

BIG PURCHASE OF TIMBER LANDS BY S. O. JOHNSON

MAY INVEST HALF MILLION DOLLARS TEN THOUSAND ACRE TRACT NEAR ASPEN MARSH SOLD

This is Believed to be the First of Several Heavy Timber Purchases by Members of the McCloud River Railroad Company.

A deal was closed last week in San Francisco, which is one of the largest and will probably mean more for the future of Klamath county, than anything in the history of the county. The deal papers were signed transferring to S. O. Johnson, of the McCloud River Railroad Company, 10,000 acres of timber land lying on the east side of Aspen Lake near Upper Klamath Lake. This is what is known as the "Dorr Tract" and was purchased two years ago by DeLong, Chamberlain Company, of Minnesota. Besides this tract, which covers 14 sections, there were 1500 acres, belonging to C. H. Withrow of this city, included in the sale to Mr. Johnson. This transaction is said to involve an investment of over \$100,000.

This is believed to be the first of several immense timber deals which will be closed in the near future by members of the McCloud Company. Cruisers for this company have been working in the vicinity of Aspen Lake the entire summer. This lake is completely surrounded by a fine body of sugar and yellow pine. Now that the timber lying on the east side of the lake has been purchased, it is only natural to conclude that these same people will acquire that lying on the west side, especially as it is known they have had their men over the land.

The timber on the west side covers an area of over 10,000 acres, and is known as the Rider & Hamakar tract. Some 5500 acres of this is owned jointly by Mr. Rider and the Hamakar estate, and the balance is owned by them individually. Besides these tracts, the Ashland Lumber Company, of Ashland, Wisconsin, owns a tract of 5000 acres lying to the west. It is reported that Mr. Johnson has a contract on the Ashland timber, and also on about 5000

acres owned by parties in San Francisco. It is believed here that the McCloud people already have control of these vast tracts of timber, either through purchase or contracts. If this is true, it means the investment of some one-half million dollars. It has long been known by people with experience in the timber business, that this is one of the best and easiest logging chances in Klamath county. All of the timber is practically in one body, and it is an easy and natural haul to the Upper Klamath Lake, as the land slopes by the timber runs in a natural slope to the very shores of the lake. If one company owned this entire tract, there would be no necessity for them to traverse any other land with their roads in reaching a landing on the Big Lake.

It would seem that the natural plan of logging this tract would be to put in branch lines of railroad through the timber, and haul the same to the lake, where it could be manufactured. It is quite necessary for large lumber companies to have their mills near the water, so that they can have plenty of room for holding their supply of logs. There are plenty of excellent mill sites on the Upper Lake, and the manufactured product could be towed on barges to any point on the lake where a railroad might touch.

This activity on the part of Mr. Johnson in making such heavy investments in timber in this section, seems to warrant the belief that the McCloud Railroad does not only intend to build to the Lower Klamath Lake, but will come on to the Upper Lake. In order to do this it is very probable that it will have to pass within a very short distance of Klamath Falls, even if the company should not find it to its interest to enter the city.

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

Klamath Falls Public Library is now a reality. The formal opening which took place Tuesday evening proved a delightful affair.

For nearly a year past an organization of the women of Klamath Falls known as the Woman's Club, have had as their one main object, the establishment of a public library and reading room in this city. During this time they have been soliciting aid, collecting and buying books and magazines. Their enthusiasm made them successful in securing aid from the people of the city, but they found it impossible to secure suitable quarters for the purpose of the library.

Mr. Melhase finally offered to arrange a suitable room in his new building which he had in course of construction. It was decided by the ladies that this would be a very desirable location, and although it meant a delay of several months, they decided that they would wait until the completion of the building before the opening of their library.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather Tuesday evening, a very large and enthusiastic gathering attended the opening. In fact it would have been a difficult matter to have accommodated a larger number. The ladies served light refreshments to the visitors, who were then given an opportunity to inspect the supply of books, which had been neatly labeled and catalogued.

The new library is located on the second floor of the Melhase building, on the corner of Main and Second streets. Miss Loretta Sauer will act as Librarian for the present, and the library will be open to the public every evening except Sunday, from 6:30 until 10 o'clock. It will also be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5.

The library starts out with nearly 200 hundred books, and 20 magazines, besides the daily and weekly papers. A number of the books have been donated by the citizens and it is expected that many more will be received from this source in the near future.

Predicts 2000 Population For Merrill.

C. Swanston started eight cars of beef cattle last week for Montague. Steve Stukel was in charge.

Joe Howard passed through town Friday with 320 head of very fine steers, one of the best lot of steers which has left these famous feeding grounds this year. They were bound for Gaselle.

Lewis Gerber took out 1500 mutton sheep and 200 cattle for the Sacramento market, bound for Montague.

Mitchell Bros. passed through Merrill with 230 fat heifers and cows for Montague.

There are over 15,000 sheep being fed here. Mr. Champaign has 7000, Lewis Gerber has 2500 at the Van Brimmer ranch, and McKendree & Gerber have 5400 lambs at the Van Brimmer and Barrows ranches.

From the best authority obtainable, it is safe to say that there are over 8000 beef cattle being fed in the Klamath Basin, with about the same amount of stock cattle and horses. To estimate the forage at 30 pounds a day, there are 240 tons of alfalfa being fed out each day to cattle and horses, besides 25 tons a day to sheep.

That Merrill will be one of the great-
VIGILANT.

NOW FOR FARMER'S UNION CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMEN

The trend these days seems to be towards community ownership, and from present indications it will not be long before this problem will have to be met by the people of Klamath county.

