

mountain counties. During this time we always had a home man from one of the mountain counties at the State capitol and particularly we had in the assembly W. T. Cressler, J. R. Cook, W. D. Morris, G. F. Harris and Peter Peterson and in the senate, W. H. Patterson of Cedarville. In the year 1891 the Legislature, with the idea of uniting the two democratic counties of northern California, Modoc and Shasta, into one district and throwing them away from the other and more Republican districts, joined them. The two counties join together for three miles at the extreme southwestern corner of Modoc and northeastern corner of Shasta. Politically they are united and geographically so for three miles. In all other respects the union is a bad one, as the Modoc mountains know nothing and care less concerning the smelter and other purely local questions of Shasta, and Shasta knows nothing and cares less of Modoc. In 1900, Lassen was thrown into the pot. Lassen is in all respects joined with Modoc but a return to the old districting is much desired and will undoubtedly come at the present session of the Legislature. During the twenty years of union with Shasta, Modoc has never yet sent a man to the Legislature except where the voters of Shasta got divided among themselves. When they get together it has been all off with the mountain districts. In twenty years we have had one Senator from the mountains and that one Senator, James T. Laird of Alturas, defeated John F. Raker, also of Alturas. Neither one could have been nominated without the existence of a factional fight down west. In that time we have had three Assemblymen, only, from the mountains—James T. Laird, A. J. Jackson and N. A. Cornish.

The county has sent one man only to the national legislature, the present Congressman John E. Raker.

The rapid development of eastern California with its many permanent industries will do much to restore its balance in a political sense and if the mountain counties can once be grouped together for representation at the capitol it will mean a great deal for their future, not only politically but in many other ways.

Since the above was written the Legislature, while continuing the present grouping of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta and Siskiyou in a senatorial district, has grouped Modoc, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra into an assembly district, thus restoring that district to the lines of the old one. This meets the approval of the counties concerned and will result in much better feeling all around, particularly between the mountain counties and the Shasta country. To the credit of the Shasta people, be it said, their generous conduct brought about the change and for the same they are entitled to everlasting credit at our hands.

R. L. SLOSS,

Better known as the "Long-Nosed Tax Collector," was born at Janesville, California, in August, 1869. Has been in the newspaper business during the greater part of his life, having conducted the "Alturas New Era" for a number of years, "The Elma Chronicle" at Elma, Chehalis County, Wash., and the "Bidwell Gold Nugget," in Bidwell, this county.

Was first elected to the office of Tax Collector of Modoc County in 1906, by a large majority. Was re-elected in 1910, defeating his party opponent in the primaries and having no opponent at the general election.

During the first term he inaugurated a system in that office that had a great deal to do with the clearing up of

records. The system was a statement of a duplicate receipt that made clear to the taxpayer the description of his land and property, and exactly what was being paid upon. This did much to clearing up titles and straightening out records and brought many words of praise to the Tax Collector. Mr. Sloss is not only a Tax Collector, but a taxpayer as well. He owns his own home and also a ten-acre ranch close to town.

THOMAS FRAWLEY.

Thomas Frawley, Coroner and Public Administrator of Modoc County, was born in the town of Danby, in the State of Vermont, on the fifth day of July, 1858. He came to Reno, in the State of Nevada, in 1872, and from there came into Surprise Valley in 1878. He was married in 1886 to Lizzie Brooks of Jess Valley, a daughter of old John Brooks, the pioneer of the valley. He has four children, being one grown son and three daughters. Mr. Frawley has resided at Alturas for many years now and been engaged constantly in the meat business. In 1910 he was the nominee both of the Republican and Democratic parties for the office he now holds. He is making a capable, honest and efficient officer and giving general satisfaction.

L. S. SMITH.

L. S. Smith, County Clerk, was raised in Modoc County and was first elected to the office he now holds in 1898. That "Bob" has made good is evidenced by the fact that he has been re-elected four times and that at the last election in 1910 he had no opponent. In spite of the vast amount of work piled on his shoulders, you will always be greeted with a smile and a pleasant word when you go to his office.

S. W. PEPPERDINE.

S. W. Pepperdine, County Treasurer, was first elected to office in 1906, and was re-elected in 1910. Silas is well and favorably known from one end of the county to the other and has always proved a capable, honest and painstaking officer. At the present time the office is being conducted by his deputy, Walter Gibbins, Mr. Pepperdine having been obliged to take a vacation on account of poor health.

COL. WILLIAM THOMPSON.

Col. William Thompson, Probation Officer for Modoc County, is perhaps best known as the editor of the "Plaindealer," which paper he has edited for nearly sixteen years. He has made an exceptionally good officer in this trying work, and Modoc County can boast of having as efficient an organization as can be found in the State. Colonel Thompson is ably seconded in his work by Rev. Isaac Clark Crook, who is the Deputy Probation Officer, in Alturas, and by a corps of other deputies in different sections of the county.

THE SUPERVISORS.

The affairs of the county in general are in the hands of the following Supervisors:

First District—R. O. Ward, whose residence is in Lake City.

Second District—Jesse Parman, who lives at Eagleville.

Third District—William Burgun (recently appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. H. Dawson, deceased), who resides in New Pine Creek.

Fourth District—J. B. Estes, Chairman of the Board, residence Alturas.

Fifth District—Ira S. Cannon, residence Adin.



C. A. Raker.

Clarence Adolph Raker, Judge of the Superior Court, was born in the State of Illinois, October 22, 1866, and came to California in 1874, and to Alturas in this county in 1887; was admitted to the Supreme Court of the State of California in 1890, since which time he has practiced his profession in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington, up to his appointment as Judge, on December 20, 1910.

Judge Raker represents all of the good qualities of an able and just arbiter of men's differences; entirely fair, conservative and conscientious, and peculiarly possessing those qualifications which so eminently fit him for his present position, by which all the attorneys who practice before him say, they are able at all times to present to the very best advantage the subject in hand.

C. S. Baldwin, District Attorney, was elected in 1910. He is a native of Wisconsin and came to Modoc County in June, 1905, immediately after being admitted to practice by the Appellate Court. He is a property owner and taxpayer and deeply interested in the development and welfare of Modoc County.



C. S. Baldwin.



A. E. Smith.

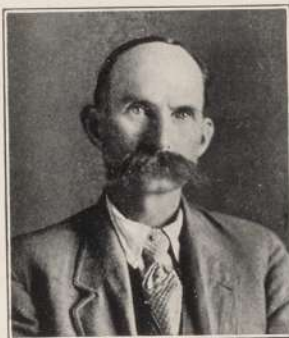
A. E. Smith, Sheriff of Modoc County, was born in Iowa, and came to Modoc in 1885. He was appointed Deputy under Sheriff Caldwell, and at Caldwell's death was appointed to fill the unexpired term. He was elected to the office of Sheriff in 1910. Elzie was the man who was directly responsible for the death and capture of Shoshone Mike and his band of renegade Indians, who killed four men in Little High Rock Canyon, Nevada. He has made an exceptionally fearless and capable officer, and is well thought of throughout the county.

Dr. John Stile, County Physician and Health Officer, is a graduate of the Cooper Medical College of San Francisco. He had the general hospital practice in that city, where for two years he was in Mt. Zion Hospital as resident physician and surgeon, and for two years was visiting physician for the Emanuel Sisterhood Clinic. He has practiced his profession for twelve years.

Dr. Stile has been in Modoc County for about eight years, having come here in 1904. He is at present a member of the Lunacy Commission.



