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GASTON WRITES ON CENTRAL OREGON.

One of the Coming wheat
Raising Sections.

GRAIN, HAY, STOCK AND MINES.

Mr. Gaston Traveled 700 Miles in
Sleds and Sleighs and
Never Caught Gold.

Joseph Gaston of Portland, has favored The Examiner with a copy of the *SUNSET* Magazine, in which is published a write-up of Central Oregon, entitled "Oregon's Inland Empire." It will be remembered that Mr. Joseph Gaston passed through Lakeview in January 1906, and in the March, 1907 number of *Sunset* Magazine tells of his trip, and accurately pen pictures Central Oregon and its vast future possibilities. Mr. Gaston writes The Examiner the following letter:

Portland, Oregon, March 4, 1907.
Editor Examiner:

Dear Sir:—
By this mail I am sending you under separate cover, a copy of the *SUNSET* Magazine, containing an article on CENTRAL OREGON, which I trust you will take the liberty to criticize, as you deem best, and send me a copy of your paper containing the criticism, with a view of enabling me to make improvements in a subsequent article, I am intending to write on Eastern Oregon.

In the article to which I have called your attention, the editor of the *Sunset* Magazine, under the plea of "want of room" took the liberty of cutting out a great deal of my article, including illustrations of Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Prineville and Canyon City; also he put in some illustrations that did not belong to the country. So that you will understand that the article as it appears is not just what I prepared.

Very Truly Yours,
J. Gaston.

But after we read the article we failed to find a basis for criticism.

There might be especial mention made of certain movements now on foot in Lake county for the exploitation of this country, but these things were not in existence when Mr. Gaston visited this section, and his attention has been called to them by private letter from The Examiner, for the purpose of furnishing him data for future articles. Below we publish Mr. Gaston's article, so far as interest attaches to this particular portion of the territory embraced:

Central Oregon, so-called, is the great plateau in the southeast corner of the state, practically two hundred and fifty miles square, and yet wholly destitute of railroad transportation. This great interior region, east of the Cascade mountains, has been well named the "Inland Empire." A great daily paper recently remarked that "Eastern Oregon, as yet is a geographical expression, and its potentialities are as yet unknown." "First, considered by the white pioneers, who bravely threaded its vast areas, as a desert waste, fit only for wandering bands of Indians; next, deemed useful only to the venturesome cowboy of the plains and the still more reckless seeker of gold in lonely mountain gulches, we come down to the time when a few permanent settlers, regarded as still more crazy than all their predecessors, sowed wheat on the sage brush plains of the Umatilla; and then, at least three of the great potentialities of that region—mining, stock-raising and wheat growing—were proven to be reliable resources of vast wealth in a region originally considered barren and uninhabitable. Eastern Oregon has been, indeed, an enigma and a surprise; and the Central Oregon region is the best representative of the distinctive features of the whole Eastern Oregon country.

It is the purpose of this article to truthfully set forth the climate, resources and advantages for settlement of this great region, which has been—declared to be, by a man who has been over all the United States hunting large tracts of land to sell, "The last low-priced tract of desirable lands located in a white man's country, with

a charming climate, left on this continent today."

Here the writer gives a geological history of the country, which, while of vast interest, renders the article too voluminous for republication in a country newspaper.

Touching on the soil, he says:

The soil of this region is distinctly volcanic. While in the great basins, like the Klamath, Goose Lake and Harney valley, there is a very large addition of vegetable mould, it is in these localities, as everywhere else, largely and thoroughly mixed, with volcanic ashes and the detritus of volcanic rocks. The volcanoes blew out the ashes, and the winds scattered them all over the whole region; while the melting and sliding of the great ice cap glacier thoroughly ground to powder and mixed all these elements of the soil. Hence, we find here a soil containing all the mineral fertilizers, already in place, ready for plant growth, which other countries have to purchase at enormous expense. Germany has paid Chili two hundred and fifty million dollars for nitrates to raise sugar beets and to maintain the fertility of its soil.

This volcanic soil is what produces such rapid plant growth. Wheat, in Eastern Oregon, grows more rapidly and matures a crop in shorter time than elsewhere in the Willamette valley. And for the same reason the straw of Eastern Oregon wheat is stronger and will stand longer to be harvested than that of wheat in Western Oregon. All the fruits show the effect of this soil in Eastern Oregon, in higher flavor, richer coloring and finer substance securing better packing and longer keeping and shipping qualities. Apples from Hood River are shipped to every civilized country, keeping perfectly. Cherries are shipped from La Grande to New York and London. Strawberries are shipped from White Salmon and Hood River to Salt Lake, Denver and Winnipeg. There is nothing lacking in the soil here for the most successful culture of all kinds of fruit, grain, vegetables and grasses.

