

MR. WOOD RETORTS

Explains His Attitude as to Malheur Project.

SENDS WIRE TO HITCHCOCK

Wants to Know if Secretary Said He Was Guilty of "Deliberate Misrepresentation" — Senator Fulton's Statement.

PORTLAND, Nov. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian, November 24, appeared a statement by your Washington correspondent to the effect that Secretary Hitchcock had said that I had made deliberate misrepresentations in connection with the Malheur irrigation project. I immediately wired the Secretary of the Interior, and received the following reply:

Secretary Hitchcock directs me to say that he has made no statement whatever to your correspondent regarding the Malheur project, nor has he been him for several weeks.

W. SCOTT SMITH, Private Secretary.

I give this reply verbatim because of the subsequent developments. You then wired your correspondent, and I received a reply from him, asking me to verify his statement by a telegram to Senator Fulton. I did so, and in reply Senator Fulton said in substance that Secretary Hitchcock, after criticizing The Oregonian's correspondent severely for his course in general, had continued: "And that man Wood, too, has been making misrepresentations. He'd better keep still. They are all lies." The Senator says he understood this language to include me as well as The Oregonian correspondent, but concludes that he understands the Secretary denies this.

It is a matter of utter indifference to me what Secretary Hitchcock's opinion of me is, but if I have made misrepresentations to him, he ought to point out what they are. As the matter now stands, either Senator Fulton greatly misunderstood the Secretary, or the Secretary and his secretary have stooped to an almost unbelievable cowardly quibble in denying that the assertion was made to The Oregonian's correspondent. It is difficult to believe that of Mr. Hitchcock, and certainly no one out here would ever believe Senator Fulton had deliberately misquoted the Secretary. Therefore, for the present, I drop the matter so far as the public is concerned, as a misunderstanding, though I shall pursue it to a finish in my own way, as my own affair. I fancy the public cares very little about this phase of it.

I think, however, that the public is entitled to know why I am responsible for the abandonment of this great public enterprise, if I am responsible. It may be that I, acting for the trust reposed in me, have been unreasonable in my attitude, but it seems to me it is the Reclamation Service and the Secretary who have been unreasonable. The following facts, however, will speak for themselves, and permit the public to judge who is really responsible as between me and the Secretary.

I finally agreed to subscribe to this reclamation plan, every acre of which lay under the system; in round numbers, 35,000 acres, and to burden every acre with a first lien of \$2 to secure the return to the Government of the money expended. I felt it was my duty, however, to tell the Reclamation Service my candid be-

lieve that I did not think more than 10,000 acres of our land would really stand this heavy lien, but that my people were willing to subscribe to it, rather than be responsible for blocking this enterprise of so much importance to the State of Oregon. The Reclamation Service has always insisted—and still insists—that every acre selected by them would well stand the \$2 per acre lien; therefore, I cannot believe that the reclamation people were frightened out of their own carefully matured judgment by my differing opinion. I agreed as a matter of course that we and our lands must in all things be bound by the reclamation act itself, and, therefore, I agreed to make it a covenant and condition to run with all of our sales and to bind the land in the hands of any owner, that no single individual could get water for more than 100 acres of land, but reserved the right to sell, subject to this condition, in any quantity, because we were, and are, contemplating a sale of the entire grant, or this entire Malheur tract, as a body. The Reclamation Service asked that the Secretary be given control of our land, the same as of the Government land. This I refused, but in the interest of the enterprise, I agreed to turn over to the Secretary all of the land remaining unsold after the expiration of one crop year after water was actually turned on, we to receive \$1 per acre from any sales made by him. It seemed to me then—and does now—that \$1 per acre is not an unreasonable expectation on behalf of the owner from land which is deemed capable of bearing \$2 per acre first lien on the raw land. I believed, and so suggested, that we would at first have the alternate even sections of Government land to compete with, and, also, lands just across the Snake River, which, I was informed, could be had in large quantities from private reclamation enterprises, with a water lien of \$5 or \$25 per acre. I promised to expedite sales as much as possible, and, without this promise, it certainly seemed that we could not well afford to unduly hold our lands, when the Secretary, within one year after the reclamation had become an accomplished fact, could take the entire matter out of our hands at \$1 per acre.