Dr. John Stile.



D. E. Mulkey.

D. E. Mulkey, County Assessor, was born in Missouri and came to Modoc County in the spring of 1875. He was first elected to his present office in 1902. He has been re-elected twice, both times with large majorities. Mr. Mulkey is one of Modoc's Boosters. He owns considerable property and is a capable and efficient officer.

Harry S. Hawkins, County Surveyor, was born in Cedarville in 1884. He received his early education in the public school at Cedarville. After graduating in 1899 he attended high school at Napa for a year and from there went to Oakland, where he took up a course of civil and electrical engineering. He was elected to his present office in 1910 by a large majority.

In addition to his official position he is Superintendent of the Surprise Valley Electric Light & Power Co., and a member of the firm of Modoc Electric Contracting Co. of Alturas and Cedarville.



H. S. Hawkins.



T. H. Ballard.

T. H. Ballard, County Recorder and Auditor, was born in Illinois, and came to Modoc County in 1890. He rode on the range and engaged in various occupations. In 1898 he enlisted in Company I, 14th Infantry, U. S. A., and went to Manila, where he fought through the Spanish-American War. He was honorably discharged on August 15, 1899. He was appointed to the position in 1905 for an unexpired term, was elected in 1906 and re-elected in 1910. T. H. has made a good, capable officer and has the good will of every visitor to his office.

Mrs. Nettie B. Harris, the present Superintendent of Schools, has been a successful school teacher in Modoc County for a number of years. She was elected to her present office in 1910 by a large majority, and has made one of the best Superintendents that this county ever had. Mrs. Harris has been tireless in her work and has accomplished much during her term of office.



Mrs. Nettie B. Harris.



F. L. Roberts.



Dr. Leithead.



Hon. N. A. Cornish.



J. D. Mulkey.

Mr. F. L. Roberts was born in Sacramento, but came to Surprise Valley in 1873, when but four years old. At the age of nine he started out for himself working on the ranches. When fourteen years old he learned the barber trade, which he followed for twelve years. He next went into the saloon business and is known as one of the very few who conducted the business properly.

He was married when twenty-one years old and has a family of two boys and two girls, the oldest being now twenty years of age. He has succeeded by tending strictly to business and now owns one of the finest homes in Cedarville, one of the principal business corners and an eighty-acre alfalfa ranch. He is a member of the Cedarville Chamber of Commerce and of the Good Roads Committee, and is a constant, enthusiastic Booster.

Dr. Chas. E. Leithead was born in Vermont thirty-seven years ago. When six years of age his family moved to Iowa, where he grew up in a sort of Tom Sawyer way, attending the public schools at Rolfe. He afterward studied medicine in the University of Iowa, from which institution he graduated on March 13, 1895. From 1895 to 1901 Dr. Leithead practiced his profession in both Iowa and South Dakota. In 1901 he located in San Francisco and continued his practice until the fire of 1906 turned things topsy turvy in that city. He then, attracted by the possibilities of Modoc County, left San Francisco and established himself at Fort Bidwell, arriving there on the thirteenth of April, 1909. Dr. Leithead is one of the firm believers in the future of Modoc County in general and Surprise Valley in particular and does not hesitate to say so.

FRED V. LYON.

Mr. Fred V. Lyon, Attorney and Real Estate Man, is one of the "Live Wires" of Surprise Valley. He is an ex-newspaper man and thoroughly understands the advantages of publicity. He is a great believer in progression and organization. He is one of the willing workers in the Cedarville Chamber of Commerce and will always be found on the side with the "go aheads." As a live, wide awake real estate man Mr. Lyon has few equals in Modoc County, and in his office you will find samples of nearly everything raised in Surprise Valley or in Modoc County.

If you are interested in Modoc County, drop him a line and he will furnish you any information you may require.

In addition to his real estate business Mr. Lyon is also an attorney of more than ordinary ability and is rapidly establishing a lucrative practice in his chosen locality.

Hon. N. A. Cornish was born in Indiana in 1851. He came to Modoc County in 1902 and settled in Alturas. He

was elected to the Assembly from that district in 1906. He was admitted to practice law in 1871 and since that time has devoted his time to that profession. He is one of the leading Republicans of Modoc County and is Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee. He is a large property owner and taxpayer in the county and is interested in any movement toward the betterment of the county in general and Alturas in particular. Mr. Cornish is recognized as one of the leading attorneys of the county and can generally be found on one side or the other of all important legal cases.

Mr. Mulkey is one of the stand-bys of Modoc County. He came to Davis Creek in 1870 with his father from Benton County, Oregon. At that time he was but seven years of age and only three families were living in what is now known as Davis Creek. His father, Mr. Luke Mulkey, preempted the place where Mr. Mulkey now lives and farmed two hundred and fifty acres of what is known as the home ranch. Mr. Mulkey owns in all twelve hundred and sixty-five acres. He is a diversified farmer, stock man and orchardist. This year he netted over three tons* of apples from four hundred bearing trees, an average yield. His potatoes netted him on one piece of land over two hundred dollars per acre. He raises everything in the vegetable line in time for ready market.



LUKE MULKEY, JR.,
Davis Creek, California.

Mr. Mulkey is a stock raiser, the son of a pioneer, Mr. Johnson Mulkey, who settled at Davis Creek in 1875, when Luke Mulkey was but four years of age. Mr. Mulkey raises the best hogs in the Goose Lake Valley and as well is an orchardist and grower of garden truck.

He thoroughly believes in Goose Lake Valley for all these things. Ask him about it.

DENNIS B. KANE,

**Enterprising Citizen and Popular Man of Canby,
Canby, California.**

Mr. Kane is a native of New York. He came to Modoc County in 1881 with his parents when but twelve years of age. When nineteen years of age he became a clerk in the store at Canby and remained in that position for six years, when he left the store to engage in ranching with his brother, J. M. Kane, with whom he has been in partnership ever since.

About 1894 they established a blacksmith, wheelwright and implement business at Canby, which they still carry on in connection with a four hundred and eighty-acre ranch.

The first combined harvester and traction engine ever brought to their section was purchased by these brothers and the first demonstration and development of sage brush lands in this section was by the Kane brothers, and their own ranch is one of the finest at Canby and was entirely reclaimed from sage brush.

Mr. Kane has for many years been prominent in public affairs and served for eight years as Supervisor of the Fifth District, from 1898 to 1906, and was Chairman of the Board during his last term of office.

He has always been identified with all public enterprises for the good of Modoc County as a whole, as well as for his own section.

That Mr. Kane is a reliable and enterprising citizen every one will conceive.



JOHN KELLY,

**Owner of the Famous Canby Hot Springs,
Canby, California.**

Mr. Kelly came to Modoc County from Napa County, Cal., in 1871, and pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres in Blacks Canyon, which he later sold and then purchased three hundred and twenty acres where he now lives. He owns one hundred and sixty acres additional.