It can be truly said and ought to be said that the climate of Eastern Oregon is most conducive to robust health, vigor and beauty, of both men and women. Mr. P. L. Tompkins has kept a record of the weather at Bend, and finds that there is an average of three hundred sunny days in the year. The great importance of this to the farmer and outdoor worker needs no argument. With an average elevation of from three to four thousand feet above sea level, with perfect drainage and no malarial swamps; with more ozone to the cubic foot of air than in most other parts of the world, the inhabitants enjoy life and the best of health. The writer of this paper has been all over this country, and speaks from actual experience: First on the top of a stage coach from Salt Lake to the Columbia, before there was a mile of railroad in it; next, from Portland to the peaks of Eagle Creek, in Baker county, and the black sand bluffs of Nyssa, in Malheur county; next, in an open wagon from The Dalles across country to Prineville and Burns and down to the Borax works, in the southeast corner of the state, in November, 1905,—camping and sleeping in the open every night,—the whole route and back to the Dalles, seven hundred miles; and, lastly, from Shaniko to Bend and to Lakeview and around to Klamath Falls, through the worst snowstorm for twenty years, in January, 1906; four hundred and fifty miles in sleds and sleighs, with no addition to ordinary clothing but an overcoat. In all this experience he never caught cold, never experienced uncomfortable cold or other discomfort from the climate, and enjoyed every mile of his travel.

It is admitted that the eastern part of the state has a dry climate, with much less rain fall than Western Oregon. The climate was once very warm and moist. The change resulted from the elevation of the Cascade range. The westerly winds, carrying the moisture from the Pacific, striking the mountains, dropped their rain before reaching the eastern country. This will surely be modified to a large extent, as we shall see hereafter in the paragraph on "What cultivation will do."

We are not printing this for the farmers of this section, for they see for themselves; but for the information of the many thousand readers of the *Sunset* beyond the boundaries of the state. Agriculture is the foundation stone of our national prosperity and if the farmers of an agricultural region are not prosperous, then no-

MORE FOREST RESERVES FOR THE WEST.

Before Signing Away his Rights President
Creates Additional Reserves.

Prior to signing the agricultural appropriation bill, which contains Senator Fulton's amendment prohibiting the creation of forest reserves in the Northwest states except by the authority of Congress, President Roose-

velt issued a proclamation creating 26 forest reserves in the six states affected by the Fulton amendment. His proclamations add 4,051,000 acres to the reserve area of Oregon, 4,246,000 acres in Washington and 580,000 acres in Idaho.

body else in that region is prosperous. The production of horses, cattle, sheep and wool, has been and is yet the great industry here. In this business more men have gotten rich, compared to the population, than in any other state, or compared with the successful men in an equal population in any other state.

Whole pages of the names and addresses of men might be given who have made their fortunes in this way here, and have retired to live in Portland and other cities.

In many cases these men had nothing to start with but good health and strong arms, going out to the range to herd cattle or sheep at forty dollars a month, saving their earnings and putting them into a little bunch of cattle or sheep at the first opportunity. The name of one such man in Lake county could be given who, fifteen years ago, commenced with one thousand sheep, herding them himself, and by attention to his business, has, alone and unaided, amassed a fortune of a quarter of a million of dollars; selling last year, horses, sheep and wool, from his own stock, to the amount of \$45,000.00. The opportunities are not all exhausted yet, and want be for many years; while the attractive life of stockraising will continue always, after the grain lands are taken, for stock will be successfully raised on the hills and mountain slopes for all time. Oregon's place is sixth among the states in the production of sheep and wool; with last year 1905 two million sheep and sixteen million pounds of wool; and selling on foot one million mutton sheep. A single central—Malheur—sold last year seventeen thousand head of beef cattle, three thousand three hundred and fifty well bred horses, and two hundred and forty-eight thousand sheep; all of which were shipped from the new town of Ontario.

