

SATISFIED FARMERS

Conditions on the North Side Tract are Very Flattering at the Present Time.

Large Crops of all Kinds Now an Assured Fact. With Prices Above The Average.

Southern Sunny Idaho Fast Becoming the Mecca of the Great Northwest Territory.

A Presentation of Facts, Tending to Confirm the Satisfied Condition Of the Settlers.

Pursuant to our request some time ago for expressions from actual settlers in the vicinity of Jerome, and the North Side tract in general, relative to their opinion of conditions as they exist here at the present time, we present below several letters that speak for themselves. These letters have been prepared with no other object in view than to give a clear and concise statement of the work accomplished in the past two years, and are the free and voluntary expressions of the writers, not one of whom we believe has an acre of land to sell, and the statements contained therein can be verified by a personal visit to any of their farms.

To fully appreciate the declarations contained in these statements, one must remember that two years ago the past spring, this entire section was nothing more than a sage brush desert. It was then that water was turned on the tract, and the first development work begun. The Canal System was new and the average settler was entirely ignorant as regards irrigation, and as a result many disappointments were in store for all.

The year 1910 showed a vast improvement in the condition of things, and with further knowledge in the method of handling the water, much advancement was made. During this time, however, the Water company were going ahead with their improvements, and had under way the construction of a large reservoir a few miles from Jerome, with a sufficient capacity to furnish water enough for the entire tract during the irrigating season, should by chance any shortage occur by reason of low water in the Snake river, from which our supply is obtained.

With this huge reservoir completed, the spring of 1911 witnessed general activity on the part of the settlers, and a careful investigation shows that an additional 5,000 acres of sage brush gave way to a crop of some kind, as compared with the acreage in cultivation the year before. The practical results, as can be witnessed on the tract today, are ample evidence of the productiveness of our soil, and all are frank to admit that this section has now one of the best systems of water supplies that can be found in any irrigated section, with no possible chance of a shortage of water, except through some act of Divine providence, over which no one has control.

The periodical drought seasons occurring in the rain belt countries, has fully demonstrated that irrigation is the only sure method of successful farming, as there is no such thing as a failure of crops, from this source, and the prolific yield of all kinds of products makes an investment here an absolutely safe one.

We doubt if there is a district in the northwest, with equal advantages, where land can be purchased at as reasonable a price as can be found in this immediate vicinity. However, this condition is not likely to exist very long, as the price of land is steadily advancing, and with the bountiful harvest this year it will go upwards by jumps.

We want our friends to read over these letters and study the situation carefully. We feel safe in saying that any of the writers would be

only to glad to answer any inquiries you might make, but a personal visit to the tract is much more convincing than the word of some one else, and we all extend a most hearty invitation to come and see what we have to show you. You can then see for yourselves the possibilities awaiting the settler in Sunny Southern Idaho.

Jerome and Wendell are the two principal towns on the North Side Tract, and either is easily reached over the Oregon Short Line by a transfer at Gooding, though it will only be a matter of a few weeks when through trains over this line will bring passengers direct to these towns, as the new line is practically completed except the surfacing and ballasting of the tracks.

Statement of Frank B. Beatty, The Strawberry King.

Three Rivers, Mich.,
July 15, 1911.

My first visit to the North Side Twin Falls tract was four years ago. At that time I made the statement that the soil there was very productive. Since then I have proved up on 100 acres under the Carey Act, which has all been cleared of sage brush, plowed and mostly leveled, and is now being put into alfalfa. I have this spring set 1210 yearling apple trees which were shipped from Missouri, a distance of about 1500 miles, and which were on the road nearly one month; every tree lived except one, and they have made a remarkable growth. I also set 25,000 strawberry plants which were shipped from the R. M. Kellogg Company, of Three Rivers, Michigan, a distance of 2000 miles, and practically every plant lived, and they have up to date made a growth which is far ahead of my expectations.

I have been over the tract a number of times and inspected crops of different kinds, and the wonderful growth everything has made proves that the statement I made when I first inspected the land was correct. The soil grains are fine, they lay closely together, which makes it possible to maintain a dust mulch with very little cultivation. The soil is warm and moist which keeps bacteria life active; this in return makes plant life active.

From the experience I have in working the North Side soil, I feel justified in saying that it is the easiest soil to handle of any I have ever worked in, and it is remarkable the way it will hold moisture.

I am confident that the North Side will be one of the great strawberry districts of America. I also believe that it will be an apple district which will become famous the world over.

With the abundant water supply at our command, I see no reason why the North Side should not soon become a garden spot.

FRANK B. BEATTY,

One of the First on the Tract.

JEROME, IDA., July 10, 1911.

L. T. ALEXANDER,
Editor LINCOLN COUNTY TIMES.

In response to your request for expressions from farmers on the North Side Tract, regarding conditions existing here at the present time, would state

that I am probably one of the first farmers on the tract, coming here April, 1908, before any work whatever had been done on the water system, and have witnessed the development work since its inception. I came here from Seattle, and have pioneered in the Dakotas and other new countries, and knew well what it meant to start in again in a new country, but the results as witnessed at the present time I am convinced could not be accomplished in any rain country.