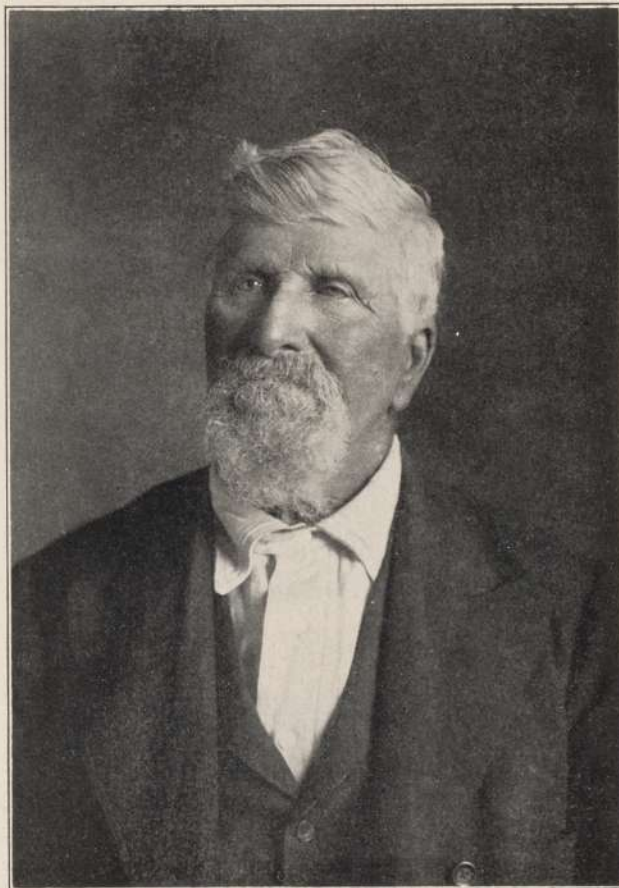
On this ranch is located the big hot springs from which the valley gets its name.

Mr. Kelly is an Irishman by birth and came to America with his parents who located in Hardin County, Kentucky, when Mr. Kelly was but one year old. Here he was reared and attended the public school until thirteen years of age, when he became affected with asthma and was sent to sea to regain his health. As a guest on a trading ship for three years he visited nearly every port in the known world. After his return from abroad he was again taken with asthma and was sent to Texas for his health, where

he worked at various occupations and remained until 1861, when he went to Los Angeles and was there married and went to live in Salinas County. In 1863 he removed to Napa County and purchased a farm.

All his life in Modoc County has been devoted to farming and stock raising. In 1881 he was elected to the office of Road Overseer and held that office for over two years.

Mr. Kelly is now seventy-eight years of age, vigorous and an exponent of the benefits of Modoc County climate and resources.



JAMES W. POPE,

**Pioneer Stock Man and Prominent Citizen,
Canby, California.**

Mr. Pope came to Modoc County in 1871, and took a squatter's right in Stone Coal Valley and built the first house there, a log cabin. The place is now owned by Ralph Shearer.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Pope pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of the ranch on which he now lives and has lived since that date. Mr. Pope has always paid particular attention to the stock industry, and he has never been in politics.

His ranch is not for sale, but he will answer any inquiries regarding the resources of his section. He is one of the most esteemed men in Modoc County and his judgment may be relied upon.

FRED H. BRIGGS.

Mr. Fred H. Briggs, at present located in Fort Bidwell, has been an active worker in Northern California and Southern Oregon for the past twenty years. He has been

engaged in selling and locating timber, mineral, and agricultural lands and was the real moving spirit in the boom of the Lake County lands that were exploited by the Oregon Valley Land Co., although he was in no way connected with their transactions. He simply made the deal whereby 516,000 acres of land were turned over to the O. N. L. Co.

Since settling in Surprise Valley Mr. Briggs has been instrumental in bringing many substantial residents to that place and expects to bring many more. While Mr. Briggs is not now interested in the Modoc Irrigation Co., he was the first to realize the vast possibilities and to interest capital in the project. However, the panic stopped operations and before his people could recover and take the matter up others had secured options on the property and were successful in getting it financed. Any information in regard to Modoc County will be cheerfully given by Mr. Briggs, whose address is Fort Bidwell, Cal.



OFFICE AND BLACKSMITH SHOP OF J. T. WYLIE.
Photo by Matthews.

PROMINENT ATTORNEY AND SELF-MADE MAN.
James T. Wylie.

Mr. Wylie came to Surprise Valley in the fall of 1878. In 1880 he built a brick blacksmith shop which he still owns and in which he now employs three men. He was elected Supervisor for the second district in 1882 and served for three terms in succession. In 1895 he was appointed Receiver in the U. S. Land Office at Susanville and resigned the position in 1897. He studied law while Supervisor and Receiver and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Courts of California and the Supreme Court of the United States in 1902, and in the Supreme Court of Nevada in 1909.

He is a property owner and taxpayer and takes an active part in the politics of the county.



Mr. R. H. Wells was born in Iowa, and came to Modoc County in 1875. The ranch where he now lives, on the Canyon Creek road, he bought in 1897. It consists of 360

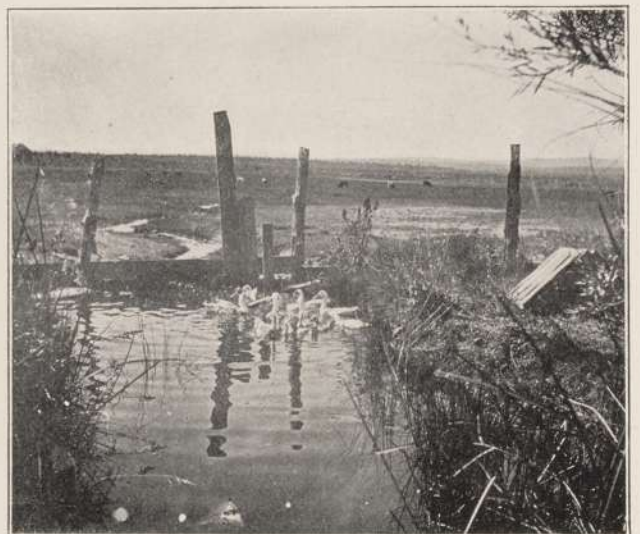
acres, of which 250 is under cultivation. Mr. Wells is the owner of a water-right second to none in the county, having 250 inches of water from Canyon Creek and twenty inches from Hilton Spring. He has three and one-half acres of fine orchard, composed of apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc.

Mr. Wells is one of the pioneers who have helped to make Modoc County.



ALBERT FULMER SPICER.

The subject of this sketch came to Modoc County with his parents at the age of three years, in 1873. He attended the public schools of the county, subsequently graduating from a Sacramento business college. His father died when he was but five years of age, leaving his mother to direct his education and shape his character. How well that task was performed is evidenced by the fact that he is to-day one of the leading citizens of the county, both in a moral and financial aspect. Mr. Spicer is a great lover of fine stock, and his herd of Durham cattle, thoroughbred chickens, Indian Runner ducks, the only flock in the county; and, indeed, is satisfied with nothing but the best of everything going to make up the animal life of his farm. His farm of 1,200 acres, lying a few miles below Alturas on Pit River, is one of the best in the county, and is stocked with everything that goes to make up a modern farm establishment.



INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS ON SPICER RANCH.



BEEF CATTLE ON TURNER RANCH, CEDARVILLE. Photo by Matthews.

