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JOSEPH GASTON VISITS COUNTY.

Says Lakeview Coming
Big City of Eastern
Oregon.

RODE IN SLEIGH FOR 310 MILES.

Lakeview Will Have a Railroad
From the South Inside of
One Year.

The following article was published in the Oregonian of Feb. 23, written by Joseph Gaston, who made a trip from Portland up the Columbia river to Biggs, where he took the Columbia Southern and traveled to Shaniko. Here he embarked on the stage, passing through Prineville, Bend, and all the towns between here and Shaniko. He halted at Silver Lake Summer Lake, Paisley and Lakeview and took notes. From Lakeview he went to Pockegama, visiting all the towns along the route, where he again boarded a railroad car for Thrall, thence to Portland. He says from Bend to Pockegama, a distance of 250 miles (according to actual count the distance is 310 miles) he took one continuous sleigh ride in a comfortable cutter. Mr. Gaston pictures the country as it appeared to him:

The town of Silver Lake, near the shores of the lake of that name, is one of the oldest settlements in Eastern Oregon. The town is well located on a plain overlooking the lake, which is 12 miles long and four miles wide and has a great outlook to the east over the so-called desert and beyond to the great Christmas Lake Valley. This town is the natural center and supply point for Christmas Lake Valley, and also for Summer Lake Valley. Summer Lake, strongly alkaline, is 25 miles long, with a variable width of five to eight miles. Christmas Lake Valley is a large valley with a rich soil, producing fine crops of grain, hay and vegetables, without irrigation, and into which there is now pouring a steady stream of homeseekers, more than a hundred claims having been taken up within the past six months.

This town is so situated that any railroad passing up the Deschutes Valley must be intersected here by any railroad surveyed out from Eugene or Klamath Falls and running East to Ontario. Here, too, the first place after leaving the Columbia River, I found fine orchards producing first-class apples, peaches, pears and other fruits without any disturbance from the codling moth or other pests. Its altitude, 4000 feet above sea level, proves too much for the moth or the scale.

These resources of agriculture a great body of pine timber near by and a probable railroad are sure to create here a large city. This was the Mecca of the timber land locators before referred to.

Paisley, 40 miles south of Silver Lake, named for Paisley in Scotland, was our next stopping place. Here the Chewaucan River comes down from the mountains and spreads over the valley creating a wild grass marsh of a hundred thousand acres. "Chewaucan," is the Indian name for "potato field." In the Willamette Valley the Indians called such fields "wapato" field, the potatoes being the same sort of a bulb in both cases.

Here the Government will take the waters of the river and irrigate 75,000 acres of dry upland, which, with the reclaimed marshes, will make such a great body of very productive land as will soon make the town of Paisley quite a flourishing little city. Here Lawrence Sutton Ainsworth, an enterprising young business man representing in his name two of the oldest families of Portland, and his partner, have a large and prosperous general store. The town has two other stores, a large flouring mill, two hotels and other business places, and is prospectively a very fine business point.

Fifty miles south of Paisley we come to Lakeview, within 15 miles of the California line. Its location, within three miles of the great Goose Lake, which is 40 miles in length and 20 miles wide, and with a great, wide, rich valley on three sides, gives the

town a very extensive outlook. It is a prosperous place of 1000 people, two banks, two excellent newspapers, one of which is printed and edited by two young ladies, a dozen very large stores, a splendid three-story brick hotel, ably managed; electric lights city water works and all the shops and fraternal orders of a live, up-to-date Western town. It is the county seat of Lake county, with the United States Land Office for the land district. The terminus of the railroad running north from Reno, Nev., is only 80 miles distant, with practically an open, level country between, assuring the extension of the road to Lakeview within a year. It has boundless agricultural resources all around, and altogether it has a certainty of becoming the big town of Southeastern Oregon.

Pine Creek Mines.

The report comes from Alturas that the second payment on the Wade-Reed-Plummer mine at Pine Creek was received by E. Lauer & Sons last week, and parties from Pine Creek Saturday evening stated that the boys had received a check from Leveson & Huntington who bonded the mine last summer.

This is about the most complicated, mixed-up deal we have ever heard of. As well as we can remember the reports came about this way:

Some time last spring, nearly a year ago, Mr. Leveson, representing Leveson & Huntington, came to look at the Pine Creek mines and secured a bond on what has been known as the Wade-Reed-Plummer mine. Various reports were in circulation as to the amount of the first payment, but it is generally believed that about \$1200 was paid to the three parties. A second payment was to be made on November 8.

