

ENGINEERS OPPOSE BIRD REFUGE PLAN

Ceding of Land Believed Prejudicial to State.

IRrigating WATER PREVENTED

Passage of Measure Declared to Take Away From Oregon 47,000 Valuable, Taxable Acres.

BY ADDISON BENNETT.

BURNS, Or., Oct. 16.—(Special).—Since my arrival here I have been shown copies of nearly every important newspaper and other publication issued in Oregon, and nearly every one of them is editorially "for" the bird measure. There are some dissenters, but these base their opposition mostly on false premises and false statements made by the theoretic proponents who arranged to get the bill on the ballot—practically the same set of individuals who had a similar measure turned down by the legislature of 1918.

I propose to show how shallow, misleading and demagogic some of the arguments for the bill are. I will quote from one argument I have read: "As against the pioneer opinion that the lake will dry up as a result of irrigation of the lands in the valley, opinion of competent engineers is to the contrary. The engineers' opinions are based on scientific investigations; the pioneers' opinions are based on intimate knowledge of the country. Experience shows that although long run the engineers' opinions are more often proved to be right."

In the first place, no one here thinks the lake will dry up. No water from the principal feeder of the lake, Sliver river, has been diverted since 1916, and the lake has maintained practically its usual stability during that time through seepage, and with a large area above it to the north under irrigation such seepage would be multiplied several times over.

As to the engineer's reports, suppose we refer first to the opinion of Engineer Laurgaard, who is now presenting the city engineer of Portland, Engineer Laurgaard, I believe knows more about conditions in interior Oregon than any other engineer in the state. He is a man above reproach, a man of unquestioned integrity and of vast experience in Oregon. It was Engineer Laurgaard who built the Tumalo project, and built it within the appropriation, something quite unusual in the engineering line. It is true the Tumalo project turned out badly; but it was through no fault of Engineer Laurgaard, that the reservoir did not hold water.

Litigation is Foreseen. Now here is what Engineer Laurgaard says in concluding an argument too long for use in an article of this kind, against the measure: "It is believed that should this bill pass it will result in litigation and confusion and in retarding development. In my opinion it would be a mistake to enact this measure."

Note the words "litigation and confusion" which is just what the proponents of the big irrigation project now on foot in Harney valley find confronting them when they attempt to float their bonds to water more than 100,000 acres in Harney valley. But Engineer Laurgaard does not stand alone among engineers who oppose this measure. State Engineer Cupper has gone on record against the measure. The American Association of Engineers, this chapter appointed a committee of its members to investigate the subject and they have made a report against the measure. In this report, which is a lengthy argument, a synopsis is made in conclusion as follows:

Injury to State Alleged. "In conclusion, therefore, we believe that the enactment of the proposed bird refuge measure and the ceding of Malheur lake to the federal government is contrary to the best interest of the state for the reasons: "That it cedes to the government all the waters of Malheur lake (subject to existing rights), thus providing uncertain concurrent state and federal control of these waters and preventing their further appropriation; "That it gives to the government approximately 47,000 acres, much of which should be ultimately reclaimed and the proceeds from their sale enhance the school fund; "That it gives to the government 47,000 acres to the non-taxable reserves of Oregon, and remove this area forever from the possibility of taxation; "That it will tend to discourage railroad construction and general development in that section of the state; "That it will prevent the state or the government, or both, from controlling the water level in Malheur lake or any part of it, which can best be accomplished by irrigation and drainage development carried on simultaneously; "That uncertainty exists relative to the title to the bed of Malheur lake and considerable time has been expended by the attorney-general in investigating the same and any action looking to the disposal of the lands prior to the time we find out who they belong to is premature; "Withdrawal of Measure Urged. "That any lands which will be affected by the measure are now entirely within the control of the state and the state land board, composed of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, should be permitted to continue to handle the situation in the best interest of the state. We would recommend, therefore, that an effort be made to have the measure withdrawn with a view to having a careful study made of the situation and a plan worked out for the highest and best interests of the state with respect to the development of the agricultural lands and the protection of the birds."

Another sentence in the argument mentioned at the beginning of this article is well worthy of notice in these days of easy money. Indeed, it is the sort of statement that might be expected from the theorists behind this measure in private. However, even theorists sometimes slip over and express publicly their lack of horse sense. Here is the statement: "So far as the giving away of 47,000 acres of irrigable land worth \$50 an acre is concerned, the state could well afford to give up this value for the sake of insuring the perpetuity of this reserve."

Why, of course! A million and a half is a trifling sum—to a theorist. Mere chicken feed! Many a theorist makes that much of a morning before breakfast in his theoretical mind. But what does a million and a half mean to the public school fund? What does it mean towards

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SENATORIAL RACES CLOSE

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(Continued From First Page.)

