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NO. 33.

WE'RE STARTING RIGHT

Scientist Today's Great Central Oregon Need, Says Writer

THE OPINION OF RAILROAD MAN

Establishment of Experiment Stations in Harney County in Line With Views Expressed--Some of the Products That do Well in This Big Country.

...to the Sunday Journal long owed central Oregon is being paid. Two lines are being extended into a part of the great stretch of country, the part which promises the quickest returns in tonnage. But even after the tracks are completed to the California line if such be the plans, great stretches will still be isolated as parts of Alaska. The railroad development has scarcely begun.

The debt the state at large owes the plains country is not to be easily paid. A vast domain of rich arid soil, awaiting the husbandman with plow and seeder, must make Oregon one of the richest agricultural sections in Union. Fortunes have already been taken off the range in wool and in beef, and other fortunes will be made from the same sources. But the country to become really great, must be developed in agriculture, and that quickly.

And here is where the state can pay off its debt. The suggestion comes from the party of railroad men, skilled in the things which go to make up prosperity and tonnage, that the state with out loss of time cause surveys of the land in central Oregon to be made showing the areas fitted for grain growing, for horticulture, for gardening and for alfalfa culture. Soil analysis could be carried in every section of that wide area for the purpose of saving for the farmer who would cultivate the soil at least several years of wasted labor and loss of time, while he would be experimenting with crops not fitted for his section of the country.

"Oregon owes a debt to the semiarid country in which men have long struggled to found homes and towns," says a member of the railroad party. "The state is endowing a great agriculture college whose duty it should be to send men to the new sections and make analysis of the different soils, take observations of climatic conditions and report on the crops which will do best under certain culture methods. Every quarter section of agricultural land should be thus tested. Every effort should be made by the state to prevent loss of time by the settler who will have a hard struggle at best.

"Already many years of valuable time has been lost while men waited impatiently for the coming of the railroad. The state can now do a service which will save perhaps five years' time and an immense amount of discouragement and hardships. Every year the land lays idle the loss to the state is tremendous. Unaided the settler will be a number of years in establishing himself as a fixture with income enough to warrant him in building a home and surrounding himself with the comforts of life. The state can help him tremendously at very small cost to itself.

"The idea is not mine, neither is it new. The state of Missouri has tried out the plan and it has worked out admirably. Other states, I am told, have similar plans working. It could not fail in Oregon.

"People will say that the railroads should help to develop the country. That is very true, and the western roads are doing their full share to build up the country permanently. There is no doubt but that the great systems in Oregon would aid in the plan of testing the soil and giving settlers the benefit of scientific information. But the state must do its share. The agricultural college could do the work needed if money enough were

given to pay men to go out and take observations and test the soil, a practical work carried on in most of the states with splendid results.

"A case might be mentioned. In the country about Madras the onion and potato grow luxuriantly with no extraordinary care or attention. There seem to be elements in the soil which promote the growth of root crops and give flavor and size and general excellence. Perhaps no where in Oregon will the soil produce root crops equal to the production of choice beaverdam land in the Willamette valley. Yet the land near Madras is cheap and there is plenty of it. Oregon might be made the Onion state if proper attention were given by scientific men to conditions in Crook county. Here, therefore the farmer could not sell his onions and potatoes because he could not get them out of the country, but with the coming of the railroad this difficulty has been over come.

"Yes, indeed, central Oregon offers problems which wise men should solve, and solve quickly. Few people comprehend the importance of action which may mean success in agriculture on millions of acres of land."

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

(Portland Correspondence.)
Central Oregon will form its projected development league late this week at Prineville. A representative delegation from Portland will go and officials of the state league will attend, giving all the help possible in getting the new organization started along right lines.

Secretary C. C. Chapman of the Oregon Development League will attend and before returning to Portland will traverse a part of Eastern Oregon he has not yet visited, reaching Burns, Prairie City and other cities of that territory. He wants to get a close view of that section so as to learn for himself the needs of the people and the best means for development.

Children of School District No. 112, near Hermiston, will be given practical instruction in Agriculture, taxpayers of that district having voted a special tax to buy a tract of land lying near the school grounds that will be used as a farm. Competent instructors in agriculture will be secured and all the work of plowing, planting, irrigating, cultivating and harvesting will be done by the pupils under the direction of the instructor.

