

# IRRIGATION OF ARID LANDS IS NOW A SUBJECT OF GREAT MOMENT TO THE STATE

## UNDER CAREY LAW

### Experience of Other Semi-arid States.

### LOCAL STATUTES DIFFERENT

#### That's Why Operations Under the Carey Act Have Not Been Uniform in the Several States—No Call for Its Repeal.

The Oregonian asked officials of some states in the arid belt for their experience with irrigation enterprises under the Carey law, with the particular purpose in view of getting matter that would be useful as a guide to Oregon. Of course no operations under the new law have yet been entered on in any of the states. From Idaho and Wyoming we have valuable information on the subject. The news from Colorado is that no irrigation enterprises under the Carey act have been undertaken in that state. This is significant because very large reclamation works have been constructed there and are in successful operation.

Experience with the Carey law is not the same in the several states because no two states have accepted its provisions in the same way. In Idaho and other states the state provided the machinery for starting operations under the law, and this local machinery was not the same in any two states. In Oregon no provision was made for independent action on the part of the state, all the preliminary work being left to the parties who might seek reclamation—contracts, the State Land Board being authorized to pass upon the matters submitted. In Washington the state has selected a county of land, but its statutes are in such shape that capital will not undertake the works necessary for reclamation. In each of the states the matter presents peculiar features because of the varying local regulations. The same Carey act applies to all, but no two have accepted its provisions in the same way.

### Experience of Idaho.

Hon. D. W. Ross, State Engineer of Idaho, writes the following comprehensive statement of the workings of the Carey act in that state:

"We accepted the provisions of the Carey law in 1895 by enacting such legislation as we thought would supplement the act of Congress. Since that time the state has applied to the Department of the Interior for the reclamation of about 300,000 acres of the public domain of some 200,000 acres. The department has approved the withdrawal of about 300,000 acres. The state has entered into formal contracts with companies for the reclamation of about 60,000 acres of these lands, 200 acres of which, lying below a canal partly constructed before segregation of the lands was asked for, were thrown open to public entry in May, 1902. No applications for entry have as yet been made. During the past six years about \$60,000 has been spent in the construction of the canal, a term designed to irrigate some 2,000 acres of land. The estimated cost of these works is \$250,000. This is all the actual work which has been done to date under the provisions of this act. Other projects are in various stages of promotion. The estimated cost of reclamation varied from \$1 to \$10 per acre, while the maximum selling price of the water rights fixed by the state varies from \$10 to \$30 per acre.

### HOW IT WORKS IN WYOMING.

Assistant Land Commissioner Richards Tells About It.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 12.—"Reclamation of desert lands under the Carey act has, on the whole, been successful in Wyoming," said Assistant Land Commissioner Richards, of that state. "The Oregonian correspondent has been here for some time, and has seen the work of reclamation in Wyoming under this law in any other state, and the practice is continually spreading. In the town of Cody, which is being built up by Buffalo Bill, after whom it is named, there are large contracts which have been worked out, but perhaps the most successful work has been in what is known as the Mormon settlement. A colony from Utah settled upon a considerable tract of arid land. Each member of the colony, when the contract with the state was approved, turned in and assisted in constructing the ditches. As fast as a section of ditch was completed the water was turned in and the lands were irrigated. It was but a short time before the first crops were planted, and as the work of reclamation extended, the agricultural development followed. This contract is nearer the ideal form of development under the Carey act than any other I know of, and the results are correspondingly more satisfactory.

### WORK OF TODAY.

"I regret that at this time I cannot visit you again. I have asked, however, Mr. Arthur P. Davis, principal engineer of the Reclamation Service, and Mr. Charles H. Fitch, diversion engineer, to meet the association and be prepared to answer questions as far as they can. F. H. NEWELL, Chief Engineer.