**GEORGE C. TURNER,
Cedarville, California.**

Mr. Turner came to Goose Lake Valley in 1880, engaged in the stock business, principally cattle at that time, and a few years later turned his attention to sheep, all of which ranged on the open lands in Oregon and California, and at that time winter feeding was not necessary, the grass being so abundant. In 1890 Mr. Turner removed to Surprise Valley, in Modoc County, shortly after purchased the home where he now lives and from time to time increased his land holdings until he has nearly two thousand acres in one body of as fine land as there is in the valley, nearly all of which is under cultivation, producing large crops of timothy and alfalfa hay. The average yield is something over two thousand tons, all of which is fed to cattle or sheep on the ranch. Alfalfa seed is now becoming one of the most profitable crops, and the 1911 crop of alfalfa seed, from forty acres, gave a net profit of \$60.00 per acre. Aside from his diversified farming, he has a nursery that has proven to be very profitable and has fully demonstrated that fruit culture will be one of the chief industries of the valley. On Mr. Turner's ranch are five fine artesian wells, one of which is used for irrigating the nursery. Dairying will also be a very profitable industry, and there is a creamery and cheese factory on Mr. Turner's property. Anyone desiring any further information is referred to Mr. Turner, who will cheerfully answer any and all questions in regard to lands in Surprise Valley.

**MARTIN HENDERSON,
Noted Pioneer and Aged Citizen,
Davis Creek, California.**

No man in Modoc County is better known or more celebrated than Mr. Henderson.

At the age of eighty-six Mr. Henderson is still vigorous in both mind and body and can be seen daily doing tasks that many men would shirk.

Mr. Henderson is a native of Missouri and was born about four miles east of where Kansas City now stands, April 20, 1826.

At the age of twenty he was married in Buchanan County, Missouri, to Miss Elizabeth J. Ellis, on February 20, 1846, and on February 20, 1912, they will celebrate their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary if alive, surrounded by their children and grand-children.

On April 20, 1853, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and two small children joined an emigrant train conducted by his father, consisting of five families, in all about thirty people, men, women and children, and after a journey of about six months arrived in Benton County, Oregon, and located near Corvallis, where Mr. and Mrs. Henderson took up a homestead of three hundred and twenty acres, on which they lived until 1870, when they emigrated to Goose Lake Valley and settled on Davis Creek, July 7, 1870. (Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have never used water from a well for drinking purposes, but have drank the water of Davis Creek for over forty years.)



In 1874 Mr. Henderson took an active part in the formation of Modoc County and in 1880 was elected Supervisor. During his term of office the county was re-districted and five supervisorial districts were created instead of three.

Mr. Henderson served two terms as Supervisor. He was also the first Justice of Peace at Davis Creek, and for nearly all his life there has been a School Trustee and Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Henderson is largely instrumental in the organizing and building of the first church at Davis Creek, which was erected more than twenty-five years ago. He is a member of the Church of Christ. He has always voted the straight Democratic ticket and handled the politics of that party at Davis Creek.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henderson were born twelve children, all of whom lived to be grown.

Mr. Henderson saw his first railroad locomotive two years ago when eighty-four years of age and took his first ride at that time.



HON. T. W. H. SHANAHAN, OUR STATE SENATOR.

By E. C. Bonner, Mr. Shanahan's Opponent at the Senatorial Election of 1910.

There are few men who, politicians by nature, rise to the position of statesmen, but of those few, Senator Shanahan is easily one. Born in Colusa County, California, January 11, 1859, Senator Shanahan received his education in our public schools and has long been the foremost supporter of said schools in the State.

Being educated as a lawyer, he has for years been a leader at the bar in his adopted county, Shasta. Three times did he represent the assembly district of Shasta and Trinity at the capitol, and twice the assembly district of Shasta and Modoc. In 1910, despite the strenuous endeavors of the writer he won promotion to the Senate chamber.

It would be impossible in a short sketch to enumerate the many valuable acts of legislation accomplished by Mr. Shanahan during his long and honorable activity at the capitol. During his assembly career he defeated the

author of the act preventing Mongolian labor on public institutions; carried the Australian Ballot act; introduced the Purity of Elections Act; the resolution as to direct election of United States Senators; the law extending the redemption period on foreclosure of mortgages from six months to one year; of acts increasing State support of the public schools; and of the act looking to a more complete assessment of the railroads in the State, and for the recovery of back, unpaid taxes.

In addition to these many acts of legislation which rebound to his credit and mark him as a statesman of very high order in the State, after the termination of Mr. Shanahan's term as an assemblyman he occupied under appointment of former Governor James H. Budd the position of Code Commissioner. From which position many of the most useful code amendments now in operation proceeded.

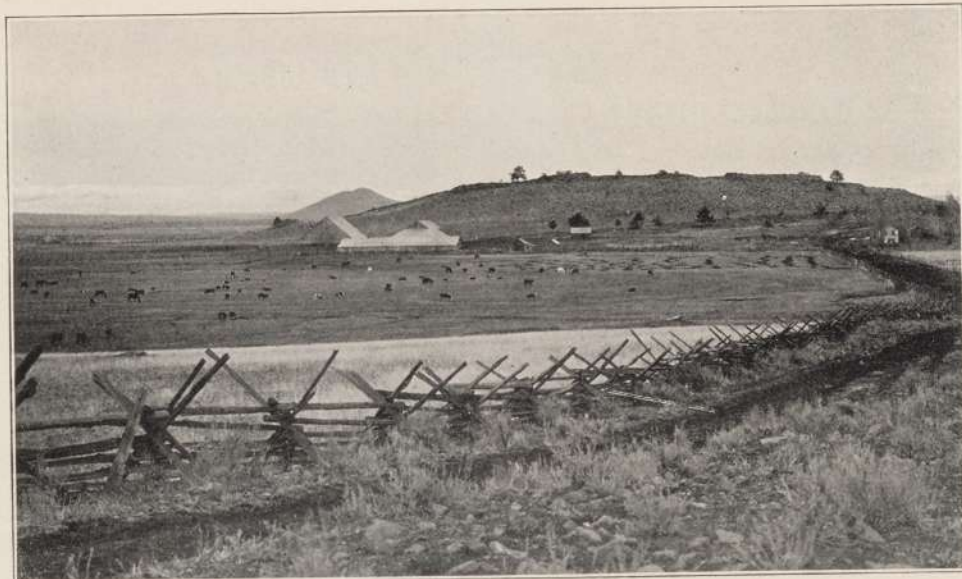
In the fall of 1910 Mr. Shanahan received at the hands of his party in a general primary the nomination for State Senator in the district composed of his own county, Shasta, of Siskiyou, of Modoc, and of Lassen. In the general election in November he was successful in defeating the writer for the position of Senator by the substantial majority of 234. In the campaign Senator Shanahan acted with strict impartiality, and in every way and manner treated his opponent, the writer, in an honorable way. His promotion to the Senate came as a well earned advancement for his long and honorable services to the State and, all politics aside, was satisfactory to the entire district.

That his record as a Senator has met the entire approval of the district no one can deny. His long and successful fight to reduce the price of text books and to furnish them free of cost to the pupils of the public schools, would alone make for him an endearing record, but in many other ways he has justified the course of the people in electing him. With the ability given him by nature, coupled with his indefatigable ability and long experience in legislation, there is little the Senator cannot aspire to, and if indications at the present writing amount to anything it would seem the way were clear to anything he may desire. At any rate none of us in Modoc County begrudge his the position his service has given him, nor will begrudge him whatever eminence he may in the future attain.



TIMOTHY FIELD, MODOC LAND AND LIVESTOCK CO.

Photo by Riesen.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF PART OF IMIRIE-TORRESON RANCH. *Photo by Riesen.*

ROBERT IMIRIE,

A Pioneer and Half Owner of Famous Imirie & Torreson Ranch.

Robert Imirie was born in the State of New York in 1842 and spent his early life there. At the time of the Civil War Mr. Imirie joined one of the New York regiments and fought through the long gruelling contest. He is a member of the G. A. R.