The report came that E. Lauer & Sons had the money to make the payment and the boys went to Alturas to get it. Everything was quiet for a while and it was said the payment was not made. Trading among the owners of the mine then commenced, and it was reported that Reed had bought the other boys out, then that Wade had bought all the interest, then a summer had sold to a man at Alturas, then the man at Alturas had sold to Mr. White of Willow Ranch. Then comes a report that a Los Angeles company had bought the mine outright for \$2,000 and had made a payment down. Now the report comes from Alturas to the effect that the second payment on the mine from Leveson & Huntington was not due in November, but on the 28th of February, and that E. Lauer & Sons had received telegram authorizing them to make the payment.

The second company that bought the mine are at work on it with a force of men.

It might be charged that The Examiner has not kept up very well with the reports from so important a question. Possibly so. Way along toward the first of the negotiations we learned that Geo. H. Ayres, the assayer, had secured a tenth interest in these mines, and when these reports floated out over the country we would go straight way to Mr. Ayres and his answers to questions satisfied us that no great amount of reliance could be placed on the various reports.

The truth of the matter is, the prospects at Pine Creek are good, the topography is good, the formation is good; but no one has yet found the ledge, and no real expert search has been made for it, and there is little use to look for it till the snow goes out of the mountains, and some expert miner gets in there on terms that he can afford to prospect. The country for miles around is staked off and no mining man is going to hunt for the ledge until he is assured of a substantial interest in what is found or of being well paid for his work.

We have followed the reports all the way through and have given them simply as reports without enlarging upon them or commenting on them; we intend to pursue the same course. As soon as definite and substantial information comes to light, then we are ready to tell to the world what is here. There is no occasion for a rush to the Lake county mines until it is certainly known that something good has been actually discovered. A rush would be fatal to the country.

Jim Street passed through Lakeview last week on his way to Cedarville, where he was called by telegram to his sick mother's bedside. Mr. Street was a stockraiser for years in the Burns country, having went there from Surprise Valley over 20 years ago. He sold his stock and land some months ago and has been living in Prineville.

ACTUAL WORK HAS BEGUN IN LEAGUE.

All Effort Will be Turned to Getting Govern-
ment Surveyors Here in June.

At the meeting of the Lake County Development League held Monday evening at the court house more enthusiasm was shown than at any meeting yet held. The reports of the committees appointed at the previous meeting were signed up and letters were prepared to be sent to each of our representatives in congress, asking their assistance in getting the department to recognize the peculiar needs of Lake county with a view to having this project placed on the government's reclamation program. Dr. Daly and Daniel Boone were appointed as a committee to communicate with the parties owning land on the West Side in order to be able to make the government a definite proposition to irrigate the lands, so that, in case the project was undertaken there would be no delay in arranging details with the land owners. Also to confer with the Booth-Kelly Co. and the Cox & Clark Co. and find out exactly upon what conditions they would divide up or sell or trade their land.

It will be the effort of the Development League to have the Government engineers, the Governor and the president of the N. C. O. Railroad here to look over the situation in June, and by the time these men arrive here the League will have every detail of the scheme mapped out and papers ready

to sign up. Then, after surveys are completed and estimates of the cost of construction made, if the Government delays on account of a scarcity of funds, private capital will be sought to take up the work.

The West Side project is peculiarly located and it is the belief that its cost will be so small that no difficulty will be encountered in inducing private capital to undertake it, in fact there are parties in Lakeview who almost know where the money will come from, if the government will make the surveys and estimate the cost.

The League has actually gone to work now, and we may expect to see results before many months.

There was a gentleman in Lakeview not long ago who stated to Dr. Daly that if the McCloud Railroad could get a foot hold here in the way of a patch of timber between here and Warner, the road would build to Lakeview at once. The McCloud people are not talking much, but building railroad as rapidly as possible, and their compass points toward Lakeview. Several hints have been dropped with in the past few weeks that indicate that the McCloud people have their eye on Lakeview. Merrill will be directly on the route.

From the Rubber Fields.

Before arriving at the Iowa Rubber plantation we had obtained a glimpse of the Lamaha and Philadelphia plantations, while passing up the river in boat.

Our first ride upon horseback took us alongside of the late planting of rubber, of the Philadelphia plantation then from end to end of the Iowa plantation with trees ranging in all from one to six years old. After passing through some virgin forest we came to the Rio Michal plantation, with trees from one to six years old, riding the full length of the plantation. After remaining over night, we saw them tap a wild rubber tree and saw the process of making rubber, also obtained some milk of rubber and cured rubber to take with us to our homes. From here we went by canoe up the Rio Michal river, to San Leandro, headquarters of the Chiapas Rubber plantation. In going from the river and to San Leandro, a distance of one and a half miles, we rode amidst rubber trees the whole distance. During the afternoon, and for two days following, we rode among the rubber trees, ranging in age from one to six years old.

