

KLAMATH'S LUMBER INDUSTRY

History of Its Great Growth In Few Years

BY H. D. MORTENSON
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WE, who live in Klamath, generally regard the great Klamath basin as a territory embracing all of the county of Klamath and extending south to the city of Bray in California as these boundaries clearly outline topographically the country tributary to Klamath Falls and because of the topographic boundaries thus outlined the interests of this entire country are closely interwoven and allied.

The early settlement of this vast territory was based largely upon the opportunities offered for stock raising and farming. There were, however, many far-sighted persons who predicted that these industries, although important, might become secondary to the pursuit of harvesting the vast forests of this region, pursuit of which occupation we call lumbering, and it is interesting to note here that one eighth of the entire population of the United States depend upon woodworking in some of its capacities for a livelihood. In other words, there are over 14,000,000 people in our country dependent upon it for all that they enjoy and hope to enjoy during their lifetime.

Thirty Billion Feet of Timber

The great forest resources of the Klamath basin, quite conservatively estimated at 30,000,000,000 feet, are sufficient to insure the Klamath district of becoming the great white pine producing center of the entire United States. This unique position was once held by certain cities in Michigan, then Wisconsin, then Minnesota and, as in all other developments, the westward trend of development has brought it to Klamath Falls and we predict that at no distant date this will be recognized as the great white pine center of the country.

Today the mills of this region are producing approximately 350,000,000 feet of lumber annually and, unlike the lumbering industries of those states we have mentioned, almost 90% of this annual harvest of timber is taken from lands which are being left in a very perfect state for re-forestation and perpetuation of the industry. We do not believe there is any other section where preparations for re-forestation are as extensive.

Pioneer Mill Built by U. S.

While the harvesting of these forests waited many years for railroad development, it is interesting to note in passing that the first actual undertaking in the mechanical manufacture of lumber and the first mill on record in this territory was built by the government in 1863. It was a steam mill and produced three or four thousand feet per day, the output being used for the construction of old Fort Klamath. The next mill was built by the government at the agency in 1872 and its output was entirely used for the immediate needs at that station.

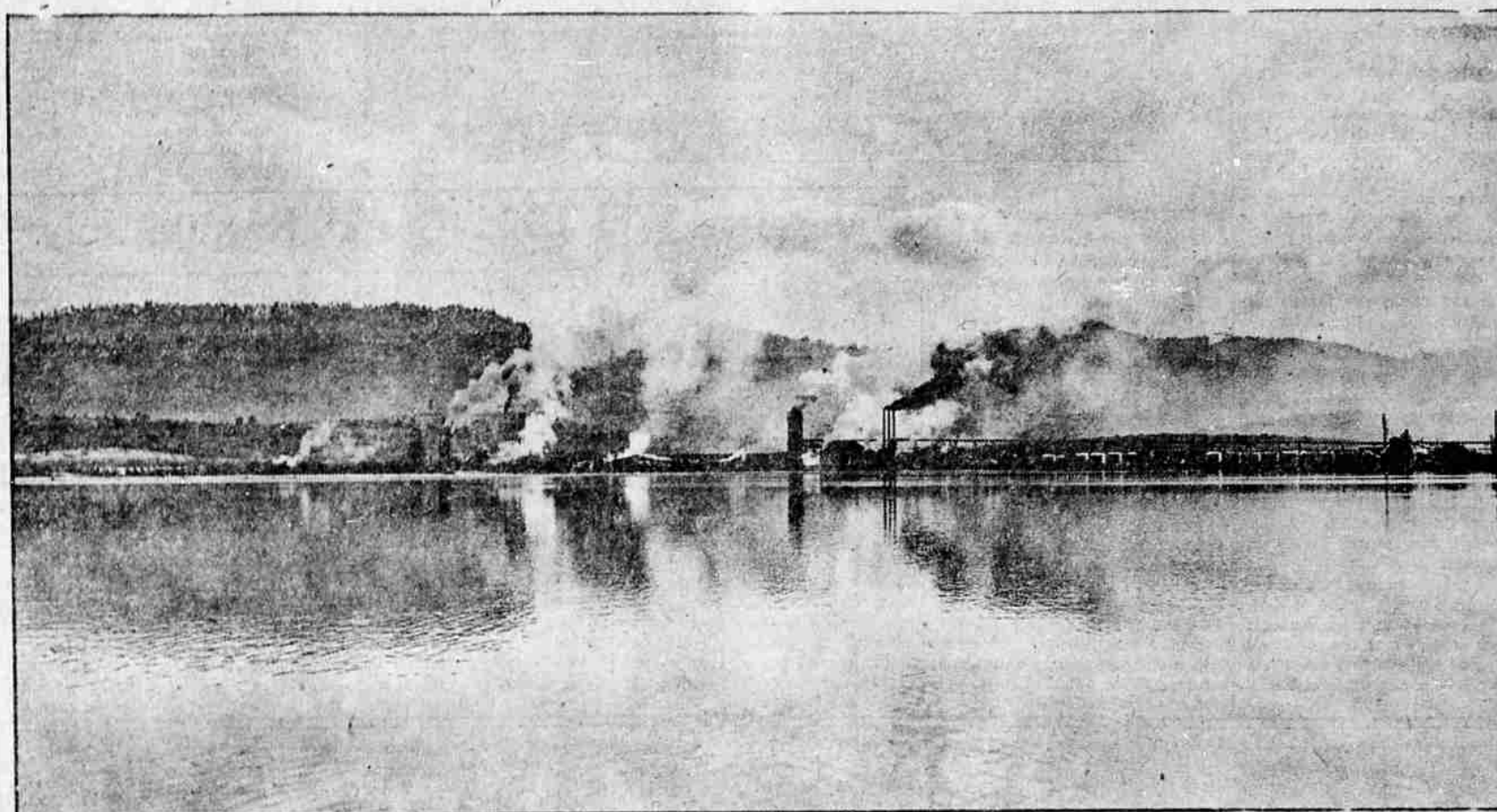
The first private enterprise was undertaken by Moore Brothers in 1877 when these enterprising citizens erected a water power mill having a capacity of some seven thousand feet per day and employing something like fifteen men. The output of this mill was consumed entirely by local demand for the building of the old city of Linkville and the farm structures in the district.