## ALL FOR IRRIGATION

### Demand Comes From Every County of State.

### STRONG DELEGATIONS SENT

#### Convention Promises to Be Lively—Leading Members Favor Working Under Both Carey and National Laws.

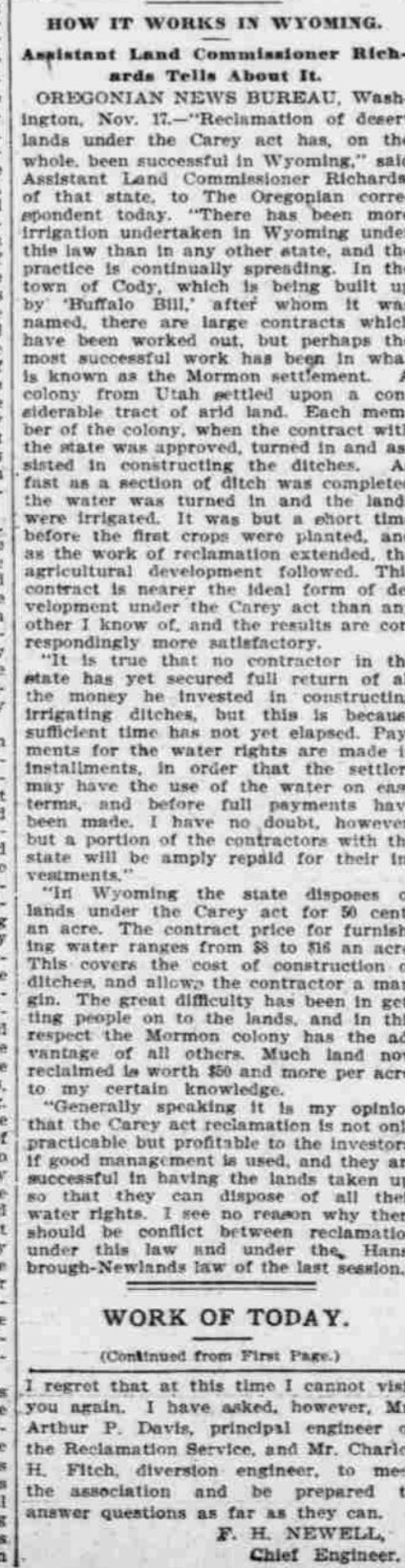
Oregon is stirred up. It calls for irrigation. The demand comes from every county in the state. This common voice will be heard in the convention today. Last night it was heard in every hotel lobby. "Store the floods and save the forests," was the common plea. If anybody wished to keep irrigation out of Oregon he was nowhere in evidence.

The convention will meet this morning at 9 o'clock in A. O. U. W. Hall, Second and Taylor streets. It will be a notable gathering. Prominent citizens from all parts of the state are in the city. So far from fighting against irrigation are they that they are contending to have the best of both worlds. "We want our Government establish irrigation works in their own home districts. 'We want our share,' they cry. 'Our section is just as good as the best in Oregon. Don't leave us out.'

### OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 12.

"We can get more irrigation under the two systems than under one," he remarked. "And Eastern Oregon, you'll find, is all of this opinion." The county Judge G. A. Hartman, chairman of the Umatilla County delegation, advocated encouragement of private enterprises, as well as of Government. "Oregon should go after the money coming to it under the National act," was his opinion. "It should also respect the rights of companies that are working under the Carey law."

### MAP ILLUSTRATING THE IRRIGATION PROJECTS ADVOCATED BY THE BAKER COUNTY DELEGATION.



## OVER IN DESCHUTES

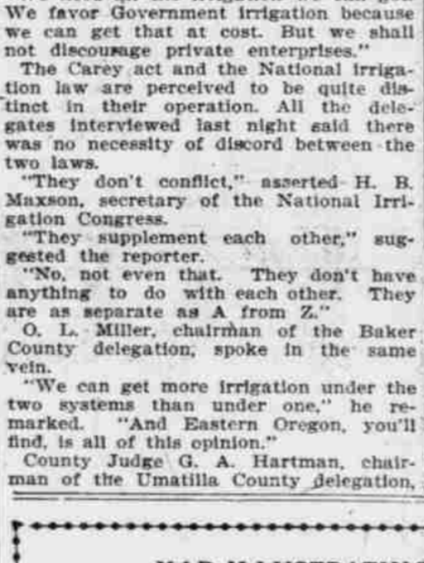
### Seat of Proposed Great Irrigation Plans.