This is, I think, a correct summary of my correspondence and conversation with the Reclamation Service. The full correspondence is open to any one interested to investigate the matter.

The Reclamation Board, in announcing the abandonment of the enterprise, declared, as its own construction of our acts, that we were asking for a year after the water was turned on, in order to profit by the rise in value due to the improvement of adjacent land. I say we had no such intention, and I say it would have been a dangerous thing to do with the club which the Secretary held over us, for a year is no great matter in an enterprise of this kind, involving about 300,000 acres of land. Had this been my intention, I would not hesitate to say so, because, in fact, I see no reason why the owners of this land, who are not granters, but have paid full value gold coin for it, should not, after they have burdened it with a first lien of \$2 per acre to the Government, get what profit they could for themselves out of the land within the time limit allowed them.

These I believe to be the facts, and the public can now judge for themselves. So far as I enter into the question at all, it seems to me the request of the owners of 35,000 acres of land for one year after water was an accomplished fact, in which to tie up the lands for something over \$2 per acre first mortgage lien was reasonable, but if considered unreasonable is it not more so to make this demand any part of the reasons for the suspension or abandonment of this important enterprise. I feel that the Reclamation Service has approached every one having any vested rights, either in land or water, too much in the spirit of "Here, now, we are the Government; lay down all your hard-won or hard-bought rights, and let the Secretary do as he pleases with them, for he wants to make a lot of small homes for poor people, which is a fine thing to do. So you people must give up or be called grafters."

C. E. S. WOOD.

M'CUSKER IS OUT

Resigns Position With the Harriman Lines.

CAUSE OF HIS RETIREMENT

Southern Pacific Officials Objected to His Seeking a Front-Street Franchise for Other Than Their Roads.

Thomas McCusker has proved that he is not attempting to secure a franchise down Front street on behalf of the Harriman interests by handing in the following letter of resignation to R. D. Miller, general freight agent of the Harriman system for Oregon and Washington. The letter is explanatory to a degree, and seems to show that great effort is being made by the Harriman people to control the Front-street franchise. The letter sent by Mr. McCusker follows:

R. D. Miller, General Freight Agent Harriman System, City—Dear Sir: Owing to the repeated requests of yourself and Mr. Coman for my withdrawal from the Front-street franchise, or in lieu thereof my resignation so the statement that same is to conflict with the Harriman interest, I hereby tender my resignation to take effect December 1, as I do not wish to embarrass either yourself or Mr. O'Brien. Respectfully yours,

THOMAS M'CUSKER.

When asked yesterday afternoon when his resignation was to take effect, Mr. McCusker said that he would leave the service of the company December 1.

A curious middle arose when Mr. McCusker entered the list of railway promoters in opposition to Mr. Harriman and his agents. Mr. McCusker asked for a franchise down Front street, and at the same time the Southern Pacific people wished it. It was said at first that McCusker was working for Harriman, but things that came to light afterward tended to change the opinion. It was predicted that if the franchise sought by McCusker was not for Harriman, the job of contracting freight agent would soon be open. In a short time it began to be whispered that McCusker had been asked to resign, but this was denied. Now the resignation is in.

Had Mr. McCusker been able to secure his franchise, as he has hopes of doing, and General Manager O'Brien and General Freight Agent Miller had allowed him to remain peacefully on the payroll of the company while working against it, there is reason to believe that Mr. Harriman would have wreaked vengeance on the officials for aiding and abetting a rebellion. It was in order to avoid any unpleasant results for either Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Miller, both of whom are friendly to Mr. McCusker, that he resigned. It had been his intention to force them to give him his discharge, but later considerations changed his plans.

The franchise question will be up for discussion before the street committee of the City Council on Friday next, at which time it is hoped by Mr. McCusker that he will be able to show that his project is reasonable and feasible and to the benefit of the city.

LIFE SAVED BY FAMOUS PILE CURE

Well-Known Resident of Moline, Ill., Rescued From Death by the Wonderful Pyramid Pile Cure.