Ackley in Game Early

Among the other mills which preceded the railroad was Ackley Brothers saw mill, which is still in operation. This mill was built in 1905 and has the distinction of being the first concern in the district to ship box shooks from this territory. The shooks were hauled by barge to Ady at the lower end of Lake Ewauna, which was then the terminus of the railroad.

Shortly after this the California Packing corporation erected a box

WHERE A FEW OF KLAMATH'S LOGS ARE SAWED INTO DOLLARS



PANORAMIC SCENE SNAPPED FROM UPPER LAKE SHOWING WATERFRONT AT SHIPPINGTON AND PELICAN BAY, WITH BIG SMOKESTACKS OF PELICAN BAY LUMBER COMPANY AND KLAMATH LUMBER AND BOX COMPANY SENDING FORTH SOOTY BANNERS THAT TELL OF HUMMING HIVE OF INDUSTRY BENEATH.

factory and were the first to recognize the adaptability and accessibility of our timber for California needs. This box factory was supplied with lumber by the Long Lake Lumber company, which was the first to locate on the Upper Klamath lake, and by Moore Brothers saw mill, which had been moved from its original location on Link river to Lake Ewauna, where it was sold to the Innis-Clark Lumber company about the time that the railroad entered Klamath Falls.

And Then the Railroad Came

These endeavors represent lumber activities previous to the arrival of the railroad. The Southern Pacific railroad finally reached Klamath Falls in the month of June, 1902. Immediately thereafter, since transportation for the output had been assured, lumbering as an industry began to make rapid strides.

The first company to locate here expecting to engage in lumbering for outside markets was the Pelican Bay Lumber company, who chose its site on Upper Klamath lake in 1916. The company began erection and operation in 1911 with an output of 22,000,000 feet. It is now producing 60,000,000 feet of lumber; 12,000,000 pieces of lath and 20,000,000 feet of box shooks annually and gives employment to approximately 800 employees.

In the year, 1912 The Klamath Manufacturing company purchased the plant of the California Packing corporation and entered energetically into the manufacture of box shooks. The capacity of this plant was greatly increased and in 1916 this company bought a saw mill on Lake Ewauna, formerly owned by the Innis-Clark Lumber company, dismantled and re-erected in on Upper Klamath lake, where it is still in operation and has a capacity of 25,000,000 feet of lumber and 25,000,000 feet of box shooks and employs approximately 300 men.

Answered Duty's Call to Colors

Colonel R. A. Johnson, owner of this company, early in the world war, set aside his personal undertakings making them subservient to the call of duty to his country and left his enterprise in the hands of others and himself went to France to help win the war. While in the uniform he served with great distinction and though, unfortunately, he died shortly after the war, his memory is held in very high esteem

by all the lumbermen who were associated in the same pursuit with him in the Klamath district. Shortly after his death this plant was sold to the Earl Fruit company, who are its present owners and operators.