Oregon's Agricultural College, at Corvallis, will have the best facilities in the United States for horticultural research work when the new horticultural building, to cost \$36,000, is completed. Work has been started on the foundations. In future, the college will lay special emphasis on advance work in the study of orchard problems, looking to the extermination of insect and fungus pests and seeking to adapt different varieties of fruit to the various soils and climates to be found in this state. This work is, of course, undertaken at present, but with additional facilities it is expected much more will be accomplished.

Pioneers are interested in the purchase of ten acres adjoining the site of the pioneer monument at Champsoeg to add to the three acres already held there, making a state park. A fund will be raised for the purpose by subscription and the Legislature will be asked at the next session to repay the money advanced.

An interesting contest closed in Portland during the past week when the Y. M. C. A. distributed prizes to schoolboys who grew vegetables on back lots. An exhibit of the prize vegetables was made and the competition created a great deal of interest. About 250 school children entered and the showing was a creditable one.

Physicians of the state meet in annual convention in Portland July 10-12 and the gathering will be held in the Commercial Club Convention Hall. A feature of the meeting will be the attendance of a large number of Eastern practitioners who will stop in Portland on their way home from the American Medical Association convention held in Los Angeles this week.

CONTROVERSY SETTLED

Cunningham Claims to Alaska Coal Lands Are Disallowed

LONG DISTANCE RAILROAD NEWS

July 1, Beginning of Fiscal Year in Railroad Circles, Will Reveal More Railroad News Says, Vale Paper --Agricultural College Asks if Hens are Profitable.

The famous Cunningham-Alaska coal land claims, through which it has been alleged that the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate had planned to extend their vast interests in Alaska and control one of the most valuable coal fields in the world, were formally disallowed by the department of the interior. Secretary of the Interior Fisher having approved the department's decision as handed down by Commissioner Bennett, the last door is believed to have been closed to the Cunningham claimants. Their attorneys have threatened an appeal to the United States supreme court but such an appeal can be based only on some point of law involved and not on the findings of fact as announced by the department.

The Cunningham claims have been in the public eye for more than two years. They brought about the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation by congress and the dismissal from the public service of Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, Louis R. Glavis, chief of the field division in the land office, and several minor officials.

WAIT 'TILL JULY 1.

July 1st, the first day of the fiscal year in railroad circles is to see vast new development work started in this section. Railroad surveyors from the Portland headquarters will be selecting the best route for the Oregon & Eastern to be extended from this city into the interior, and as at that time appropriations are made for all new construction work, it is believed the appropriation asked for by Construction Engineer D. H. Ashton for the first 27 miles of road will then be made. Engineer Ashton put in his application last December, when all such applications are sent to headquarters. The railroad situation is much easier now and there is every reason to believe other appropriation will follow later. The railroad construction work is to be started within a few months and all announcements of such work made recently by officials are again confirmed.

The surveyors of the O. R. & N. will have charge of the survey work as Oregon Short Line engineers are too busy with other construction near Nyssa and in southern Idaho. Actual construction on Oregon Eastern is now slated to start before fall, according to good information received yesterday. --Enterprise.

ARE HENS PROFITABLE ON FARMS?

"Do you consider poultry keeping profitable on the farm?" This is one of the twenty-five questions submitted to the farmers of Oregon by Prof. James Dryden of the poultry department of the Oregon Agricultural College. The question was directed to farmers on general farms who sell eggs or poultry at market prices, not to fanciers or special poultry keepers who sell eggs and stock at fancy prices. "A farmer has ideas of his own about such things," says

Prof. Dryden, "but he doesn't go out of his way very much to give the public the benefit of his ideas, and there in the public is the loser. The regrettable thing is that very few farmers use a pencil and notebook in keeping chickens, so that they must guess a good deal in answering such a question. By long association with fowls, however, throwing grain to them and gathering the egg, he is able to form a fairly accurate estimate of the profit.

