

Lake County Examiner

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EASTERN OREGON'S GREAT POSSIBILITIES

Prof. Samuel Fortier, who has charge of the irrigation and drainage investigations in the Pacific States, acting under the directions of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, was in Portland yesterday, says the Oregonian of March 31st, on his way to Berkeley, Cal., where he makes his headquarters. Prof. Fortier has for the past week been investigating the conditions in Eastern Oregon as regards irrigation. Dr. Edward Mead, of Washington, chief of the irrigation investigations of the Department of Agriculture, is expected in Portland Monday. It is understood that he will also make a trip through Eastern Oregon.

The investigations of Prof. Fortier of the climatic and soil conditions of Eastern Oregon regarding irrigation are the first scientific researches of this nature that have ever been attempted by the Government in this State. It is the result of a request made by Governor Chamberlain to Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, that the irrigation conditions of Oregon be investigated by the Government.

The purpose of Prof. Fortier's trip to this state is to prepare and outline the work to be done by Prof. A. P. Stover, of the University of California, who has been assigned to Oregon for this coming summer. Mr. Stover is professor of irrigation at the University. He will spend the entire summer making trips through the arid sections of this state and studying the different conditions. He will also conduct experiments. In the fall he will go to Washington where he will compile a report of his observations and experiments.

If the report of Prof. Stover is favorable it is very probable that the Government will decide to locate a permanent station of investigation in Oregon as it has done in other states. If such is the case the Legislature will be asked to appropriate several thousand dollars to aid in the work. The Government agrees to furnish an amount equal to that appropriated by the Legislature. This arrangement has been made by the Department of Agriculture with several of the Western States.

"I am surprised that Eastern Oregon is not more developed," said Prof. Fortier at the Hotel Portland yesterday afternoon. "It is almost astonishing," he continued "that a greater progress in irrigation has not been made in this state. I think the possibilities offered are wonderful. I had no idea until I made this trip, of their extent. You have plenty of water, the very richest soil and the climatic conditions could hardly be improved upon."

"I have been in the West for nearly 20 years and am thoroughly familiar with irrigation as it has been conducted in other states. Nevertheless I was greatly surprised when I came to Oregon. I find practically two-thirds of the state is arid or semi-arid land, and although there is an abundance of water, very little of it is utilized. If we had the water that is wasted in Crook County in Southern California it would be worth thousands of dollars to us because we would utilize every portion of it."

"It is different in this state, though. You have the land and also the water, but you have paid so much attention to the western part of the state that Eastern Oregon has been overlooked. If you could have been along with me when I was in Crook County and have seen the fertile land lying idle while through its midst flowed a large stream of water which could be diverted for irrigation purposes you would think so too."

"I visited several different sections of Oregon. I was at Umatilla, Pendleton, Echo and through Butter Creek Valley. It was the same as in Crook County. I will tell you what they have been doing in certain portions of Butter Creek Valley. The stream from which the farmers obtain their water goes dry early in the Spring. However, they flow the lands in February. The soil is so deep and rich that it retains the moisture all Summer. They raise as good crops and as vigorous fruit trees by Winter irrigation as we do in California."

"While on this trip I instituted a small experimental station at Bend, Oregon. The Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company gave me the use of six acres of land. Elias Nelson, a graduate of the Wyoming University, who has considerable experience with irrigation, has charge of the experiments at the present time. We have six acres planted in oats."

"We are trying three methods of irrigation to see which will prove the most successful in the climatic conditions of that vicinity."

The Event of the Season.

A birthday party on such a grand scale, we believe, has never been given in Lakeview as the one given at the Opera House Tuesday evening by Anna Schlagel, Selma Heryford, Ollie Fields and Essie Penland.

One hundred invited guests were present to participate in the pleasant event, and to feast upon the good supply of delicate cake and delicious ice cream.

The entertainment was opened with music. The large phonograph of Post and King's furnished considerable amusement; the vocal selections by Miss Hattie Nyswaner were listened to with rapt attention. Miss Nyswaner has a sweet voice that everybody greatly admires. Card games, dancing and all sorts of amusement were indulged in.

It is impossible for printers ink to describe the pleasant affair. There was no formal program, the guests were at liberty to play games, dance, play cards, listen to the music or chat.

At 11 o'clock refreshments were served, to which all present did ample justice.