Reared message to the nation regarding the strike. He said the government had done everything possible to avert the calamity, but that the miners, rejecting all offers, now were trying to gain their ends by force. The nation, he declared, would not abide by such an attack with all its strength and there can be no doubt as to the issue.

Welsh Miners Already Out. The Welsh coal miners quit work today without demonstration, accompanied by the departure of the men from the mines. The premier's message read as follows: "The nation is confronted with a coal strike. The government has made every effort consistent with its duty as trustee for the people to avert this calamity. The proposals of the government have been supported by many of the most responsible leaders of the miners' federation. They have been regarded by all sections of the people as fair and reasonable."

Government Offer Spurned. "The government offered to give the increase if the miners would restore the present low production of coal to the figures of the early part of the present year."

"This, too, the miners refused against the advice of their most experienced leaders. They are attempting now to gain their ends by force. The nation must and will resist such an attack with all its strength and there can be no doubt as to the issue. The nation must help each other to lessen the inconvenience and suffering which the miners' strike will cause. The supplies of coal for the public services are sufficient. The government will insure the fair distribution of the available supplies of coal."

Plea to Save Made. "Every householder can help by saving coal. Every manufacturer can help his workmen by making his supplies of coal last as long as possible. There should be no cessation of employment until that misfortune cannot longer be avoided and, above all, the people should remain calm and deal with emergencies as they arise."

No need underrate the damage which this strike will do but no one will be dismayed. We have been through much more difficult times. With steady purpose and determination to do justice, the nation will overcome all its difficulties."

The miners' federation issued a statement, saying the miners had been forced into the strike because of the "unyielding attitude of the government in the face of their reasonable claims, which twice threw them without an alternative."

Strike Twice Held Up. The miners declare they allowed ample time for negotiations, and point out that they modified their claims in the interest of peace and twice suspended their strike notices. C. T. Cramp, assistant secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, stated today he had been instructed by the executive of the union to warn the branches that a serious situation would arise if the miners were defeated and that this must be borne in mind when a sympathetic strike was being considered. He had also been instructed, he said, to tell the branches to be prepared to act on any instructions they might receive as the result of the delegates meeting next Wednesday.

Washington Strongly Republican. Washington will go heavily for Harding. Here also the republican candidate for senator will run behind. The republican senator, Jones, who is himself a candidate for re-election, has much opposition from business men in Seattle who are normally republicans, because of some of Senator Jones' official acts in regard to shipping.

Woman's Sentence Suspended. SALEM, Or., Oct. 16.—(Special).—Mrs. Alva Brundridge, arrested here recently charged with larceny in connection with the theft of household goods from Mrs. L. A. Barrick, today was sentenced to serve 90 days in the Marion reformatory. Execution of the sentence later was suspended by Judge Unruh. Mrs. Brundridge was convicted by the jury in the justice court yesterday.

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California will go republican, hopeful democrats place California in their column and observers who have a friendly feeling for the under dog tend to place California in the doubtful column, but the wisest democratic leaders in California do not fool themselves. The total registration in California will be about 1,300,000, of which about 800,000 will be republican, 300,000 democratic, and 150,000 declining to state their party. Normally, of course, the mere preponderance of registration does not make the election a foregone conclusion. It is significant that the percentage of republican registration this year has risen from 52 per cent of the total up to 62 per cent of the total, while the democratic registration has fallen in about the same proportion.

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Phelan Expected Winner. Phelan will probably run 75,000 ahead of Cox. Which is the same thing to the public opinion as a majority in California is less than 75,000 Phelan will win. Of those three southwestern states which have three electoral votes each, New Mexico is probably lost to the republicans this year; Arizona is even, and Nevada is normally a democratic state, is from the democratic point of view in danger this year. Nevada's population is small, but the recent census showed that during the last ten years it has lost 400 or 500 of its 80,000 people.

Utah Full of Complicities. Utah is full of complexities, including ecclesiastical ones, which make the situation in that state not easy to understand and still less easy to explain to the public outside the state. The net of the Utah situation is that Cox may carry the state, but the republican senator, Smoot, probably will be re-elected. Everybody in Utah knows the distinguished position that Smoot has in the senate as a national figure. Local pride in Smoot's position will be enough to give him considerable margin over the normal republican vote.

Colorado is another of those states which went strongly for Wilson in 1916, and which the democrats claim this year. But the best judgment is that Colorado this year will go for Harding. The senatorship, however, has not yet fully cleared up from the chaos caused by the September primaries, and is made complex by the fact that a regular republican candidate, and a threat of an independent republican candidate, a regular democratic candidate and a non-partisan league candidate. Out of this chaos it is hard to predict what will come.