The beef cattle ranks next to sheep in importance and productive wealth the cattle getting fat on the range and being shipped to market; not only of the Pacific coast, but east, by rail, to the great packing houses of Chicago. Breeding horses for export while not so important as the cattle and sheep interests, is yet a profitable industry, large numbers being shipped to the eastern states; and during the wars this region furnished thousands of horses to the British army in South Africa and to the Japanese Army in Manchuria. All this livestock bringing in millions of dollars, grazes free on public land; and the only expense of the owners is in herding, branding, rounding up, and cutting and stacking enough alfalfa hay to carry the herds over a few weeks of snow in the winter. No protection from the wea-

ther is provided, and the winter grazing on bunch grass is quite as good as upon the green grass in springtime.

Next to live stock in importance is the wheat crop. Once though impracticable to raise wheat on the sage brush plains, now there are annually over ten million bushels shipped from Eastern Oregon. The crop averages from twenty to forty bushels an acre, and some times runs up to fifty bushels an acre. The quality is first class, and most of it is now harvested with the combined header and thresher, drawn through the fields by thirty horses or by a traction engine. Although wheat was sold as low as thirty cents a bushel in 1894, yet the panic passed by and thousands of men have been made rich and independent for life by their bountiful harvests. This section does not yet raise wheat for export, for want of rail transportation, but it has the capacity to raise and to sell to the world fifty million bushels annually, just as soon as the railroad is there to haul it away. And with equal facility the soil produces oats, barley and rye.

(Continued Next Week.)

Paisley Irrigation Scheme.

A large irrigation contract was entered into between the state land board and the Portland Irrigation Company, which involves \$421,000, and the reclamation of 12,000 acres of desert land near Paisley, in the northern part of Lake County, the contract is to be in effect six months after the United States government has contracted with the state to turn over this land for reclamation purposes.

By the terms of the contract with the irrigation company, any one who is a bona fide citizen of the United States can settle on 160 acres of land within this area described in the contract, by agreeing to pay fifty cents an acre assessed for the reclamation lien thereon and when 80 per cent. is paid in, the land becomes the settler's and a deed for the land is made over to him.

The contract was signed at a meeting of the state land board over which Governor Chamberlain presided, and is considered a very good one in many respects. It is estimated that the work of reclamation will cost the company \$25 per acre, while the contract with the state will cost the state but \$35. It is even figured that it may cost the company more than \$25 in some instances. They are to build a large reservoir eighty feet high, about fifteen miles above the lands to be reclaimed, on the Chevaucan river, with a storing capacity of water sufficient to do the work of reclamation. The company agrees to

maintain all dams, main canals, laterals, flumes, works and piers, which are to remain their property.

No land shall be sold before the date of reclamation, and the company notified that they can sell lands. The company agrees that they will deliver between May 23 and September 1 of each year, two acre feet of water for each acre of land for ordinary irrigation purposes. The contract is a voluminous document, setting forth in detail the work of reclamation, and embodies maps and blue prints of the section of land to be reclaimed, cuts off dams, and other work on the canals, etc.

Abe Brown Loses

After winning \$100,000, Abe Brown of Tonopah, part owner of the Tonopah Club, a gambling house of that city, drops \$400,000 in the same sitting, and saunters around town next day as nonchalantly as if nothing out of the ordinary had occurred.

Of the \$400,000 which was lost in the space of less than twenty-four hours, 100,000 was previous winning in the same game, and \$100,000 more is balanced by the one-third interest which the gambler held in the club so that the actual net loss to Brown in the single game was \$200,000.

Brown's partners in the club, are Kennedy of Tonopah, and George Wingfield, the millionaire mining man of Goldfield. During the play, the regular limit was raised to \$5,000 and this amount was thrown by Brown repeatedly on a single turn as carelessly as the ordinary player would place a two bit chip.

The money placed by Brown at Faro is undoubtedly the largest sum ever lost or wagered in a single sitting. It is understood that the bulk of his obligation was squared with Mobaw mining stock.—Reno Journal.

Stock Sales this Week.

C. W. Withers was down from Paisley last week to attend the stockmen's meeting. While here he sold a band of 900 dry ewes to Walter Paxton, for the sheep buyer, Gifford. Mr. Paxton has bought up about 2500 head for Mr. Gifford. The price paid for the Withers sheep was \$3.50 per head after shearing, and for the others Mr. Paxton paid \$3 and \$3.50 after shearing. He wants several more bands.

F. M. Green, foreman for the XL cattle company, last week purchased George Hankin's band of cattle, numbering about 1400 head. In the lot were 150 fine beef steers that Mr. Hankin had been feeding for beef all winter. Mr. Green will send his vanquers up after the beef this week, and he is to receive the remainder of the band in April. He will let the beef take the grass this summer and by fall he will have the finest bunch of steers in the country.

