Factories and Workshops was established by an act of the legislature of 1903. A board consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer appointed O. P. Hoff commissioner, and our people will remember his visit here last summer. With a view of more thoroughly studying the labor conditions in the whole state Mr. Hoff has visited every county in the state.

The benefits to be derived from the Bureau are manifold and quite obvious to those who take the trouble to study the matter out in their own minds from every point of view.

It is not intended to benefit Labor unions and laborers alone, but is calculated to embrace and bring out in relief the nature and scope of the varied industries of the state in such comprehensive manner as to be of inestimable value to the state.

Mr. Hoff has made a thorough report to the governor and legislature and give in detail the conditions found in each county as they exist. He inspected mills and factories, and where repairs were needed for the safety of employees, recommended them.

Below we give Mr. Hoff's report on Lake county in full:

Population, 2847. Land rolling. Gold and copper found. Water abundant. Water underneath surface. Good water power facilities. Roads bad. Roads kept up by tax levy. About 1000 miles of county roads. Market local. No streams for logging. Some good timber lands. Wood costs about \$5 per cord. Hay, cattle, horses and sheep principal industry. Health good. Cool climate. Grand scenery. One pauper. He is kept by county on contract. Stock-raising county. Soil is a rich alluvial loam. County has numerous lakes. Unimproved farm lands cost from \$4 to \$12 per acre. No railroads. The maximum temperature is about 59 degrees, and the mean 53 degrees. Snow falls in the mountains in winter. Wages: Herders, \$30 to \$40 per month; vaqueros, \$40 to \$60 per month; wood-choppers, \$2 to \$2.50 per day; day laborers, about \$2 per day; bartenders, about \$75 per month; carpenters, \$3.50 per day; clerks, \$40 to \$75 per month; bricklayers, \$5 per day; stonemasons, \$4 per day; tenders, \$2.50 to \$3 per day; teachers \$40 to \$90 per month; painters \$3 to \$3.50 per day. There is sold annually out of this county about 10,000 head of beef cattle, 60,000 head of mutton sheep, and 1,200,000 pounds of wool. In the county is pastured about 220,000 sheep, 10,000 head of horses and 50,000 head of cattle, besides a large number of mules, goats, swine, etc. The hours of labor vary. Cowboys work from 3 to 20 hours each day, while sheep-herders average about 12 hours a day. Lakeview is the county seat. Lake county is the fourth county in size in the state, containing 5,069,300 acres, 1,801,550 acres being included in a public reserve, and 921,457 acres having passed from the government's ownership. There are 1,646,293 acres of unreserved land that has been surveyed and 700,000 acres yet unsurveyed, or a total of 2,346,293 acres of land which the government offers, or will offer, to the intending settler or purchaser of timber land. This land is three-tenths timber, one-tenth mountains, three-tenths agricultural and three-tenths grazing.

Attention is called to the population; this was taken from the census of 1900. In Mr. Hoff's report the population of Lake county in 1904, based on the number of children enrolled in the schools, is 3,011.

INDICTMENTS ARE AIRED IN THE EAST.

[New York Tribune.]

"The extreme reluctance of leaders of the Senate to intrust to Mr. Mitchell the chairmanship of the committee on inter-oceanic canals was not due to reports connecting the Oregon Senator with land frauds, but was because of certain executive measures exploited by Mr. Mitchell, which, it is believed, he would have repudiated, as did the Senate ultimately, had he investigated their purpose with greater care.

"The surprise that Representative Hermann had been indicted was not so great as in the case of Senator Mitchell, because certain facts in connection with Hermann's administration of the Land Office had leaked out. It was known, for instance, that only at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Mitchell was Hermann permitted to resign instead of being dismissed; and that when his resignation was accepted, to take effect three weeks later, Hermann caused to be destroyed 35 500-page letter books, supposed to be part of the records of his office. Hermann subsequently explained that these books had contained only personal correspondence.

The removal of John Hall, it may be said authoritatively, was not due to his having been indorsed by Senator Mitchell or because of Mitchell's efforts to save him, but because of graver allegations, which will in due time be submitted to the jury."

[Philadelphia Press.]

"Something of a shock will follow the announcement that such conspicuous figures as Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann have actually been indicted. Senator Mitchell has for many years been one of the most prominent leaders on the Pacific Coast. He has represented Oregon in the Senate 22 years. It is only fair to say that during all this service he has enjoyed good repute, and we are not aware that he has ever before been the subject of any reflections. Mr. Hermann served as Commissioner of the Land Office for a long period and, like Senator Mitchell, stood in high general esteem and was regarded as a capable and trustworthy officer. So well was he thought of that when Mr. Bliss retired from the Secretaryship of the Interior Department, Hermann's name was considered for the succession.

It will be a source of pain if it shall be shown these men are guilty as charged. They will be given the benefit of the doubt until evidence shall be presented. It is to be hoped Senator Mitchell can vindicate himself."

[Washington Post.]

"In a review of Senator Mitchell's career many expressions of sympathy were heard. It is only fair to say also that his colleagues in the Senate regard him as an innocent man."

