

La Grande Evening Observer

VOLUME XII.

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1908.

NUMBER 46.

NEW PROSPERITY GATES OPENED FOR UNION COUNTY BY DAVID ECCLES

IRRIGATE 20,000 ACRES BY A MUTUAL BENEFIT SCHEME

NEW ERA FOR GRANDE RONDE VALLEY ENTERED BY DAVID ECCLES' PROMISE

PROMOTER WILL BUY BONDS IF LAND OWNERS

WILL SUBSCRIBE AT EXTREMELY LOW RATE.

By Paying Two Dollars Per Acre Per Year for Ten Years, Land Owners Can Secure Permanent Water Rights—Safe and Sound, and Considered One of the Best Projects in Oregon Today—Mass Meeting Next Saturday Night to Learn Consensus of Opinion—Without a Doubt the Greatest Boon Known to Mankind in an Arid District—Eccles Working for Benefit of Valley, as Well as for Himself—Splendid Wealth-Producer at Cost so Small as to Attract Attention of Moneyed Men as a Safe Investment—Cost to Land Owners for Perpetual Water Less Than Any Project in the Northwest—Enthusiasm Rampant, and Project Will Undoubtedly Be Put Through—Means Much to Entire County.

MUTUAL PROPOSITION MADE BY ECCLES.

"Your irrigation proposition is so feasible that it would be immediately developed in any community where the value of irrigation is appreciated; for, while its cost is a matter of thousands, its advantages are a matter of millions. It would be impossible for any one man or any few men to consistently develop it, however, so co-operation of the community becomes an imperative feature. And, I would suggest that a mutual corporation be formed and the proposition bonded for \$400,000, and stock issued to cover the same, and sold at par value at \$20 per acre, which would necessitate the subscription of 20,000 acres of land; said \$20 per acre to be paid in payments of one-tenth, or \$2.00 per acre per annum. By this method every stockholder becomes a member of the irrigation company and will participate in any and all profits that may result. If this arrangement can be effected, I will see that the bond issue is taken care of."

DAVID ECCLES.

Union county's fondest hopes are to be realized if the land owners of the valley will be as prompt to grasp the splendid opportunities as they have been in the past. The irrigation scheme—momentous in its breadth and scope—assumed a position last evening at a meeting of the Commercial club board of managers, with David Eccles, the sugar king, where something tangible is being dealt with. For the first time in the history of Union county, it can be said that capital to finance the greatest elixir known to semi-arid communities, is available. It is to come from none other than the Amalgamated Sugar company, a firm that for financial strength is synonymous with Gibraltar.

Enthusiasm ran high in that little club room last evening. There were men there who are broadminded, who have experience and who have money. With such a combination it is a wonder that The Observer is able to say tonight that Union county is facing a new era.

Every member of the board of managers who was in the city was in attendance with Mr. Eccles. In addition, Walter M. Pierce, who stood behind the investigation made last year; A. V. Andrews, ex-Circuit Judge T. H. Crawford, C. E. Moore, local real estate dealer, and Fred M. Housh, manager of the Grande Ronde Electric company, attended the meeting, and many of them gave voice to enthusiastic sentiments. Chief and foremost, of course, was what was said by David Eccles and Walter M. Pierce.

Mr. Pierce was the first to speak. In a highly polished address that teemed with salient points in the proposed irrigation scheme, he laid before

the capitalist and the board, the general plans to be followed in the construction of this gigantic irrigation scheme. He was highly enthusiastic, and brought forward with sharp emphasis, the fact that such men as the late W. G. Hunter and J. M. Church were the real fathers of the proposition, and had they lived, the project would now have been either completed or well advanced. He quoted figures and data that had been prepared by expert engineers last year, at the instigation of Mr. Hunter and others. So vivid was his explanation of the scheme that all present readily gained clear ideas of what it meant and what it was in reality.

Then David Eccles came to the front with his startling and much-longed-for remark, that he would finance the deal, provided the farmers would subscribe the stock to cover the bond issue. Before explaining in detail his proposition, he suggested that a mass meeting of land owners be held before any additional outlay of money was made, and reiterated to some extent what Mr. Pierce had said of the possibilities of water. In his characteristically concise manner, he said that the proposition meant an investment of thousands, and a return of millions. In these few words he summed up the entire story.

The plan proposed is an easy method and considerably less burdensome to the land owner than usual propositions of its kind. That it is to be mutually advanced and mutually profited by, was the keynote of the plan. Eccles is not going to spend thousands for his own benefit alone, for by benefiting others he is benefiting himself. If there are any profits, every stockholder—and stockholders are those who subscribe for water—will realize his share of them. If there is anything that is mutual in the way of a corporation, it will be this company. To illustrate the method of subscription, let it be imagined that the reader owns 40 acres of land. He desires water on every acre, and to do this he subscribes for as many acre-feet of water as he has acres, making 40-acre feet of water. To pay for this water he has promised to pay at the rate of \$2 per acre per annum, during a period of 10 years, after which he has perpetual water at no expense. In this way it can be seen that the 20,000 acres of land to be covered at the rate of \$20 per acre, will cover the bonded indebtedness—\$400,000. The payments are, therefore, easy, and will require an outlay of \$80 per year for a period of 10 years, making \$800 which the owner of 40 acres has paid for his perpetual water rights.