In 1873 Mr. Imirie first came to Modoc County, but left and went to Napa County. In 1875 he returned to Modoc County, accompanied by Mr. Torreson, and they pre-empted 320 acres of land, from which has been built the Imirie-Torreson Ranch now comprising 2,000 acres of land.

The first large reservoir built in the county was built by Imirie & Torreson, on what is known as Toms Creek, and cost in the neighborhood of \$12,000.

Of the 2,000 acres in the ranch about 350 is used for grain, 80 for timothy, and about 600 is wild hay meadow. Around the house is planted about one and one-half acres of fruit trees and garden truck for use on the ranch.

The principal business of the two men at first was the raising of cattle and horses. About 800 head of cattle was their annual herd, which were turned out on the Government range. Their cattle, however, they sold out about five years ago, and since that time have devoted their time to general farming.

Mr. Imirie, who is getting along in years, sold out his interest last year to his partner, Mr. Torreson, for \$40,000,



RANCH HOUSE, IMIRIE-TORRESON RANCH. *Photo by Riesen.*

and has retired from active work and settled down to enjoy the fruits of his years of hard work.

Mr. Torreson, the succeeding partner, was born in Sweden some sixty-three years ago. He came to this country in 1869 and settled in Minnesota for a time and in 1873 came to Napa, where he first met Mr. Imirie.

The Imirie & Torreson Ranch lies along the shores of Pit River and is about seventeen miles west from Alturas and about three miles east of Canby.

The bottom lands along the river are well adapted for dairying purposes, beets, carrots, and kindred vegetables doing especially well there.



RESERVOIR BUILT BY IMIRIE & TORRESON.

THE S. X. RANCH AND ITS OWNER,

Mr. Charles Howard Essex,
Canby, California.

Mr. Essex is one of the early pioneers and came to Modoc County in 1871 from Tehama County, near Red Bluff, in company with his father and two brothers and sister, and cousin, A. H. Kennedy, and located on what is now known as the S. X. Ranch, in Hot Spring Valley.

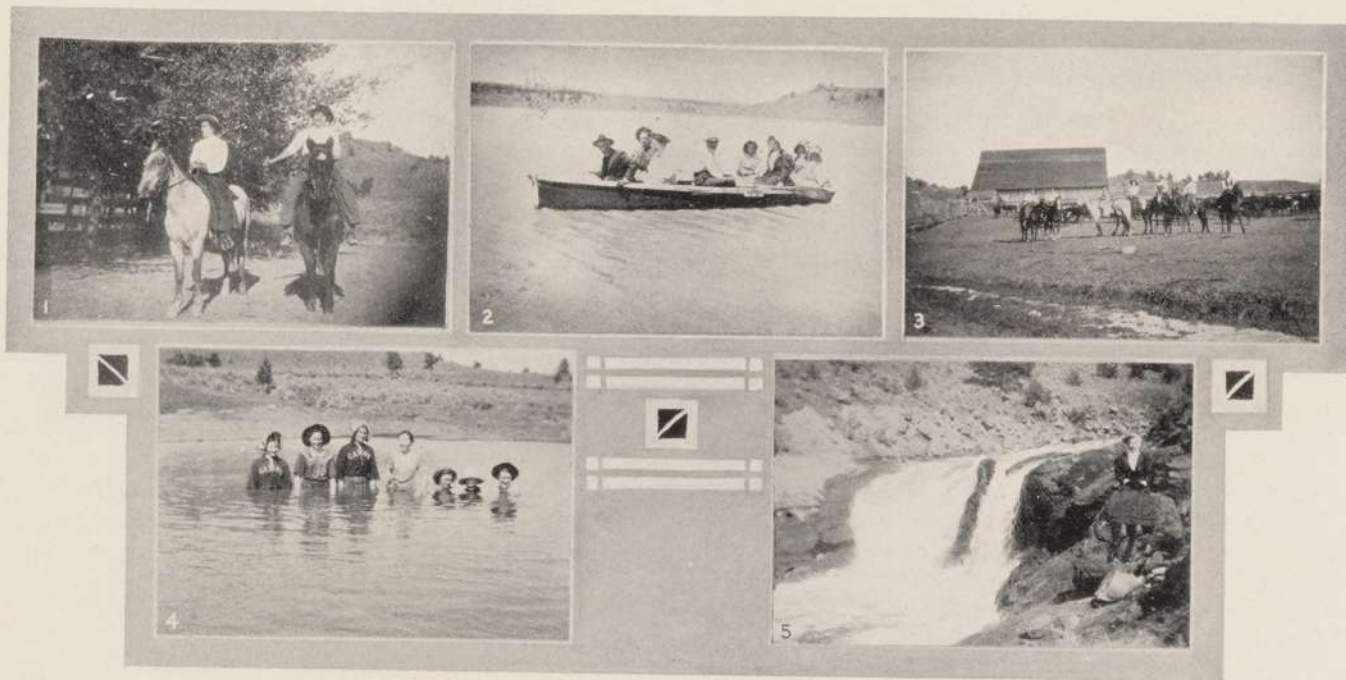
The S. X. Ranch comprises nineteen hundred and twenty acres, twelve hundred acres of which are in one body and all under irrigation from a fine reservoir—also a warm spring which irrigates over one hundred acres and furnishes water for all domestic purposes.

Over five hundred acres of land is a meadow from which is cut annually about eight hundred tons of hay. The gross income from crops alone is over \$7,000 annually.

The first alfalfa ever planted in Modoc County was planted here by Mr. Essex and is now over forty years of age and is still nearly as good a stand as ever. It has never been disced or cultivated. Mr. Essex cuts his alfalfa twice during the season and then pastures. His alfalfa yield is over five tons per acre. Timothy hay averages three tons to the acre. Oats produced in the fall of 1910 seventy-five bushels to the acre. Alfalfa planted in the spring of 1911 was cut twice the same year and yielded over one and one-half tons to the acre.

The ranch is well watered and fenced and is considered the best located and equipped ranch in Modoc County. It is valued with present ranch equipments at \$70,000, and it is offered for sale for \$50,000, as Mr. Essex desires to retire.

The first marriage license ever issued in Modoc County was to Mr. Essex and Miss Winnie J. Samuel, on May 1,



No. 2. BOATING ON IRRIGATION RESERVOIR.

No. 1. GOING FOR A JOY RIDE

No. 4. WARM SPRING SWIMMING POOL.

No. 3. RODEO ON THE S X RANCH.

No. 5. MAIN IRRIGATION DITCH.

And they raise annually live stock valued at \$5,000 or more. Fruits of all kinds, garden vegetables of every description, grain, alfalfa and timothy hay are grown. And beyond any question of a doubt some of the finest fruit lands to be found in Modoc County are on this ranch, which is located in an almost frostless section.

The development of this property is a story worth telling, for the greater portion of the ranch has been reclaimed from sage brush and represents forty-one years of arduous labor.

When Mr. Essex came to Modoc County he was but twenty-seven years of age and a bachelor. He and his relatives acquired the lands now combined in the S. X. Ranch, by homestead, pre-emption and desert claim, and this done through the turbulent times during the Modoc war.

1874, and to them have been born six children, four girls and two boys, all of whom are living.