In 1912 the Ewauna Box company was organized and built its first plant upon the present location. This plant was destroyed by fire and a new and modern plant was built immediately thereafter. It is one of the largest box producing industries in the district having an annual output of 30,000,000 feet of box shooks.

For a number of years the company operated only in box shooks, but in the year 1919 they began the erection of their present sawmill, which has an annual capacity of approximately 30,000,000 feet and employs 350 men and women in all departments.

Recent Developments Rapid

The Algoma Lumber company entered the field in 1912 and are now producing 40,000,000 feet of lumber and about 20,000,000 feet of box shooks and employ 500 men.

The Dorris Lumber & Box company, located at Dorris, California, began operating early in the spring of 1913 with an annual capacity of 18,000,000 feet of box shooks. This company has sold its box producing plant to the Associated Box company and have erected a sawmill at Chilloguiss, where they are at present engaged in annually manufacturing 15,000,000 feet of lumber.

In 1915 the Lamm Lumber company erected its plant at Modoc Point and began operation in May, 1916. This plant remains in the hands of its original owners and manufactures annually 15,000,000 feet of lumber and employs 160 men.

The Modoc Lumber company, located at Chilloguiss, began operation in 1916 and has operated since that date and is producing 40,000,000 feet of lumber and employs approximately 300 men.

Mill Built on Edge of City

In the fall of 1917, the Big Lakes Box company, located on Sixth street, by purchasing the yard and planing mill formerly belonging to Savage Brothers and remodeling it into a modern box producing plant. At their inception they began producing 12,000,000 feet of box shooks, which in subsequent years grew to a production of 20,000,000 feet and in 1920 they erected a saw mill with

an annual capacity of 18,000,000 feet and at the present time they are employing approximately 230 employees.

The next company to be organized and built in the district was the Chelsea Box company, which was later sold to The Growers, Packers & Warehousing company of San Jose. This plant has an annual capacity of 20,000,000 feet of box shooks.

The Crater Lake Box company, an association of local men, was next organized and built a plant at Bray, California, with an annual capacity of 20,000,000 feet of box shooks.

And Still They Come

The Shaw-Bertram Lumber company built their plant on the shores of Lake Ewauna in 1920 and are cutting 20,000,000 feet of lumber and employ approximately 200 men.

The period from 1910 to the present time witnessed, in addition to the introduction of these plants, the construction of twenty-six smaller plants throughout the district whose total annual output amounts to the very large sum of approximately 116,000,000 feet of lumber.

30 Mills in Klamath District

The development which has taken place since the railroad reached Klamath Falls has been quite rapid. There are in the district now thirty-nine sawmills with a capacity of 350,000,000 feet; eight box factories with a capacity of 195,000,000 feet and employees engaged in the woodworking industry number about 4200. The combined annual payrolls aggregate very close to ten millions of dollars, while the purchases made by the various companies for the maintenance of their operations, the feeding and housing of their employees would amount to probably four million dollars annually.

Although the development of the lumber industry has been quite large, there is no doubt that the next decade will see the production probably trebled, as there are several large undertakings which will undoubtedly be put into operation within this period.

FORTY PER CENT OF OREGON

BOX SHOOK IS MADE HERE

Klamath county's box factories have a capacity of 40 per cent of all the box factories in Oregon.

Streams, Lakes And Forests Are Overflowing With Fish And Game

BY W. W. MCNEALY

KLAMATH COUNTY is without a doubt the most densely populated game and game fish country left to this generation of sportsmen. While the western states comprise a sportsman's paradise, we in this favored locality, are in the hub of it.

What a heaven our eastern brother sportsman would think he was in if he lived in prosperous, bustling city like Klamath Falls and could arise Sunday morning, hop into his car and start in any desirable direction and within 15 miles from home cast his fly or bait on stream or lake, with every assurance that he would soon have fish for breakfast.

Klamath River Fishing

To the south of us good fishing may be had in the Klamath river at Keno with bait, spoon or fly, where the average trout will run about four pounds. From this point to the state line fishing is hard to beat. If it is not to your taste to wrestle with the big ones, pass by Keno, take the Green Springs mountain road until you come to Jenny Creek. This stream abounds with native brook trout that are a delight to any sportsman's eye. Or take the trip around the Upper Klamath lake; spend the afternoon on Rock Creek, a creek that is stocked with both rainbow and dolly varden trout, and if you did not take your frying pan you may take your catch to Eagle Ridge tavern (the road to the tavern leaves the lake road at Rock Creek) and here, if you have not visited the spot before, a surprise is in store for you. The tavern sits on a point high above the lake and from its broad veranda a most wonderful view of both lake and mountains is to be had. The accommodations here are very good and after you have partaken of your evening meal, I believe you will agree with me that the pleasant memories of the repeat

will linger long as one of the outstanding features of your trip.