Jim Small was down from Silver Lake for the stockmen's meeting and returned home the first of the week. While here he bought the P. D. Bauers band of cattle, numbering about 400 head.

The Cedarville Record says that Geo. C. Turner has returned from Reno, where he went a short time ago with a large shipment of blue beef cattle.

M. Wingfield purchased between 100 and 150 head of stock cattle from T. B. and S. P. Vernon.

The 70 Cattle Co. purchased about 60 head of stock cattle from E. T. Bishop.

F. M. Greer, purchased 60 or 70 head of cattle from Jim McDermot.

The New Cabinet.

The reconstruction of the President's cabinet last Monday, leaves the heads of the great national government as now constituted as follows: Secretary of State Elihu Root, New York. Secretary of Treasury, George B. Cortelyou, New York. Secretary of War, William H. Taft, Ohio. Secretary of Navy, Victor H. Metcalf, of California. Attorney-General, Chas. J. Bonaparte, Maryland. Postmaster-General, George Von L. Meyer, Massachusetts. Secretary of Interior, James R. Garfield, Ohio. Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Oscar Strauss, New York. Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, Iowa.

Mr. B. Sperry, a Fresno, Calif., mining man, who has been in the Windy Hollow mining district for the past few weeks, returned to Lakeview Tuesday on his way to California. Mr. Sperry's prospects in the Windy Hollow country, almost as good, he says, as any he has seen anywhere.

STOCKMEN HOLD THEIR MEETING.

Range is Divided Between
Stock Raisers.

ONE HUNDRED STOCKMEN MEET-

Meetings to be Held at Paisley
and Silver Lake this
Week and next.

About 100 stockmen, representing the sheep, cattle and horse industries of this section of Oregon, were present at the stockmen's meeting held in Lakeview last week for the purpose of dividing up the range within the Goose Lake Forest reserve, in response to a call from Forest Inspector Erickson. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Erickson in the Court House last Friday morning, when he explained the purpose of the meeting and the objects which he desired to accomplish. The forest officials had sub-divided the Goose Lake reserve into four sections, namely, the south-east portion of the reserve being Division No. 3, the northeast portion Division No. 2, the southwest portion Division No. 1, and the west portion Division No. 4. Each section had been prepared of each of which were mapped out by the various stockmen of that division. A committee was then appointed for each division, composed of three sheepmen and three cattle and horse men, and the committees set to work to adjust lines and act upon the bona fide rights of individual stockmen to certain portions of the range applied for.

The first thing to do was to form lines, sub-dividing each portion of the reserve into cattle and horse sections and sheep sections. In this work some of the committee agreed at once, while some failed utterly. The committee for Division No. 3, embracing the territory east of the lake, could not agree on a line separating the cattle and horse range from the sheep range, but Mr. Erickson gained sufficient knowledge of the wants and rights of the people to allow him to form a fair conclusion, and he will form the line, which will divide the range, nearly along the summit of the mountain, the sheep taking the eastern portion and the cattle the western. In the northern part of the reserve, the north line of which is three miles south of Paisley, a territory called the Little Chevaucan all in one body was given the cattle and horses and the remainder sub-divided into allotments for sheep, each sheep owner being allowed to turn a certain number of sheep, upon his particular allotment and each cattle owner allowed pasturage for a number, designated by him in his application, within the cattle district as a whole. Trails were laid out, about a half-mile wide leading to the different allotments, over which stock may be moved at any time.

Up to the present time no adjustment has been made of that portion of the reserve lying in Klamath county north of township line between T. 35 and 36 as no agreement could be reached between the different interests as to a division of the range into cattle districts and sheep districts.

Five or six applications for range were rejected, these being from sheepmen who owned no land contiguous to the range applied for, and had not used range in the area now comprised within the reserve except for one or two years.

To-morrow a meeting will be held at Paisley for the purpose of adjusting allotments in the southern portion of the Fremont reserve, and on the 20th of this month a meeting will be held at Silver Lake to arrange the division of the range in the northern part of the Fremont.

A full grazing season for sheep provided for, extends from October 15th to November 15th. The grazing fee for this season has been fixed at one and one-half cents per head.

The total number of cattle applied for and approved on the Goose Lake Reserve is 19,500 head; total number of horses, 800 head, and the total number of sheep, 97,700 head.

STANDING THE OLD UN ON HIS HEAD.



The Elephant: "Really, Theodore, this doesn't seem dignified!"
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.