### WHAT COMPANIES HAVE DONE

#### Shall the Government or Private Enterprise Continue the Work—Both Sides of the Controversy.

BEND, Or. (Deschutes Valley), Nov. 14. (Special correspondence.)—Crocket County, the home of Congressman-elect J. N. Williamson, is intensely interested in the question of irrigation. This Deschutes Valley is thought by many to be in the best general situation in all Oregon for an ideal irrigation system. Crocket County contains about 10,000 square miles, has not one foot of railroad, and a population of less than 5000 people, including the Warm Springs Indians. Outside the Cascade Reserve, Crocket County contains over 6,000,000 acres of land, and the larger portion of this is still vacant Government domain. The county is eight times larger than Rhode Island, four times as large as Delaware, double the size of Connecticut, larger than Massachusetts, New Jersey or Vermont, and almost as large as Maryland. Each inhabitant has a pro rata share of two entire sections. If it were as densely populated as Rhode Island, it would have a population of 3,500,000 souls. Of the land in Crocket County 500,000 acres are arable and so located that the Deschutes River, it is believed, may be utilized to irrigate about 200,000 acres.

### WILL PRESIDE AT OREGON IRRIGATION CONVENTION.



A. H. DEVERS. —Photo by Moore.

### THE DESCHUTES.

The Deschutes Valley, or that division under consideration in this article, is topographically and geologically divided into two distinct portions, one known as the Walker Basin, the other as the "Desert." The Deschutes River has its main source in a series of lakes in a large valley to the south of the Three Sisters Mountains. The lakes are fed, by subterranean springs, and have no visible outlets, except the two which form apparent heads of the two branches which unite in Crane Prairie, and from thence flow southeast, then east, then northward along the base of the Cascades. Coming in from the south and uniting with the main stream near where it bends northward is Davis Creek, the outlet of Odell and Davis Lakes, and Little River, the outlet of Crescent Lake. All of these unite in the Walker Basin.

### PILOT BUTTE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Of which A. M. Drake is president and principal owner, under the Carey act has asked for about 85,000 acres lying east of the Deschutes River and south of Crooked River, on what is properly known as "The Desert." The entire system of irrigation laterals have here been surveyed and completed in every detail, ready for construction when the company's contract with the state shall have been approved. The estimated cost of reclamation per acre is about \$10. The lands selected are not in a compact body, but, owing to the nature and topography of the desert, are in a U shape, with the open end to the north and the largest compact tract at the base, or south. Between the arms of the U is an elevated, rocky, volcanic tract. The soil is largely composed of integrated basaltic lava, and is naturally fertile and produces abundant growths of bunch grass, black sage, chamise and juniper. Climatic conditions are favorable to the production of all cereals, vegetable grains and harder fruits. The elevation being less than 3000 feet, snow seldom attains a greater depth than 12 inches, and remains but a few weeks at a time. Stock thrives the year round on this desert without care or feed, except the native bunchgrass. Reclamation of this tract by irrigation would add much to the wealth of Eastern Oregon, but the general conditions are such that the undertaking must be a very expensive one.