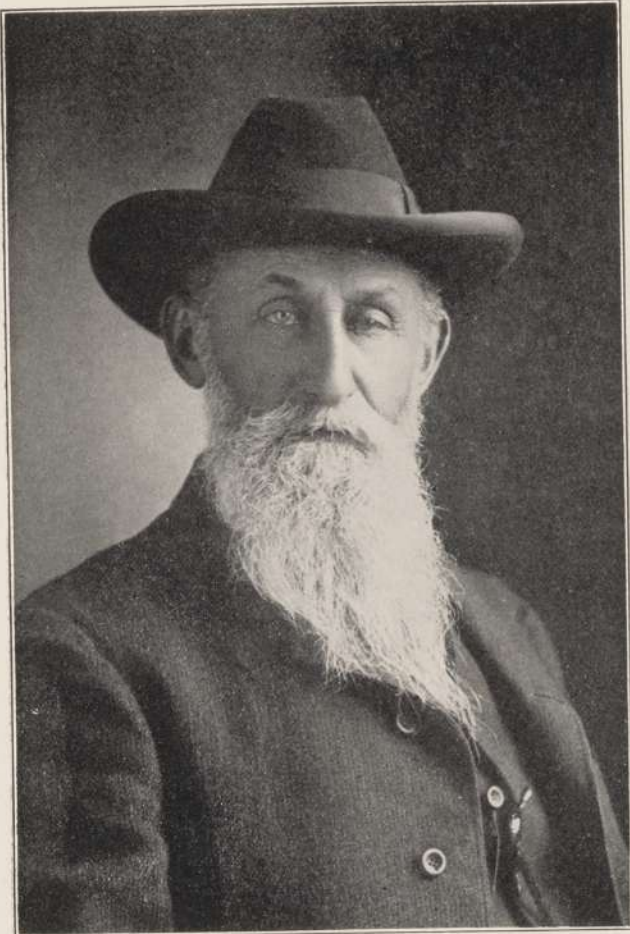
The first cattle brand and ear mark on record in Modoc County was by Mr. Essex.

Mr. Essex is a deacon of the Baptist Church of Alturas and an ardent Prohibitionist. He was one of the first men to call a meeting for the purpose of getting the proposition of "wet or dry" before the voters of Modoc County, and the county was voted dry.

Mr. Essex was one of the originators and prime movers in the organization of the Modoc Co-operative Association, which was formed in 1879.

He also deeded three acres of ground on the S. X. Ranch, on the main highway, for a Baptist Church and Cemetery.

The life work of Mr. Essex in Modoc County will be remembered for many years to come.



ROBERT FRANKLIN McCONNAUGHY,
The Sage of Fort Bidwell,
Fort Bidwell, Cal.

Mr. McConnaughy is one of the oldest living pioneers in Modoc County. He came to Surprise Valley in May, 1865, and squatted on 160 acres of government land. He was accompanied by his brother Marton, who also located on 160 acres of land. Later Mr. McConnaughy homesteaded 320 acres of government land and purchased one section of the finest land in Modoc County at the head of the Surprise Lake, which was then called Lake Morilla, so named for the first white woman in the valley.

At the time that Mr. McConnaughy and his brother located in Surprise Valley life and property were at stake morning, noon and night, and a settler's mind was never at ease.

On January 18, 1866, the McConnaughy brothers were surprised and robbed of all their property by the Indians. Their live stock was driven away, five yoke of oxen, a fine span of horses and a milk cow and calf. All of their provisions were destroyed and they were left absolutely destitute. Mr. McConnaughy was shot in the arm and in consequence of which he was obliged to lay for six weeks on his back and was under the care of an army surgeon for six months. After the fight with the Indians and loss of everything they had, the McConnaughy brothers sought aid from the government post, but were unable to even secure blankets. However, their few neighbors divided with them both food and clothing, and the citizens gathered a posse of about twenty people to go in search of the Indians. After following the trail they came upon the Indians by the discovery of a few cattle. They located an Indian scout and ran him into an Indian stronghold

consisting of eight hundred or more Indians who formed into line of battle, but three white men with Henry rifles kept them at bay until all the posse had time to retreat. They then returned to the valley and sent to Smoke Creek for a company of soldiers commanded by Major Smith, and again the citizens who could go with the soldiers returned to the Indian camp and followed their trail for twenty miles, where they came upon them and killed eighty Indians. Major Smith and seven men were wounded at the first fire and one man killed.

Mr. McConnaughy with Peter Peterson was the first to file on water from Bidwell Creek and the first to use water for irrigation purposes in Modoc County. The first crop planted in this section of Modoc County was in the spring of 1865, by the McConnaughy brothers. Apple trees planted in the spring of 1864 on land now owned by Mr. McConnaughy are still bearing some of the finest fruit grown in Modoc County.

Mr. McConnaughy has been farming and cropping the same land since the spring of 1865 and has never had a crop failure. All sorts of fruits and vegetables of hardy varieties have been tested by Mr. McConnaughy and their adaptability have been proven.

Mr. McConnaughy was practically the founder of the town of Fort Bidwell and conducted a hotel there for a time, which he sold in 1876. At one time he was the largest stock man in Modoc County. He came to California in 1863 by the way of Panama and worked his way from San Francisco to Indian Valley, Plumas County, and thence to Washoe County, Nevada, and from there to Surprise Valley. He is a promoter of public interests, and a public-spirited citizen and advocate of good roads.



TILLMAN C. HESS,
First Gold Producer in Modoc County,
Canby, California.
Owner of the Famous Hess Mine.

Mr. Hess settled in Hot Springs Valley in the spring of 1870, when Indians were the sole inhabitants—and they were very thick, too.

On the ranch of Mr. Hess can still be found pits that were used by the Indians in which to trap wild game along the banks of Pit River, for the Hot Spring Valley was their favorite hunting ground.

Mr. Hess took out a squatter's right and later pre-empted and homesteaded three hundred and twenty acres

of land and acquired the balance of his holdings, which now amount to over twelve hundred acres.

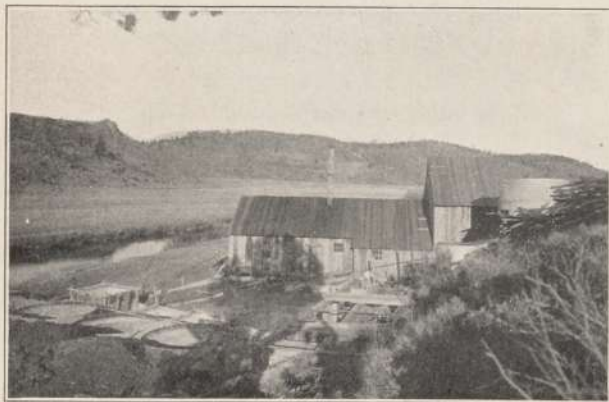
The first farming done by Mr. Hess was with a wooden plow, which he manufactured himself from mountain mahogany.

Mr. Hess is an early Pacific Coast pioneer, for he arrived in Oregon by the Overland Team Route from Arkansas in 1843, in a party which was piloted by the now famous Dr. Whitman. He located twenty-two miles southwest of where the city of Portland now stands, in Chehalen Valley, Yamhill County. Here he lived and farmed with his father until he married at the age of twenty-six and began life for himself.



MINERS' CABIN, HESS MINE.