To Avoid Scolding Name and Address a Free Trial Treatment Will Be Sent to Prove the Truth of Its Great Power.

By every mail we get hundreds of letters like these:

"I will say that two prominent physicians of our city declared that unless I underwent an operation, and that very soon, I was in danger of death. I saw your ad. in a newspaper and at once sent for a sample, which I received very promptly. I want to tell you that it was the first thing that eased the terrible pain and itching and allowed me to have a night's rest for seven long weeks. My husband immediately went to our druggist, Mr. Heinbach, and procured a 50-cent box. I am now cured, and will always recommend you highly to every one. You actually saved my life. My mind, too, was almost gone from the pain. Yours gratefully, Mrs. Rosa H. Stouffer, 1403 Sixteenth street, Moline, Ill."

The Pyramid Pile Cure quickly and easily cures the worst cases of piles, heals all ulcers and sores, reduces all inflammation and takes away all itching and pain. Beware of the surgeon's knife. Its results are horrible, often wrecking life and resulting in hemorrhage and death.

Pyramid Pile Cure gives instant relief, you cure yourself in your own home without being at all disturbed from your work.

It is prepared in the form of "easy-to-use" suppositories.

A trial treatment will be sent to any one, absolutely free of charge, who sends name and address.

After you are satisfied with the sample, you can go to your druggist and get a regular-size treatment for 50 cents, or if he hasn't it, send the money to us and we will send you the treatment at once.

Send your name and address to Pyramid Drug Co., 877 Pyramid Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

Had her attending physician, does not regard her case as severe, but thinks it is a mild attack.

Dr. A. J. Cleary, a member of the City Board of Health, stated last night that there was no occasion for calling a special meeting of the body to consider the smallpox situation, as the facts did not warrant any extraordinary action. He said that Health Officer Matson and City Physician Cauthorn had the matter well in hand, and there was no necessity for public anxiety, the reports having been greatly exaggerated.

Sunday Club of Y. M. C. A.

At the "Sunday Club" of the Young Men's Christian Association this afternoon, Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher, of the White Temple, will be the speaker on the topic "How to Win Out." A musical programme of unusual interest has been arranged. The usual half-hour orchestra will be held preceding the address in the auditorium, but the special feature of the day will be the numbers by the well-trained chorus of 20 voices from the First United Presbyterian Church, which is under the direction of Miss Ella Frances Hoberg. The programme begins at 3 o'clock, and is open without charge to all men.

Fake Jewelry Ordinance.

An ordinance has been prepared under the supervision of the license department of the City Auditor's office to meet the requirements of the situation demanded by the recent trials of cheap jewelry auctioneers by the license committee of the Council.

Under the provisions of the proposed measure, no auctioneer shall hereafter sell or offer for sale in this city any article of gold, silver or plated ware, watches, jewelry or precious stones, without stating in a loud and distinct voice that the article is sold without any warrant or representation as to quality whatever, or that the article is expressly warranted to be as the auctioneer represents it; nor shall he accept false bids from any person in the employ of himself or others.

Dining Table Specials

all this week

\$1 Down=50c a Week



We are offering for this week special prices and terms in Dining Tables. If you've planned for a new Dining Table you will surely get it before Thursday. We are selling these beautiful tables under such liberal terms no one in want of a high-class Dining Table need longer be without it.

Look at the five-legged table shown here, taken from a photo. Note its pleasing design. Style, quality and price are all satisfactory. Notice the terms. Why longer have a table want in your household?

Top is 48 inches diameter, extends to 6 feet; legs 5 inches, handsomely turned and fluted, just like cut. The price has been \$25, but we've knocked off \$5, and sell it to you at \$20—\$1.00 down, 50 cents a week. A square top costs you a dollar less.

Pedestals the Thing.

Pedestal Tables, round and square tops, are in demand these days and we are amply prepared to meet every call. Our stock is the largest in the city, for we have made a specialty of fine tables for years.

We show here a very handsome pedestal table with carved feet, made of solid, selected oak, quarter-sawn and kiln-dried, hand polished and thoroughly well made. You may have one sent to your home in time for the Thanksgiving dinner for the small payment of \$1.00 down and agreement to pay 50 cents a week. The original price was \$27; special price this week.....\$23



Special Range Sale Closes This Week

\$1 down and \$1 a week will buy one and make a beautiful Christmas present for your wife.