Arriving here I commenced at once the improving of my land and, at the present time, have something over 55 acres under cultivation, which is all I have susceptible of irrigation, the remainder of my holdings being high land. Have at the present time 15 acres of alfalfa, which was put in two years ago, a portion of which yielded me this year from the first cutting, by actual weight and measurements, three tons and 100 pounds per acre. In addition to this, have 15 acres of grain and expect to thresh 100 bushels per acre from some of the oats. Have in addition 6 acres of potatoes and a varied assortment of garden products, all of which are doing nicely. Do not know as I could advise any special rule to follow in the raising of products, but it is my intention to stock my farm as fast as possible, fully believing it the best method to follow. Have no land to sell or trade, being fully satisfied with conditions as they exist here at the present time.

What Can Be Done With Potatoes.

JEROME, IDAHO, June 28, 1911.
To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
I arrived in Idaho in the spring of 1909, from Morrison, Ill., and located on a farm two and one-half miles north of Jerome. That was the first time that I ever saw an irrigated country, and after clearing a part of my land that year, the next spring (1910) I planted 12 acres to orchard and planted potatoes between the tree rows, making about 10 acres of potatoes, and that fall and winter I sold \$754.98 of potatoes, besides what two families used. This was in new ground, and nothing what one would get after the ground had been in alfalfa for a year or two; besides getting the potato crop my apple trees made a good growth. This year (1911) I have 45 acres in orchard and potatoes between the rows, and the trees and potatoes are doing fine.

I think this is going to make one of the greatest countries in the union.

Respectfully yours,
G. B. HAWBECKER,
Jerome, Idaho.

An Illinois Farmer's Experience.

JEROME, IDA., June 8, 1911.
To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Perhaps you would like to know something of my coming out west.

In June, 1907, I left Illinois, having heard of the Twin Falls South Side tract. I came directly to Idaho to investigate. After a short time I invested in a ranch 2 1/2 miles south of Twin Falls. Land was on the upward move, and, like many others, being offered my price I sold in the fall of 1909. After a visit to the east, we again turned our faces westward, but thinking we would like the coast climate, went on farther west. After spending about three months in Washington, Oregon and the Hollister

project in California, nothing seemed to look so good as Idaho. My friend, Ralph C. J. Wallace, kept me posted about the North Side, and in August, 1910, I came to Jerome and bought a ranch 2 1/2 miles northwest of Jerome, all in sage brush, with a 12x14 shack on it. This land was purchased from Al. Russell of Wellington, Kansas, at a bonus of \$50.00 per acre. It has been ten months since I bought and now have it all cleared, a five room house and barn built, 20 acres of alfalfa most ready for the first cutting, 5 acres of potatoes and 3 1/2 acres of orchard. I find the North Side all that it was represented to me.

Respectfully yours,
J. R. WRAGO.

A Great Hog Country.

COPPDALE, IDAHO, July 1, 1911.
L. T. ALEXANDER,
Publisher LINCOLN CO. TIMES.

DEAR SIR:
As per your request, asking me for a brief statement of what I thought of the North Side tract, or Southern Idaho, as a stock country, I will state that I am very favorably impressed with southern Idaho as a hog producing country. I was born in Illinois, lived there until 21 years old. (Farmed a part of the time.) Also lived 17 years in good old Iowa on a farm. (The leading state for hogs.)

After coming to Idaho I decided hogs would do well here. I at once sent to Iowa for two pure bred sows, and I will state that the result was far beyond my expectations. My success at the fairs and the way the hogs thrived in this country interested a number of my neighbors and as a result last winter we had a full car of pure bred sows shipped from Iowa. The majority of the parties receiving these sows have reported extra good success. I will state that there were several who bought sows that really did not know how to feed them when they wanted to feed them, whether to call them by Belle, Mary or Jane, or just to grunt. One must learn the wants of animals to make a success. You must go to school before teaching college.

I find alfalfa and clover is the greatest hog pasture, and that southern Idaho can produce it in great abundance. We are able, with our irrigating system, to keep nice, green, fresh pasture through the whole season, from March until the freeze in December. This is a great advantage over our middle states where they depend on the rainfall. In the hot summer, pastures are dried up, while with us, we can have the finest of pastures the season through. I will state that the best part of this state for hog raising is the fact that we haven't the corn to continuously feed them, which I find is not the proper feed for growing hogs. Growing hogs should have some grain along with their pasture, in fact the baby fat should never be lost where hogs are raised for market. Aged bred sows will do well on alfalfa or clover alone, when not raising a litter. The hog that can be produced to weigh 250 to 275 pounds at 7 to 8 months of age is the one that makes the feeder money and with our pastures (ever green) we are, with a little grain, able to produce such hogs. I find all the large type breeds do well here. The Chester Whites, Poland Chinas, Duroc Jerseys and Berkshires. Choose the breed you like best and stay with them.
GEO. H. LAWSHE,
Breeder of Chester White Hogs.

IDAHO INVITES COMPARISON



(From the Idaho Statesman, Boise, Sunday, July 9th.)