Music for dancing was furnished by several pianists, which alone, was sufficient to furnish entertainment for those who did not care to indulge in dancing or games.

The young ladies were awarded the highest compliments by all present, who expressed themselves as having enjoyed the event immensely. The Examiner wishes these ladies many birthdays, and hopes that each one will bring as much pleasure to as great a number of friends.

Burned to the Ground.

The Albany, Oregon Woolen Mills were burned to the ground on March 29th. Only the brick shell of the boiler room was left standing; the machinery was all ruined, but the stock and finished product in an adjoining warehouse was not reached by the fire. The loss is said to be about \$10,000, with \$20,000 insurance. The mill was owned by the Bannockburn Woolen Mill Co., of Portland.

J. W. Mikel first of the week sold three head of horses to Patterson and Philipps for \$400. This is considered a good price for horses. Of course Mr. Mikel's horses were fine, large fellows, but they were pretty well along in years to put on the market.

LOWER TAXES OR SHOW PROGRESS?

In our issue of last week it was made to appear that, unless the people of Lake county decided to begin some work of public improvement, there would be no necessity, when our next tax levy is made, for a rate exceeding 16 mills, which would be 11.1 mills less than the present rate.

The former article showed that to fill the requirements for all the funds necessary to be raised in the county would necessitate the collection of \$15,000 to meet the demands of the state and conduct the affairs of the county in the usual manner.

To accomplish this, a rate of 16 mills only, is necessary to be levied upon the \$2,186,100 of property now assessed for taxation.

We don't say this estimate is exact. The county board will determine this, and may find that a few mills, more or less, will be required.

Our estimate is, however, based upon figures given us by those who are well informed on the subject, and is sufficiently accurate for the purpose of this article.

The people will determine whether they will demand to be taxed to raise money for improvement, or simply to defray the usual county expenses, and for the payment of state taxes. Upon this proposition The Examiner wishes to express the views entertained by its editor as any other citizen may and ought to express himself. In defining our position, we call attention first to the fact that, next year, there will be an exemption, to each householder, of \$300 worth of property from taxation. This will, at the former rate, be a clear saving next year of \$8.40 to each taxpayer getting the exemption. To many people this means a plain reduction of 50 per cent from taxes paid this year, and to some, 75 per cent reduction. Then if there should be a reduction from the present rate of 5 1-10 mills, there would be left a levy of 22 mills, or 16 mills for usual county and state purposes, and 6 mills for what we will call an improvement fund. Six mills on the present valuation of property for taxation (\$2,186,101) would yield \$13,116. With a very small increase in taxable property which certainly will occur, we should realize from \$15,000 to \$15,000 for an improvement fund, and have an average reduction of about 20 per cent to all taxpayers, 50 per cent, and even 75 per cent to the smallest taxpayers.

The householder who this year, on a valuation of a very little over \$1,500 paid \$42 taxes would, under our plan, pay about \$25, at a 22 mill rate, and \$300 exemptions, and the county under this plan would realize about \$14,000 which might be devoted to such new improvements as the people may elect, and continue to pay cash for all ordinary county expenses as well.

We, as a citizen, and taxpayer, favor the creation of an improvement fund to do some county improvement, whatever the people may decide upon; and we believe it can be done as we have tried to show in this article, after granting to taxpayers a very liberal reduction from this year's taxes, and without creating a single dollar of indebtedness. We earnestly solicit readers of The Examiner to express themselves through our columns on this question.

Say what public improvement you favor being first made, if any. Or, if you don't favor beginning any such work, and believe that only sufficient money should be raised to conduct the public business, without entering upon any work for public betterment, say that 16 mills will do it. Everyone who wishes to be heard on this question will be given full opportunity. There are different public works so urgently needed that we believe a part of that 11.1 mills should be retained, and, some one of them should be taken up.

We don't forget that \$300 exemptions will tend to reduce the amount of property taxed, but we believe the Assessment will show an increase of property in the county which will more than keep the amount to be taxed, up to the amount taxed at present.

There are about 1,500 taxpayers. Five hundred of these are non-residents, and at least three hundred others have no families. Neither of these classes being entitled to exemptions, there would be only seven hundred left to get the benefits of exemptions, and many of them not getting as much as \$300, for the reason they do not have so much of the character of property which is exempt, the reduction from the total amount of property taxed would be practically nothing. We even expect the amount to be increased.