We examined the soil carefully, examined, and tapped many of the trees experimentally, to see if all the trees would produce rubber. Also examined the recently acquired tract called Bonita, where some fifteen or sixteen years ago some two hundred trees had been promiscuously planted, ranging in size from saplings to trees fifty feet high, and eighteen inches in diameter, which all looked well, although having frequently been tapped.

The best growth of rubber trees we saw on our trip was on the Chiapas plantation. The lands adapted to the growth of rubber is well underdrained, and visa versa About one-third, possibly one-half of these lands are adapted to the growth of rubber, and the balance is rich soil that can be utilized in the future for Bananas, Fiber plants, etc.

The rubber trees on this plantation, from one to three years old show a splendid growth. Trees planted from three to six years ago, show splendid growth, where planted upon lands well underdrained, and not too densely shaded. But many of the earlier plantings were planted in too dense shade and much of these plantings show slow growth, however most of the dense shade have been cut out, and the trees given a chance to grow.

It is however, a common remark in the tropics, that all the pioneer planters, made the same or similar mistakes. No one can realize the stupendous undertaking, of beginning a new industry like rubber unless, they would

visit, the tropics, and as a matter of course mistakes were sure to be made in the beginning of a new industry. Imagine if you can, going into a dense forest, with large trees about one hundred feet high and a dense undergrowth from the ground up, costing in Mexico money, from twenty five to fifty dollars per acre. Next the cost of planting the trees without any experience to guide you, then the expense of keeping down for a few years, the dense undergrowth that springs up in the Tropics after the timber has been cut down and you may practically realize the immense undertaking of the Pioneers. The Chiapas plantation has adapted what is called the high shade system, which means that from ten to thirty large trees on an acre are left when clearing the land and I might add, is giving good results.

I saw considerable of the open culture system which means to cut down all the forest and depend upon shade for the trees, made by the new undergrowth. Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages, the pros and cons are many, which I will not now discuss.

Conclusions Summary.

1st. The Chiapas Rubber Plantation Company claims to have five thousand acres planted to rubber, containing one million trees, which I can neither confirm nor deny, but can say truthfully that they have several thousand acres planted to rubber.

2nd. The plantation is in the rubber belt.

3rd. It has very rich soil, much moisture, and shows wonderful possibilities of growth.

4th. The rubber trees will all produce rubber.

5th. The rubber tree is hardy, healthy, and of good longevity.

6th. The transportation to market is by water (river to the plantation,) and is very cheap.

7th. The rubber tree shows good growth wherever it has been planted in soil well underdrained and with the proper amount of shade.

8th. 10 per cent. of the product will pay the expense of tapping, curing and freight to market for the reason there is no expensive machinery or skilled labor required to produce rubber, and the Company has the advantage of water transportation from the plantation to tidewater.

9th. The plantation of rubber trees is past the experimental stage.

10th. Trees planted from one to three years old show a good growth.

11th. The trees from three to six years old show good growth wherever they were planted in proper soil, and not shaded too much. However, many of the first plantings were planted in too dense a shade which has materially retarded their growth.

12th. The company can declare a dividend next year, but it is not advisable, owing to conditions of trees mentioned in paragraph 11.

13th. The officers and Directors of the Company are among the successful and reputable business men of San Francisco. (See Bradstreets Report.)

14th. The present management at the plantation is good, with minor exceptions, and I believe the stock will never be cheaper than it is at this time.

15th. For a long period investment, I regard rubber culture one of the very best.

16th. I have purchased twenty shares of the Chiapas stock, upon certain conditions, and after a pretty thorough examination, at the plantation, have retained the stock.

17th. My estimate is that in the course of three, possibly five years, the stock will begin to pay interest upon the investment, from which time the dividends will gradually increase from year to year, slowly at first, for twenty-five to fifty years, beyond and practical computation.

Yours respectfully,
S. V. Rehart.

Library Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Lakeview Reading Room and Library Association was held at the Court House Saturday evening. While the attendance was not large, it certainly was a representative gathering and all seemed thoroughly interested in the organization. After the business part was disposed of the election of officers took place.

During the past year those in charge have attended so well to the duties imposed on them and the future or ultimate success of any organization is generally dependant on its past achievements the sentiments expressed were in favor of re-electing the officers. This was met with hearty approval. The officers elected are:

Mrs. E. E. Rinehart, President, Mrs. W. H. Shirk Vice-President, Mrs. J. N. Watson, Treasurer, the office of secretary being vacant, Mrs. A. Bieber was elected secretary. The trustees are Mrs. V. L. Snelling, Mrs. W. P. Heryford, Mrs. S. B. Chandler, Mrs. J. Norin, Miss Pearl Hall, Mrs. A. Bieber, Mr. E. E. Rinehart.