Home of Big Rainbows

Lake fishing is good from the dock at this point, or boats will be furnished to take you over to Williamson river, where you will meet up with the largest rainbow trout in any river in the west. Upon leaving the tavern, continue on around the lake until you come to Rocky Point. Here tent accommodations may be procured, and boats rented. If you are a crank on fishing and will use nothing but the fly, start your kicker up Recreation Creek, pass through the cut to Crystal Creek and up it to Malone spring. Shut off your power and drift down stream, casting as you go. Be sure to have your landing net or gaff hook handy, as this is the home of the six to eight pounders. If you have not reached the point where you must use only a fly hook; upon leaving the point, head your kicker out toward the lake until you reach the mouth of Crystal Creek. From this point on out to the last willows on the banks you are passing over waters in whose holes the largest rainbow trout in the world are to be found, and 18 pounder is not unusual and many have been caught in excess of 20 pounds. Let me give you a tip on lake trolling. First, use plenty of line, not less than 40 yards and 80 yards is better, and second, do not troll in straight lines, but zigzag or cut figure eights.

Seven Lakes of Fish

Leaving Rocky Point, continue north to Cherry Creek, where dolly varden are to be found, or better still, arrange at this point to pack up this creek 10 miles to the lakes at its head. Here you will have access to seven lakes that have been stocked with rainbow trout. After leaving Cherry Creek, drop your hook in Seven Mile Creek, then pass on to Wood River, near Fort Klamath. For the fly fisherman this is one of the best streams in the west.

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Huge Plants On Upper Lake Swell Payroll

TWO million three three hundred thousand dollars of Klamath county's annual payroll originates at Pelican City, the industrial city just north of Klamath Falls on Klamath lake, where the Pelican Bay Lumber company, with the largest manufacturing plant in this part of the state, and the Klamath Lumber & Box company, a subsidiary of the Earl Fruit company, are located.

This year the Pelican Bay Lumber company will cut 60,000,000 feet of lumber, 12,000,000 feet of lath and 20,000,000 feet of box shooks. The Klamath Lumber & Box company will cut 27,000,000 feet of lumber and 22,000,000 feet of box shooks. This output will be increased this year by the new sawmill of the Wheeler-Omstead Lumber company, which started to operate this spring, and which has cut probably 1,000,000 feet of lumber.

Largest Cut in History

In May of this year the cut of the Pelican Bay Lumber company sawmill was 8,350,000 feet, the largest in the firm's history, according to H. D. Mortenson, president, and from present indications the June cut will be even greater. A similar condition holds true at the Klamath Lumber & Box company plant, where pine logs from Klamath's forests were cut into 3,600,000 feet of lumber in May.

To operate the sawmills, box factories and subsidiary plants of these two concerns requires, including the men in the camps, over 1,000 men.

Serves 2,000 Meals

To feed the enormous family of the Pelican Bay company requires the serving of approximately 3,000 meals a day. The company spends \$500,000 annually for supplies, a large part of which is foodstuffs. The Pelican Bay company's plant consists of a series of units, the principal ones being the sawmill, power plant, dry kiln, warehouse and box factory. Seemingly spread out helter-skelter over the company's 200 acres, one making the journey through the various units is struck by the fact that the whole forms a carefully thought out plan, and is impressed by the general air of efficiency prevailing in every department.

One is willing to believe that it is possible in this plant to manufacture and ship finished lumber, perfectly dried, within seven days after the green log leaves the water. It is possible and is accomplished daily by means of dry kilns, which avoid the delay occasioned by drying lumber by natural process in the yards.

Carry Pelican Trade Mark

Trees now standing in the virgin forests of northern Klamath county may within two weeks be en route to Europe, the trees magically transformed into box shooks, which in turn are packed with California fruits. And many of the boxes holding the fruit will bear a tiny pelican, the trade mark of the Pelican Bay company, stamped in the wood as the boxes are labeled in a gigantic printing press.

Following a log into the sawmill, one's first impression is of an indescribable medley of noises. Then one's gaze falls upon the carriage bearing a log, which is cut into boards as a grocer's knife slices a cheese, and with equal speed. This is perhaps the most fascinating process in the manufacture of lumber, one which even old-time lumbermen never tire of watching.

In the sawmill of the Klamath Manufacturing company the carriage with air dogs, to use sawmill parlance, is used requiring only one man instead of three on the carriage. Huge hooks, or dogs, operated by compressed air machines, grasp the log as the carriage rushes toward the saw, and as the side is

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