We believe the promises and conclusions of this article are practically correct, and are pleased with the possibility of seeing a people who have manfully relieved themselves of debt, relieved in turn, of part of their old taxation.

We derive equal pleasure from the reasonable prospect of some material advancement in public utilities, which seems to us, a binding duty now.

District Cut Down.

(From The Portland Oregonian.)

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 31.—The President today signed an order adding south half of Malheur and Harney Counties to the Burns land district. This territory is now a part of Lakeview district, but is found to be more accessible to Burns than Lakeview. Residents of southeastern Oregon asked for a change.

The Land Office had received many complaints from settlers in extreme Southeastern Oregon because of the long journey they had to make to reach the Lakeview Land Office, and when special Agent H. T. Bennett, after investigation, recommended that the lower end of these counties be added to the Burns land district, a proclamation to that effect was drawn. It was shown that almost all roads in that section lead to Burns, while travel to Lakeview is at all times difficult and in Winter almost impossible.

(Officials of the land office here have received no notice of this action.)

Met Their Waterloo.

The Lakeview fans bled themselves to Pine Creek last Sunday to wipe the diamond with the Pine Creek team. Up to the fifth inning the Lakeview boys had an easy game, but their hopes were shattered in the last end of the game. At the finish the score showed 16 tallies for Pine Creek and 6 for Lakeview.

A game will be played on the Lakeview diamond Sunday between the Pine Creek and Lakeview teams. Our boys feel confident of walloping it to the Pine Creeker's when they come here.

LEAGUE HOLDS ANOTHER MEETING

The Lake County Development League met at the court house in Lakeview on last Saturday evening, with V. L. Snelling, Vice President, in the chair.

Two committees were appointed and instructed to collect data, and report upon the number of acres of arid land in Lake county, enumerating the sources of water supply for irrigation of each body, the reservoir sites available for storage of water on each stream, and to secure applications to the government, from owners of arid lands, to irrigate their holdings upon such terms as may have been prescribed by the department.

Mr. Chrisman, Vice-President of the League for Silver Lake, was requested to organize a branch at his town, and George Conn, Vice-President for Paisley was requested to take similar action at Paisley.

A feature of this meeting which made it interesting in the very highest degree, was an address delivered by Hon. B. Daly, in which he said, among many other striking things: "I speak deliberately, and say that I am ready to give one-half the arid lands I own in Lake county to secure the irrigation of what I would have left, and the other arid lands of the county, and I am ready to give one-fourth of the real property I own in Lakeview to bring a railroad to the town."

This is the spirit that compels success, if there is enough of it in the county, and we believe there is. Railroads cannot resist overtures like this. When it is remembered that Dr. Daly is the largest individual owner of property in Lakeview, and that he owns acres of arid land in the county, the full meaning of his declaration may be grasped. No reasoner could show more plainly than Dr. Daly did, that the interest of the entire community includes that of the individual citizen, and that he sought prosperity for himself, through efforts to promote the larger, general welfare. He became a member of the league and will be active in promoting the work we have organized to do.

J. N. Watson, Daniel Boone and J. W. Maxwell were appointed to go to the Union School house, on the West Side, some time in the near future, and organize a branch Development League at that place. This action is calculated to lend strength to the main League, by getting the settlers over there interested so that proper data can be secured.

School Fund Apportionment.

Below is the apportionment of the County School Fund for April 1905.

District	School Clerk	Amount
1	Walter Butler	\$ 610 56
2	E. E. Thruston	290 48
3	P. L. Vernon	381 60
4	W. S. Edwards	71 74
5	J. B. Fisher	262 88
6	G. H. Newell	127 20
7	Ida Umbach	2798 40
8	W. P. Dykeman	152 64
9	R. A. Hawkins	178 08
10	Elmer Harvey	144 16
11	J. D. Farra	636 00
12	Frank M. Harris	161 12
14	F. W. Payne	958 24
15	B. F. Barnum	71 79
16	A. D. Frakes	500 32
18	D. U. Cleland	449 44
19	H. E. Reed	161 76
20	D. M. Bryan	127 20
21	P. E. Taylor	491 84

Total \$8,445 45

J. Q. WILLIAMS,
Co. Supt. of Schools.