About 1890 Mr. Hess received a severe injury to his back and became unable to work on the farm, and having prospected more or less at various times in Modoc County for many years, he turned his attention to prospecting in Western Modoc County, Shasta County, and Jackson County, Oregon, but met with poor success. After several years of prospecting and failing to locate a profitable claim, he purchased, in 1899, a mine near Redding and erected a steam stamp mill which he operated for three months and sold the mine. He then returned to the ranch and again began to prospect at home. He located several claims at what is now known as Happy Camp, in western Modoc County, but finally abandoned them and again returned to the farm. In 1903 he located two claims near the main highway, three miles from his own home. His neighbors, thereat, considered him mentally unbalanced. However he pursued the work of development of the claims and in the fall of the same year he bonded the mine to a Mr.



STAMP MILL, HESS MINE.

Cottrell of Reno, who worked on the claim for about four months and abandoned it and the location lapsed, but the claim was re-located in 1905 by J. M. Hess, a son of Mr. Hess. Two months afterwards Mr. Hess again acquired the property by purchase and he immediately commenced development with aid of hired help and worked steadily as possible sinking a shaft and tunneling.



SHAFT HOUSE, HESS MINE.

Photo by Riesen.

In the fall of 1908 he purchased a five stamp mill and erected it during the winter of 1909; and in the spring milling ore began, which at that time assayed an average of \$46.00 per ton. In the fall of 1909 Mr. Hess leased the mine to Mr. J. L. Harvey, who added five more stamps and cyanide tanks. The mine has been steadily developed and the main shaft is now at a depth of over three hundred feet with drifts, and at the time of this writing is producing and shipping an average of over one thousand dollars per week and is operated with a very small force of men.

To Mr. Hess and his mine is due the demonstration of the value of the mineral belt of Modoc County and to such men the work owes a tribute.

WILLIAM T. CRESSLER,

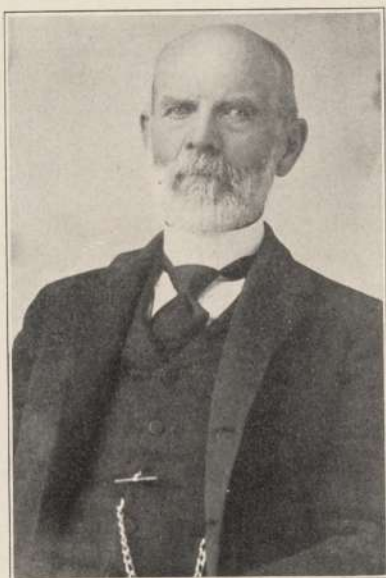
Pioneer Merchant and Modoc County Celebrity.

Mr. Cressler is sometimes called the father of Modoc County, for he it was who first favored the organization of a new county to be formed from the east end of Siskiyou County. This was in 1874, when Mr. Cressler was assemblyman, having been elected on an independent ticket with the understanding that he favored the organization of a new county.

The Legislature met the following winter and Mr. Cressler drew the organic act which was passed by the Assembly and the new county was named Canby.

When the bill reached the Senate the word Canby was changed to Modoc, which name nearly defeated the bill on account of the ill feeling toward the Modoc Indians. At the time that Modoc County was formed it was assessed for about one million dollars—the assessment is now about six millions.

Mr. Cressler is a native of Pennsylvania and was born on April 23, 1836, of well-to-do parents. He received his early education in public schools and later at a private academy. At the age of nineteen he left home and went to Scott County, Iowa, where he taught school for two years, and then studied law for about three years and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Iowa in 1859.



In the spring of 1860 he was obliged to leave the law office on account of ill health, as he had been given up to die by his physician on account of pulmonary disease.

He joined an emigrant train bound for California and walked the entire distance with the exception, perhaps of one hundred miles. From the Platte River, in Nebraska, the Indians were very troublesome and at Salt Lake the caravan joined with other emigrants and the wagon train thus increased from thirteen to thirty-three wagons and a military company formed by the men of the party, which comprised ninety-five guns, and from there they proceeded across the desert under military discipline. They traveled over Lassen Trail via Susanville to Red Bluff, arriving there September 19, 1860. There Mr. Cressler secured employment as a common laborer at one dollar per diem. After a short time at this work he secured an appointment as school teacher at Red Bluff and taught school there for four winter terms. During the summer months he drove a freight team. Here he was married in January, 1865, to Miss Annie A. Alvord, and at the end of his fourth term of school he became a clerk in the hardware store of H. Kraft, at Red Bluff. While in this position he was elected Superintendent of Public Schools in the fall of 1865.

In 1867 he was obliged to again seek a better climate and higher altitude. He associated himself with John H. Bonner, and they purchased four loads of freight, consisting of general merchandise to the value of about \$4,000 and started for Surprise Valley, Siskiyou County.

Surprise Valley opportunities had been reported to them by a teamster named Townsend, who hauled goods from Red Bluff to Fort Bidwell.

They arrived at Surprise Valley, where Cedarville now stands on July 12, 1867. There they found nothing but sage brush and one log cabin, which was occupied. Here they camped and opened their stock of merchandise for sale in the open sage brush with a vicious dog for a guard. They later occupied the log cabin, which now stands the pioneer building of Cedarville.

In a very short space of time their stock of goods was sold and a new stock purchased. The business prospered, and thus Cressler & Bonner founded the town site of Cedarville and a post office was established. The name Cedarville originated from a cedar tree near the mouth of Cedar Canyon.

Following the advent of Cressler & Bonner, about one year, a hotel was erected, also a blacksmith shop and stable. Later a saloon was opened.

Cressler and Bonner laid out the town site of Cedarville and the first grove of trees in any town north of Sacramento was planted on a tract of land which was pre-empted by Mr. Bonner.

The first church in Cedarville was largely donated by Mr. Cressler, and the lot on which it stands was also donated by Cressler & Bonner. Mr. Cressler personally donating \$1600 toward the building.

For several years the road now used from Alturas to Cedarville was kept as a private road by Cressler & Bonner previous to its acceptance by the county. In 1873 Cressler & Bonner turned their mercantile business over to other hands and entered the banking business, under the same firm name. They continued in the banking business until the death of Mr. Bonner, on November 19, 1904. Since that time Mr. Cressler has devoted his time and attention to the settlement of the estate of Mr. Bonner and the investment of his own private resources. Mr. Cressler has never invested his surplus money away from home.

Mr. Cressler owns several cattle ranches. He can drive his cattle from Nevada and Oregon ranches to a shipping point on the N. C. O. Railroad and stop on his own property every night.

Mr. Cressler is deeply interested in the liquor question and devotes his time and money to fighting the evil, and to his efforts it is no doubt due that Modoc County to-day is called a dry county.



FIRST STORE IN CEDARVILLE, OWNED BY CRESSLER & BONNER Photo by Matthews.

**CHARLES W. WILLIAMS.
A Successful Pioneer.**

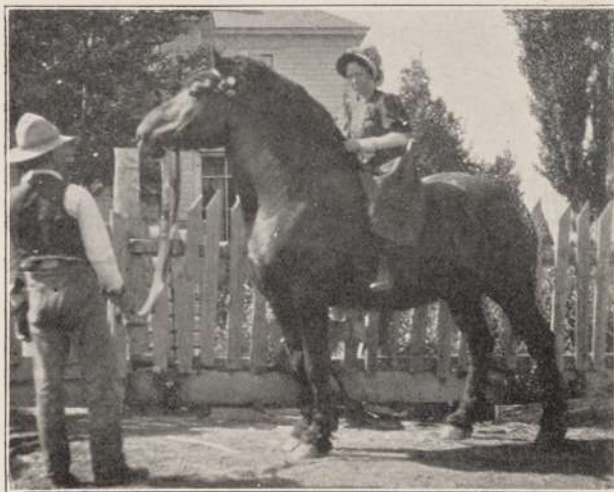
In 1872 Mr. Williams came to the South Fork of Pit River, near the place where the town of Likely now stands. The country at that time was inhabited by Indians, coyotes and a few whites. But the beauty and future possibilities appealed to Mr. Williams and he settled down on a one hundred and sixty acre homestead, thereby securing peace and plenty for his future years. Since that time he has acquired, by purchase and filing, additional land until his ranch now contains 1500 acres. This land is situated about half a mile north of Likely, and extends along both sides of the South Fork of Pit River, and is composed of partly rich bottom lands and partly of higher grain and alfalfa lands.