"If the farmers are losing money on the hens, it means a tremendous loss on the aggregate in the United States. If the loss should amount to 45 per cent on the business, that would mean a loss of about \$100,000,000 to the farmers of the United States. One should give the farmer more credit for their business ability than to believe that they are going on year after year doing a business of over half a billion dollars a year, if it were a losing proposition. But listen to what they say.

"Answers to the above question were sent us by 333 farmers, of whom 283 answered 'Yes', 20 'No', and the rest were noncommittal.

SUNSET NOTES.

George Cawfield is putting up a new building in Narrow to be used for a saloon.

The Narrows and Wagon tire road is surveyed to a point near the OO ranch.

Sid Comegys made a flying trip to Burns Saturday in his automobile.

The new town of Wellington is a very lively place these days. E. A. Shafer has a crew of men surveying the tract of land belonging to Mr. Howell near Narrows into town lots. There will be 1000 acres in the town site and it is on both railroad surveys.

Miss Julia McKinzie was visiting her sister at Weaver Springs last week.

Mrs. Embree, Clyde Embree, Van Embree and Harold Sellers were visitors to Harney Lake Sunday.

Charlie and James Reed were visitors to Narrows Sunday.

The people of Narrows are preparing to receive a large crowd of visitors at their celebration which will last two days.

Mrs. Borland was in Sunset Valley Monday.

Prof. I. C. Raymond has his gasoline engine started to pumping for irrigation purposes.

Walter Harmer and his grandfather were business visitors to Narrows Sunday.

Alfred Marshall is hauling lumber to the Narrows.

Robert Settlemyre was a visitor to Lawen and Harriman last week.

Mr. Tomlin is preparing 80 acres to seed in grain this fall.

Several automobiles have been having some difficulty in climbing

ing the Wrights Point hill lately and the county ought to put a special tunnel through the mountain for these horse scaring critters.

R. D. Stahl has harvested his rye for hay.

Mrs. Barron has a nice garden and will expect to take some of the prizes at the fair this fall.

Several from here expect to take in the celebration at Lawen.

Mr. and Mrs. Grow went to Burns last Thursday.

The gardens are all doing well in Sunset and there will not be much demand for John Day vegetables this fall.

John Savedge was in Sunset Wednesday on business.

John McMullen has been helping Mr. Tomlin grub sage brush.

N. Henny has the best fall wheat in this part of the country. The field is not large but it is enough to show that fall wheat will grow here when the land is put in shape and Turkey Red or Red Russian is sown in place of some of this fancy named stuff we have been trying.

W. L. Needham of the Weaver Springs country was in Sunset Tuesday on business.

Walter Hodder will soon be home from Missouri where he has gone after a bride. Walter has become tired of being in the bachelor class.

Charles Newell has the largest and best field of rye in the Dog Mountain country.

F. P. Blackmer and Mr. Larson are grubbing sage brush near Dog mountain.

The prospects for grain crops in Sunset Valley, Narrows and the Weaver Springs country were never better since the country was settled. The ground was well supplied with moisture this spring and we have been visited by several grand rain storms. Fall rye will be the principal crop although some of the wheat of the Red Russian and Turkey Red varieties is doing well. It has taken two years to put the sage brush soil in shape to produce a crop of wheat owing to the wild nature of the soil. The first year fall rye should be sown and by that time all foreign vegetation will be decayed then the ground will be in shape for some hardy winter wheat. There is not much use sowing Gold Coin and Red Cross or some other fancy named stuff that has been tried or is not hardy enough to be a success here at the present time although these wheats are the best for market in Washington and Utah. Harney county ought to be able to say this year that it did not import flour for home use if all the grain looks as well in the rest of the country as it does in this.

Mrs. A. Venator, who resides in the mountain vastness of the interior of Oregon, and 100 miles from the nearest railroad point, spent Sunday with Payette friends on her return home from Porterville Cal., where she has been visiting for a number of weeks. Mrs. Venator states that there are many fine orchards in that remote section, and that a fruit failure has never been known. --Payette correspondent to Sundays' Boise News. Mr. and Mrs. Venator were in Vale last week and have returned home to Venator in the Barren Valley country. Mr. Venator having met his wife here. --Enterprise.

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