I. Gevurtz & Sons

173-175 First Street --- 219-227 Yamhill Street

ECONOMY OF GAS

ITS CHEAPNESS Thousands now cook with GAS for its convenience, cleanliness and comfort. Other thousands for its Efficiency, and the TIME IS NOW AT HAND when ALL people should cook with GAS for **ITS ECONOMY** INVESTIGATE FULLY—COUNT THE COST and FACTS will prove to you conclusively that GAS is pre-eminently and WITHOUT question the cheapest and best fuel.

WELSBACH AND LINDSAY GAS LIGHT 75 CENTS

THIS INCLUDES INSTALLING

The former price of these well-known lights was \$1. With the reduction of gas on Nov. 1 to \$1.15 per 1000 cubic feet makes the cost of lighting by gas by far the cheapest light on the market.

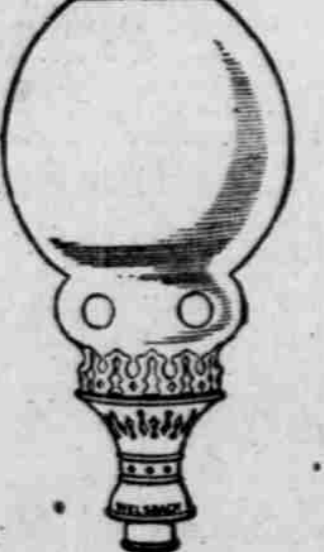

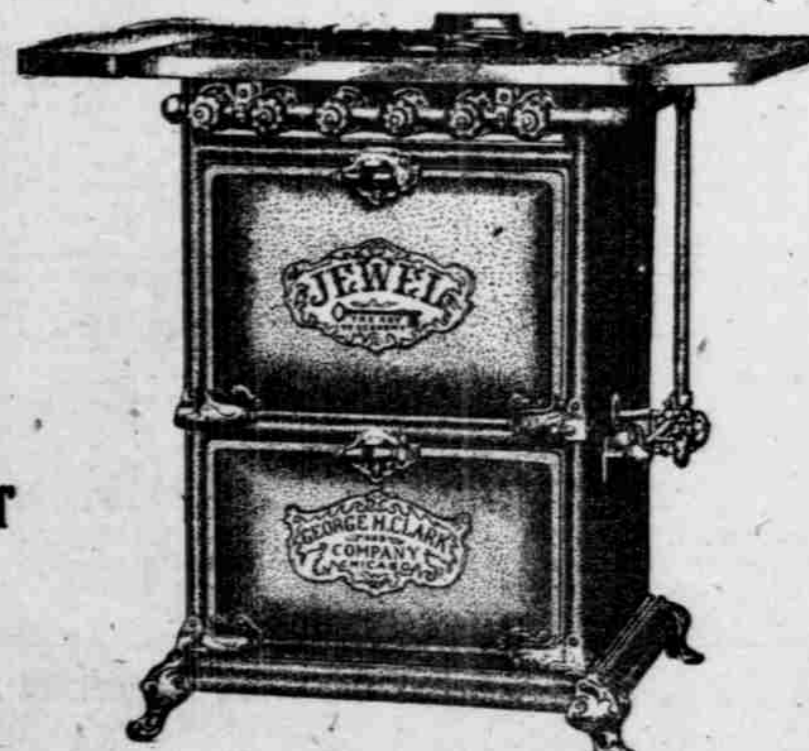
The Welsbach and Lindsay light save both gas and money. It's the way they are built. They save several times the cost during the year.

Don't Forget That Gas Is Economical for Cooking the Entire Year

With the Circulating Gas Water Heater and the modern mode of heating, gas is by far the most convenient as well as economical

LET US TELL YOU ABOUT THE SYSTEM

Since Nov. 1 the Price of Gas Is \$1.15 Net, Per 1000 Cu. Ft.

PORTLAND GAS COMPANY

FIFTH AND YAMHILL STREETS