RANCH HOUSE OF C. W. WILLIAMS.

Snuggled in the midst of a four-acre orchard, surrounded by a garden, lies the dwelling of Mr. Williams, considered to be one of the most beautiful homes in Modoc County. In this home the watchword has been hospitality, and few have been the times in its history when it was not the home of laughter and song and the center of social life and pleasure.

In 1883 Mr. Williams married Miss Judieth Gary, who was herself one of the pioneers of South Fork, having settled there in 1870, and who has ably assisted Mr. Williams in building up his ranch. Four children were born to them, one son and three daughters, two of the latter of whom are married and all of whom are living at home or close by. Mr. Williams owns a home in Sacramento and lives there a part of the year.



A THOROUGHBRED FROM THE WILLIAMS RANCH.

Mr. Williams was engaged in the stock raising industry, giving especial attention to the raising of fine mules. He has the distinction of being the first man to plant and raise alfalfa for seed in Modoc County, and from his first crop was threshed about 3,000 pounds of seed. This item is of especial value when considering the fact that seed from Modoc County is now considered as second to none in the world. Mr. Williams was also the first bee keeper in Modoc.

As with all pioneers you will always find Mr. Williams and his family with the interests of Modoc County at heart and especially the welfare of the South Fork country.

BIDWELL BOOSTERS.

The town of Fort Bidwell has for several years been the center for a number of new enterprises which, when carried to completion, will be of vast benefit to the town and to Surprise Valley. A few progressive spirits, fully realizing this and feeling the need of an organization to stimulate and keep up interest in our many undeveloped resources, organized a club with the above name August 18, 1911.

The membership is not restricted in any way by race, color or social standing, so that nearly every man in the north end of the valley is a member. We have also as members a number of prominent citizens in the other nearby towns, besides several honorary members, distinguished men of large affairs.

There is no membership fee, but every member is expected to contribute what he can afford when, for a worthy purpose, we desire to raise money.

The object of the organization is implied in the name. We endeavor to promote and advertise the mining, irrigation and agricultural interests; to build and maintain good roads and to do such other things as may from time to time come within our power for the common good.

CHAS. E. LEITHEAD, *President*,
E. O. FRANKLIN, *Vice-President*,
A. B. GLASIER, *Secretary*,
R. R. BAKER, *Treasurer*.



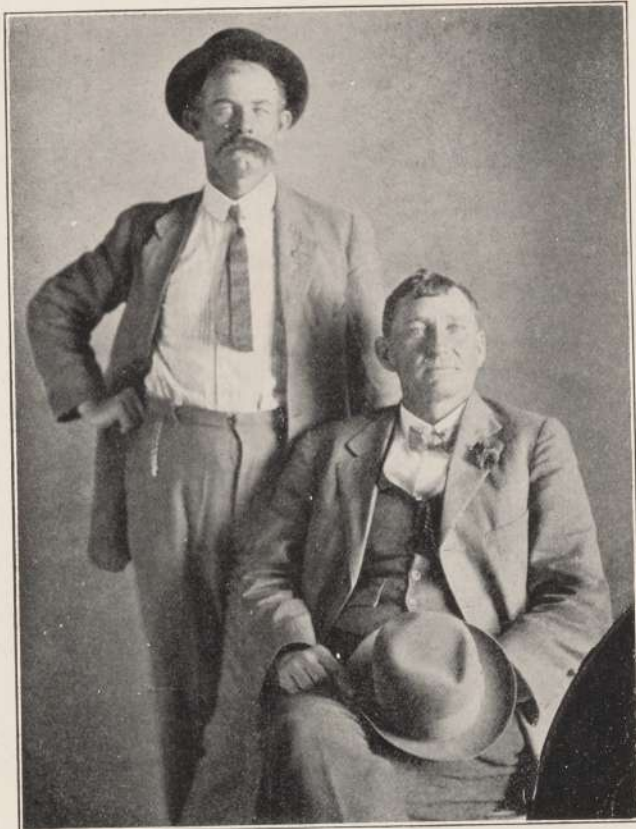
FIRST DWELLING ERECTED IN FORT BIDWELL BY A WHITE MAN—BUILT BY R. F. McCONAUGHY.

DR. W. H. PATTERSON.

Dr. W. H. Patterson is one of the old citizens of Surprise Valley, having come there as an Army Surgeon in 1871.

Now, at the age of sixty-eight, he still enjoys good health and is quietly enjoying the fruits of his labors in the possession of one of the best farms in the county. It covers some 2,000 acres and is managed successfully by his two sons and one daughter under the firm name of "Patterson Co."

His greatest pride is in his family and that they are proving good American citizens, as he has tried to be.



LON SHEDD. CARSE CROWDER.

CARSON EDWARD CROWDER.

Was born in Woodland in 1866, and is therefore 45 years of age. In 1876 he came to Modoc County, being then eleven years of age. He attended the public schools of the county in a desultory sort of way, but was employed most of the time as a laborer on the ranch of Chas. Dean in the lower end of Goose Lake Valley.

When about fifteen years of age he went to work for D. C. Berry & Co., on the ranch now known as the Lake Shore Cattle Co. When about twenty he took charge of the ranch, it having been purchased from Berry & Co. by Dr. C. M. Kober, Major Spaulding and Leroy Whitmore, who constituted the latter company. At that time the ranch consisted of about 1800 acres. Upon the death of Major Spaulding, and his interest in the company being offered for sale, Mr. Crowder, who was assisted in a financial way by Dr. Kober, purchased the same. It was then that the foresight and business tact of the young manager of the property began to be displayed. The ranch carried about 5,000 head of cattle, besides horses and mules. As beef was disposed of and shipped, the proceeds, instead of all going into dividends, were invested in more land. This was done in many instances against the earnest protests of his partners. But Mr. Crowder had the foresight to see the value of the investments, and continued until he had accumulated more than 5,000 acres of rich bottom lands. Absurd as it may appear, some of this land was purchased by Mr. Crowder at \$3.50 per acre, but is now well worth \$100 per acre.

Thus it will be seen that from a mere errand boy on the ranch, Mr. Crowder became in turn manager and then partner, and can now write his wealth with six big figures.

The Lake Shore Ranch and cattle will shortly be sold; in fact negotiations to that end are now in progress. It will then be cut up into small tracts to suit purchasers, and will afford homes in "Golden Goose Lake Valley" for a host of farmers and orchardists.

A strong trait in the character of Mr. Crowder is his ability to manage men, to attach them to his interests and hold them indefinitely. One of his men, Lon Shedd, has been with him nineteen years, and he too has accumulated a "good stake" for his old age.



RESIDENCE OF LON SHEDD, DAVIS CREEK.

Photo by Riessen.