## ADVOCATED ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, AS WELL AS OF GOVERNMENT.

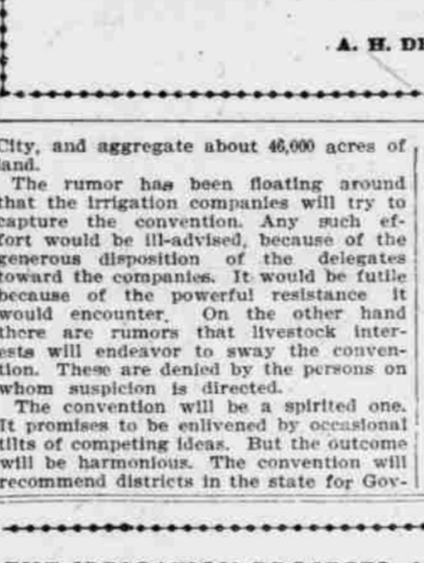
### Convention Promises to Be Lively—Leading Members Favor Working Under Both Carey and National Laws.

### STRONG DELEGATIONS SENT

#### Convention Promises to Be Lively—Leading Members Favor Working Under Both Carey and National Laws.

Eastern Oregon has come to the convention with strong delegations. Those of Baker, Crook, Umatilla and Malheur are particularly aggressive. These four counties alone will have over 100 delegates in the convention. The largest delegation is that of Baker, which sends 35 of its most prominent citizens. Umatilla is represented by about 20 delegates, Malheur by about 12, Wasco by about 15 and Crook by about 20. Baker County comes with maps and surveys of its best areas. These are north and east of Baker.

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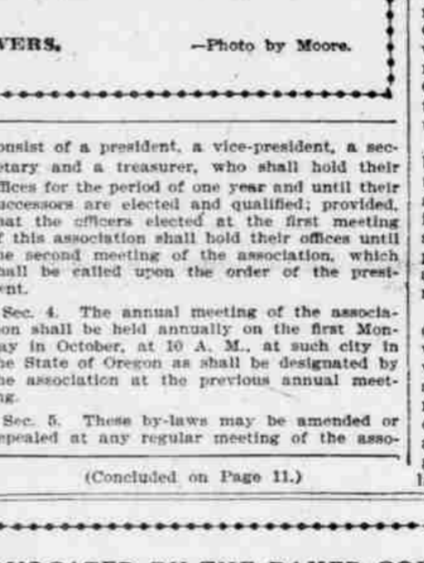
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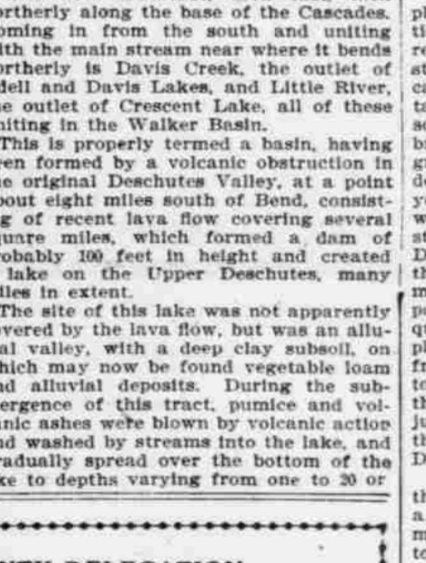
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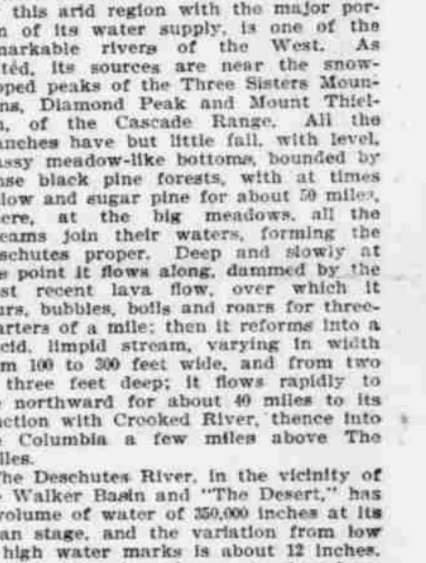
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