Oklahoma Given Cox. Kansas and Nebraska will both go republican heavily. As to Oklahoma, the best judgment is that the state is safe for Cox. Missouri, as the

election draws close, seems to tend more and more in the direction of republican victory. Iowa, of course, will go heavily republican. As to the Iowa senatorship, a week ago I said, Cummins would run 100,000 behind Harding. Today I would not say that Cummins' friends have become aware of his danger and are stirring up the state to be loyal to his fine character and the prestige he has given Iowa in the senate. Cummins will suffer from the opposition of the Iowa farmers to the recent railroad bill he helped to make, but he will win readily.

Senatorial Races Closest. Those are the details. The net of it all is this: Of all the states west of the Mississippi river, Cox will carry without any doubt of course, the three distinctively southern states, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. The one state which may be called semi-southern, so to speak, Oklahoma, he has a little more than an even chance of carrying.

Other than this, in all this western territory Cox will probably not get more than 10 or at the outside 20 electoral votes out of a total of 128. In all this there is one clear fact: The republican strength is overwhelming on the presidential ticket alone. On the aggregate of the local senatorial issues the distribution of vote between republicans and democrats does not vary greatly from normal.

It is almost wholly a case of irritation against the executive administration at Washington—a case of firing the hired man.

MARKET BILL OPPOSED. Tillamook Cheese Manufacturers Go on Record Against Measure. Resolutions opposing the market commission bill appearing on the November ballot, were adopted at the last meeting of the board of directors of the Tillamook County Creamery association, composed of representatives of 24 cheese factories. This word was received in Portland yesterday. Opposition developed because it is believed that passage of the bill will put the marketing control of Tillamook cheese in the hands of a political appointee, over whom the farmers would have no control.

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PORTO RICO HELD HAPPY

HARDING BELIEVES PEOPLE LOYAL TO UNITED STATES.

Demands for Territorial Independence in Past Founded on Short-Sighted Policy, Says Senator.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Oct. 9.—Senator Warren G. Harding, republican nominee for president of the United States, has sent a letter to R. H. Todd, republican national committeeman for Porto Rico, giving his views on the subject of Porto Rican independence. The letter, given out here, bears date of Marion, O., September 20, last, and was a reply to a request from Mr. Todd for an expression of Senator Harding's opinion on Porto Rican independence. It reads: "My dear Mr. Todd—There has been more than one instance of the demand for independence of certain sections of our territory. History has shown evidence enough that shortsighted policy and that if autonomy had been obtained the result would have been the loss of those great benefits of protection, freedom, equality of opportunity and prosperity which America had always brought to her component parts. If there is a minority opinion in Porto Rico for independence, represented in a political party, I believe that it will not flourish long because the wisdom of your people is too sound even to consider casting aside the ultimate welfare which flows from a unity with the American public."

"In all cases known, this unity and loyalty is based upon the good sense of men and women, watchful against demagoguery aimed at gaining untrammelled political power under so-called 'independence' often, when in various corners of the world, independence has been gained, it has resulted in exploitation of the poor, in chaos, bankruptcy and misfortune brought on by the very same force which led the demand for autonomy. I believe in the loyalty of the people of Porto Rico to the United States and in the loyalty of the United States to the people of Porto Rico."

"Very sincerely, 'WARREN G. HARDING.'"

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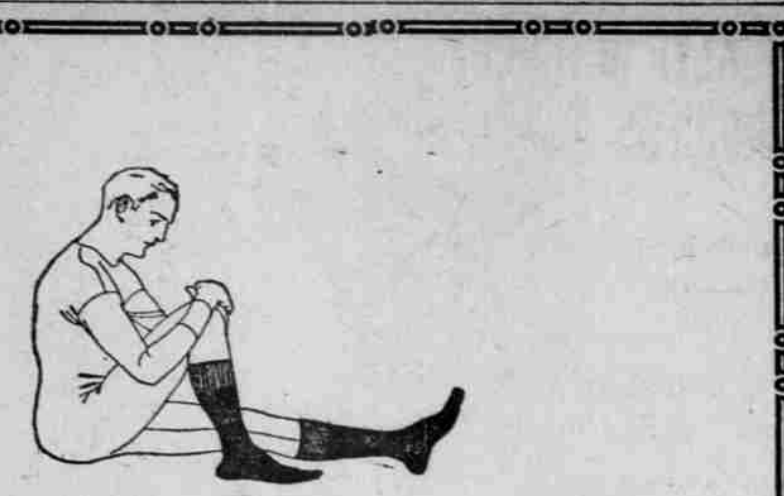
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