Thinks Alfalfa the Best Crop.

JEROME, IDA., July 8, 1911.
LINCOLN COUNTY TIMES.

Gentlemen: In replying to your request for a general expression of views regarding the North Side Tract, will state that I came to Jerome in the spring of 1909, after spending several years in the state of Washington. I settled on a 40-acre tract about 8 miles east of town, and cleared and broke 15 acres the first season which was sown to White Russian oats, mixing alfalfa with 12 acres of it. Late in the fall I stacked the oats, which I am convinced would have yielded upwards of 65 bushels per acre. Sold one-half of this crop to sheep men, which brought me \$175.00. In the spring of 1910 I cleared and broke the remainder of the land, added 4 acres more of alfalfa—making 16 acres in all—from which I sold 75 tons of hay at \$8.00 per ton. Think probably that for the present, alfalfa is the most profitable crop to raise. Have found by experience that garden products yield profusely. Am entirely satisfied with my experience here, and fully believe that with proper attention to the working of the soil, the results to be obtained here cannot be excelled anywhere.

Truly yours,
E. A. McClelland.

Expects to be Independent.

JEROME, IDAHO, July 1, 1911.

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
I came to the North Side tract in March, 1909, and settled on a piece of land five miles north of Jerome. I had never seen any irrigation. It took all my cash to build a small house and stable, and to purchase horses, feed and machinery, so it was necessary for me to do outside work, such as clearing and plowing, in order to pay expenses. My farming at home has been done rather hurriedly on that account. I have my land all cleared and a thrifty young orchard of 29 acres, also plenty of alfalfa. I think the growing of alfalfa and clover seed will pay better than anything else until the orchards come into bearing.

There is money in potatoes with a certain yield of from 8000 lbs. on new land up to four times that much per acre on alfalfa or clover sod. There will be money in hogs with a good market in reach at Portland. Keeping cows will pay big, as dairy products are always high. One can have a green pasture eight months in the year. When alfalfa makes three cuttings per year, aggregating some six tons to the acre, raising hay isn't such a bad proposition, either. Clover will do even better. I have seen it three feet tall here. Irrigation seems hard for a beginner, but it is simply a matter of getting the land in shape. One must fill up the holes and level off the bumps. Starting a new alfalfa field is a particular job, and care must be taken to prepare the land to keep it from cutting and washing. After the first irrigation it is easy sailing. The water works while you sleep. Alfalfa or clover sown in May will yield a ton to the acre the same season. You can start it at any time up to September 1st, and be sure of hay the next year. I have cared for 40 acres of land this year by planting orchard, potatoes and alfalfa, and yet done lots of outside work for my neighbors. I have a neighbor who, single handed, has started 50 acres of alfalfa, besides doing

lots of outside work. It is mighty satisfactory, after reading of the drouth in other sections, to be able to turn on the water when I wish. Land, though reasonable now on account of the newness of the project, will advance rapidly. I expect my forty to make me independent, and any one who gets it away from me will have to pay well for it. The way stuff grows here is wonderful, young apple trees especially gets a hump on themselves. This is a good country, with a good climate and a splendid class of citizens, and it is sure to fulfil the most extravagant predictions for the purchaser.

Yours Very Truly,
P. G. FAIRMAN.

P. O. Jerome, Idaho.

One of the Best in the West

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I, B. B. McCament, came from Guadalajara, Mexico, in the year of 1909 and located on a forty acre farm south of Jerome in the Spring of 1910. There was twelve acres of alfalfa on this place when I moved on it, and that year I put the balance in crop, and sold hay off the 12 acres in amount of \$632.00, besides enough to feed my stock. I also sold enough wheat, oats and other produce during the year to give me an income close on to \$1000. I done all the work myself. I now have 9 acres in orchard which is doing fine. I had never done any irrigating before coming to this country. This year, 1911, I expect to do far better than I did last year, as everything is doing nicely. This country is adapted for all kinds of grain and grass, and there are thousands of acres being planted to fruit and the way the fruit men are buying this land and putting it into apple trees is an indication that we will have one of the best fruit sections in the west.

Yours Very Truly,
B. B. McCament,
Jerome, Idaho.

P. S. My land is not for sale.

A Conservative Business Mans Views.

My attitude on the question of stating things as they have been in the Wendell District has been more or less severely criticized. Quite frequently I have been reminded that boosting would do us more good than to give too much publicity to facts relating to conditions as they really exist. This never appealed very seriously to me. We were up against hard knocks each day in our efforts to get started, (a condition not at all unusual in a new country) and to me a booster under such circumstances was but another name for a bore. I am of the opinion still that the truth, however disagreeable it may be at times, can work no permanent harm to anybody or anything. We will see this statement verified fully when we get an opportunity to show those people who visit us the splendid possibilities in this newly developed country along the Snake river valley, with its ideal climate, purest of drinking water, and a soil productivity amazing even to those thoroughly acquainted with such matters in older irrigated districts elsewhere. This year we are mighty proud of our record, and we propose keeping mighty busy improving it.

Wm. A. Boland,
Wendell, Ida., July, 14th, 1911.

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