S. F. Dispatch to Salem Statesman.

In the course of an interview with F. J. Heuey, who arrived in San Francisco on Jan. 2d, from Portland he said:

"The good people of Oregon will be as much astounded when they hear the evidence in the case against Mitchell and Hermann as they were when they heard the evidence in the

case of Puter, McKinley and the others.

"The case against Mitchell and Hermann does not depend in the slightest degree upon the testimony of Puter and McKinley. There is evidence enough to warrant and sustain their conviction without placing either of them upon the witness stand.

"The indictments already secured touch only the edge of the vast frauds perpetrated in Oregon.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

One Thing Lacking.

That Lakeview now has an excellent lighting system cannot be for a moment doubted; one of the best, in fact, anywhere to be found. This much is commendable. Only a few more street lamps are needed, these, however, will doubtless be put in soon, the scarcity at present is due principally, to the burning out of a number of street lamps when the new system was inaugurated, and the supply was exhausted before the house demand was relieved. When the new lamps arrive we may expect to have our streets lighted. The only fault to be found now is the manner in which the wires, both the light system and the telephone system are stretched. In some cases the wires are so slack as to endanger life and property in case of a heavy wind that would tangle the light wires and the telephone wires.

In many cases the wires are so slack that they sway nearly to the ground. This matter should be looked after before a serious accident occurs.

County in Good Shape.

The statement of the compilation of the State Tax Levy for the year 1905 as compiled by the Governor, State Treasurer and Secretary of State, filed in the clerks office show a reduction in Lake county's portion of \$2,140.00 over last year's levy. Lake's portion for 1905 is \$10,967.50 against \$13,107.50 for 1904.

A reduction of \$2,140 in the state taxes and a small reduction in county taxes places Lake county in pretty good shape, and the further promise of a still greater reduction in taxes next year by reason of the county getting out of debt in April is great encouragement to our people. With no interest to pay and an economical conduct of the county's affairs will be an attraction for outside capital that is never overlooked by investors. We cannot shout too loud of the good times coming for Lake county. Shouting only in the ears of our own people will not satisfy our ambition; let's shout to the world.

Perished in the Mountains.

A young man named Gus Bennett, who had located a homestead above Callahan's, in the Swan Lake district, Klamath county, was found lying dead in the snow about a quarter of a mile from his cabin after having vainly attempted to locate his abode, and becoming crazed, evidently by the dread of his helpless condition, became thoroughly exhausted and fell in the snow, face down, after being gone five days. Search was made and his body found and brought into Bonanza Monday night, and turned over to the I. O. O. F., of which order Mr. Bennett was a member. He was 27 years of age, a fine type of physical manhood, and leaves a wife and baby in Chestertown, Pa.

Theodore Roosevelt was elected president of the United States last Monday in Oregon.

PRICE OF WOOL IS FLUCTUATING.

We learn that S. B. Chandler has sold his 1905 wool clip to F. M. Miller for an Eastern firm. The price paid was 15½ and 16 cents per pound. Mr. Miller also purchased other clips, amounting in all to 25,000 fleeces.

We overheard two very prominent woolgrowers discussing the outlook for spring sales a few days ago. From what we could gather from their conversation the price would be between 15 and 16 cents. They both admitted that this would be a good price and even at 15 cents the wool sales will bring in many a dollar into Lake county, and if 15 to 16 cents could be realized by our sheepmen they would all be in good shape. Since that day, however, a general stampede to higher prices has taken place, and some are now looking for even better than has yet been offered. The gentlemen dealt upon the folly of producers holding out for a little better than the market price all through the buying season, and finally, when all the wool had been bought up and buyers left the field, he compelled to take even a lower figure than their neighbors had received or hold over. An instance was sighted that is not uncommon:

Some time ago certain local merchants were authorized to pay 17 cents for wool. This seemed a good price and a friend of a sheepman rushed out to the camps, where the sheep owner was spending a few days, to inform him what was offered and advised him to sell. To wait and get more seemed to the sheepman like finding money, so he waited for 18 cents. The result was he finally sold for 13 cents.

We have asked a number of sheepmen and local wool buyers their opinion of the price for the spring clip. They all believe the price will settle between 15 and 16 cents.

Just as we go to press we learn that the price has taken another leap and that Bailey & Massingill are offering 16½ cents per pound.

Another important sale was made this week, not of wool, but it being the first band of sheep sold in the county this year and since the conditions of the winter have made it almost certain that there will be a light loss, makes this sheep sale of considerable interest. Dan Graf sold a band of something less than 1000 head of stock sheep, receiving for them \$3.35 for ewes and \$2.00 for last spring lambs.

Feed on the desert is good and since the storms set in water has been plentiful; the winter has been an ideal one, sheep are fat and no range trouble has been stirred, so that sheepmen are generally happy. This year promises to be a record breaker.

A. O. U. W. and D. of H.

The Workmen and Degree of Honor lodges will have joint-installation to-night. Members of the A. O. U. W. and their wives and members of the D. of H. and their husbands, are invited to attend. A grand time is anticipated. After the routine work games and other amusements will be indulged in until supper is voted, then all will depart to the restaurant, where an elaborate supper will be served.