In other states, where the Reclamation Service is operating, they have in many instances, through the Water Users Associations, not confined their business alone to owning and operating irrigation canals, but have invaded the field of private and corporate capital. Telephone systems have been established, water works plants built and towns and cities started. There are also instances of these Associations entering the field of manufacture. The latter branch has been so far confined to the manufacture of lime, cement and those materials necessary to the construction of the irrigating canals. The Reclamation Service and these Water Users Associations, however, are as yet in their infancy, and it is only a case of conjecture how far their enterprise will extend.

There is already some agitation by people under the Government project in favor of the Water Users Association either putting in a thorough telephone system covering the entire project or else, if it can be satisfactorily arranged, acquiring and operating the present systems, under the management of the people. As practically every land owner in the southern part of the county, is a stockholder in the Water Users Association, these people point out that a 'phone could be put into every home in this part of the county, and the pro rata expense would be very normal. There is something in this proposition which seems to strike the average farmer very favorably. He seems to have a preference toward paying money to a company in which he has an interest, to paying money to a concern from which he knows he will receive none of the dividends.

It is known that it already is the intention of the government to furnish water to many of the towns in the country from the canal. This can be done very cheaply and satisfactorily. If the Association in Klamath County should decide to put in a general telephone system, which it seems probable, and put in a 'phone in every house under the project, there is no telling how far they might go. The farmers are the only class of people who have not combined to any extent, and it is possible that these Water Users Associations are the nucleus for one of the most powerful combinations ever attempted in the world. If this should occur it will be the result of the natural trend of affairs, and not through premeditation on the part of the farmers.

est shipping points for live stock and wool, as soon as the iron horse comes, is conceded by all stock men who are familiar with that kind of business. Geographically it is situated just right.

There is considerable real estate being sold, and parties are here daily enquiring as to the value of alfalfa farms.

A well known sporting man offered to wager \$1000 that inside of five years, Merrill would have a population of over 2000.

Henry Anderson, Dan Van Brimmer, Cox Bros. and Mr. Barrows sold over 1200 tons of hay last week to Messrs. Champaign, McKendree and Gerber. The price paid was \$5 a ton.

There will be a grand ball at Houston's Hall Thanksgiving, and as Merrill is noted for its fine looking girls, the batchelors, who are very numerous, are beginning to groom themselves for the occasion.

EDITOR REPUBLICAN:

There was recently held at McMinnville a representative gathering of Oregon citizens to discuss various public affairs affecting the welfare of the state. Among the speakers were Dr. Withycombe, director of the Oregon experimental station, and Governor Chamberlain. Since it is probable that these gentlemen will be opposing candidates for Governor at the coming June election (it being generally conceded that Dr. Withycombe will receive the Republican nomination and Governor Chamberlain will be renominated by the Democrats) their views are of special interest.

The meeting, one afternoon, was devoted to a discussion of the benefits of good harbors, not only to Portland and other cities, but to every farmer and other producer in the state, and the necessity of agitation and work to secure appropriations for needed harbor and river improvements. In his speech Dr. Withycombe said that every producer was interested directly or indirectly in improved means of communication and transportation, but that our farmers and small producers would take a more lively interest in the improvement of Portland's channel to the sea, if their products did not have to pay such a heavy toll to Portland's middlemen. He read figures showing that the middlemen and not the growers received the cream of the profits from the grain and cattle handled through Portland. Governor Chamberlain contended that it is unwise to attempt to create strife between the various interests and businesses of the state, and that every citizen should strive to build up the state as a whole, and each would be benefited. He said that we should all pull together and that in helping the growth of Portland the farmer would help himself.

At the evening banquet Dr. Withycombe took up the subject again. He said in substance that the entire state of Oregon is proud of Portland and wished the city to grow and prosper; that the farmers and outside towns were willing to help pull, but they insisted upon pulling as part owners, and not as draft horses; and that the farmers and outside producers are not receiving their share of the state's prosperity.

At a meeting of farmers held at Gresham, Oregon the other day, Dr. Withycombe said (quoting from the Oregonian's report):

"Dr. James Withycombe, director of the State Agriculture College, took for his theme agriculture thoroughly organized, combined with pooling of crops for betterment of prices. He thought the margin of profits to the commission men was too large and that a thorough understanding among the growers would be beneficial. 'We must find outside markets for our produce, as the people here cannot consume all that is grown,' he said, 'and though you have a splendid country here you are burning your candle at both ends.'

The following, taken from an editorial in the Saturday Evening Post bears directly upon the question of middlemen's profits.

"The farmer with his auto and telephone, his rural free delivery and his books, magazines and newspapers, makes a pleasing figure, in startling contrast to the 'hey Rube' of the comic papers of a few years ago. But in the long days of the oncoming season he would do well to think of what he has, chiefly as it opens up vistas of what he has not but ought to have and can have.

"He gives entirely too much to the middlemen between him and the consumer. He deals too exclusively in raw products; he does not think enough about his market—the market that should be his—about the wants of its throngs of consumers, about ways of tempting them to part with larger sums in exchange for wares he has taken the pains to make more attractive as well as more useful.

"The farmer is no longer an isolated person, except as he persists in the old ways and isolates himself. He ought to get into closer touch with his neighboring farmers; and they ought to plan to produce finished products in co-operation.

"Flow the brain as well as the soil, and the good years become great and the bad years good."

The question of middlemen's picking's will soon be a vital one to the people of this section. It is gratifying to notice the growing tendency to, on the part of the farmer to retain a part of the profits of his hayland by raising his own cattle. But the stockyard and packing companies (the beef trust) will demand most of the profits on the cattle. The farmers of this community have a businesslike organization, the Water Users Association, a big corporation that should be able to hold its own against those who might seek to oppress its shareholders, and it would seem to be imperative that it should extend its legal powers, if not already empowered, so as to be in a position to enforce fair play in behalf of its stockholders.

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