Dr. Daly in a few well chosen remarks expressed his confidence in the future of the organization and what a good thing it is for a town, interior as Lakeview, to have the benefits of a Reading Room and Library. The environment means so much for the children of the town and to strangers it presents the appearance of culture and progressiveness. Dr. Daly has donated the building used for the Reading Room free of rent for another year.

Juvenile Needle Club.

There is one organization in Lakeview that, so far as we know, has never been honored with notoriety, not because of its insignificance, nor because sweetness and all that is lovely on earth did not attend its meetings, but just simply because the overgrownness of the world, this, the very budding of future worldliness was overlooked in the rush for a place in the ranks of notoriety for he could make the biggest noise. For want of a more appropriate name for this club, we will refer to it as the Juvenile Needle Club. These little buds of spring, from which blossom flowers sweeter than the honey-suckle, more beautiful than the rose and more lovely than the morning-glory meet at convenient times and places, under the guidance of mothers, and are entertained in regular juvenile fashion. At these meetings the dollies' clothes are cut out and made—just to fit. Ribbons and bows and flub-dubs are neatly-stitching precise—sewed on pink and blue doll dresses, and dollie is all togged out to suit the tastes of these little women of the world tomorrow.

The last place of meeting was at Mrs. F. E. Harris', where the following members were most tenderly entertained and cared for:

Mary Heryford, Marie Rehart, Lucille Bailey, Floy Bernard, Laura Wright, Belle Chandler, Ruth Patterson, Elsie Post, Gladys Chandler, Mildred Heryford, Virginia Harris.

Miners have gone to work again on the Paisley mines. We have stated before that a tunnel was driven into the hill directly under the shaft sunk by the Gaylord's. This tunnel is 150 feet long and strikes the ledge 75 feet from the surface of the ground. They are going down on the ledge now at the end of the tunnel, and the prospects are good.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR "COW" COUNTY.

Nothing too Advanced for
What Was One Time
The Frontier.

SMALL TAX LEVY WILL SUFFICE.

Malheur County Will Build High
School and Educate its Chil-
dren at Home.

The accompanying article clipped from the Malheur Gazette, published at Vale in Malheur county, shows what is being done in that cow county for the sons and daughters of the men engaged in the chief industry of Malheur county. The people of that county have realized the necessity of better schools and are taking steps to meet the requirements. A long time ago a high school was considered too much of a luxury for the counties of Eastern Oregon, termed cow counties, but in later years when people of all countries and of all walks of life are striving to the highest level of civilization, no luxury is beyond the grasp of the enterprising occupants of what was one time the frontier of frontiers. There was a period in the isolated sections of Oregon when the people had no intention of making a permanent home in "this out of the way place." They did not intend to rear their families here, and had no need for only the ordinary things and comforts of life; they were here to make money and only a few years was required to make a start in life, and hardships and deprivation could be tolerated for the period necessary to make a small fortune when they could return to the land of luxury, where their children could be educated.

Little by little civilization crept upon the country, and as the children grew up the heads of families grew more reluctant to leave the land of easy money, and the rising generation grew to look upon the quaint and meekly-constructed abodes as home, and the expanse of free and unoccupied territory and the miles of Uncle Sam's domain as fields of freedom and the memory of crowded cities and compact settlements seemed a coop to them, until they too, became heads of families, with the love of freedom and a fondness for the country that had fed them health and strength.

Today, what was once the "cow country," is the center of attraction of the entire Northwest, and Eastern people are looking longingly for the opportunity to gain a home here. Why not then prepare to make these much sought homes complete with all the comforts and necessities of life?

A petition for the establishment of a county high school is out and receiving universal endorsement, as far as has been learned. This is a progressive step by the citizens of Malheur county.

The need for such an institution has long been felt. Too many pupils have been forced to go outside of the county to complete their education, and others, unable to be at the great expense incident upon attending college, have been forced to stop school with the limited knowledge gained in the lower branches. A county central High School should meet with the approval of all.—Malheur Gazette.

Explosion at Hayden Hill.

As a result of digging into an exploded dynamite charge in a mine at Hayden Hill a week ago last Monday, R. A. Palmer is dead and E. F. Hightt has one arm and one leg broken. Mr. Hightt is a brother of Walter Hightt, and lived here with Walter about a year. Mr. Palmer was a young man 22 years old, and supported a mother and sister at Adin, Calif.

Looking For Homes.

We are in receipt of a letter from the Canadian Pacific Development Co., asking for information about Lake county and soliciting the names of dealers in farm lands. This company has located several colonies in the West and are now seeking a field for another colony.