This will meet ready subscription among the small land holders, but the chief stumbling block which the promoters will encounter is that men holding several hundred, or even 1000 acres, will seriously object to watering their land at this price. The result will be just what the county has been crying for—subdivision of large tracts. Mr. Conley, who owns thousands of acre, will find that he can raise triple and quadruple crops in fruit profits over what he is now realizing, and can, therefore, afford to sell large blocks of his land and devote his entire attention to smaller tracts.

Ex-Judge T. H. Crawford reviewed the proposition from a legal viewpoint before the club members and the board, and stated that there is absolutely no fear of conflict with the present irrigation laws, or the absence of laws in this state. The supreme court has established a precedent in the matter of privileges of storing of waste and flood waters.

The fact that the people in every community where arid land exists, have jumped at undertakings like this, should make it clear to local people that the irrigation plan is a safe one from every standpoint. It is needless to reiterate that the county will triple in value, but it is necessary to impress the fact that this deal is a mutual affair and that it is safe to the subscriber from any point of vantage that he may take. All these things have been made clear by men of affairs who have given the matter thorough investigation. That Mr. Eccles is not doing this great work for his own purpose is clearly evident. By reason of the fact that he is at the head of one of the largest construction companies of the west; and that he controls several cement-making plants, he is able to knock off \$100,000 from the estimate made by the engineers. In less than an hour yesterday, he pointed out where he could construct the dam for \$51,000 less than the engineers could who drew the plans. He can lay the canals for a sum that will make up the \$100,000 less than the engineers called for.

MASS MEETING A WEEK FROM TOMORROW NIGHT.

After the club and board had listened to the glad tidings from Mr. Eccles, it immediately took steps to follow his suggestions. As a result it has been decided to hold a mass meeting one week from next Saturday night, August 22, at which time a consensus of opinion will be compiled. Rain or shine will not hinder this meeting, and everybody should plan to attend. The Commercial club will write letters to scores of land owners, urging them to be present at that time.

TWENTY MILES OF MAIN CANALS WILL WATER 35,000 ACRES EASILY

The irrigation plans as far as advanced now, are on a basis much lower than other irrigating schemes of the northwest have ever been, that is, as to first cost to the land owner desiring the water. The Twin Falls project originated at \$25 per acre, but has now been increased to \$35. In Umatilla county the cost per acre is much more than \$20, and so on, over all parts of the northwest where irrigation has been attempted.

Where Ditches Will Go.

Though it is impossible to give an absolutely accurate statement as to where the main ditches will run, still a tentative program and one that will likely be carried out, is to bring the water from the dam at Meadow creek to Oro Dell, and there divert it into two ditches, one to cover the entire Mt. Glenn and Sandridge country, and the other to hug closer to La Grande, keeping as high as possible, to ultimately reach the region east and south of La Grande. The main canals will head at a point about 300 feet higher than the Oro Dell ditch does now. The one going north will go near the Rynearson place, swinging in and out with the foothills until it reaches a point where it will be diverted southeast to the Conley warehouses. All but a small ride near the Frazier place will be covered with this water. The canal will be about nine miles in length with laterals leading out to cover an enormous amount of territory, the lay of the land being such that the water can be run to the north, east and south. The canal which will come nearer La Grande will be approximately 10 miles in length.

Splendid Dam.

The dam which will be constructed across the Grande Ronde at Meadow creek, will be constructed of concrete, if the plans mature. The ends of the massive masonry will be winged into the solid rock of the mountains to insure a perfect structure that no cloud-burst or unusual volume of water could tear away.

The headgates will be located above the dam, and to get the water into the river channel again, it must pass through a tunnel in the solid rock of the mountain, going out beyond the wings of the dam, which have been built down to bedrock. No imaginable power can destroy such a tunnel. On the strength of the belief that the scheme will end successfully despite obstacles that are bound to show up, the promoters will work out the minor details that have not been properly disposed of at present.

Though Mr. Eccles is planning on irrigating but 20,000 acres, the territory to be covered by the main canals and the laterals leading therefrom, will be enormous. That between 28,000 and 40,000 acres can be covered with water is the estimate made by the engineers.

Pathway Not Power-Driven.

The progress of the system will not be marked with flowery beds of ease, for there are knotty problems to solve and obstacles to overcome. But the goal to be reached is so great that an enterprising people like the inhabitants of the Grande Ronde valley will not let comparatively trivial matters stand between them and ultimate success. The results to be achieved are worth a life-time of effort, and with the entering wedge driven, the land owners can help to make this huge undertaking a reality, by comparatively small expenditure of energy.

COUNT TORTURES BEAUTIFUL WIFE

GRUESOME PRACTICE OF HUSBAND AND FATHER.

Horrible Tortures Inflicted on Young Wife and Infant of Lisbon Count—Kept Wife in Attic for a Year, Chained to Wall, on Diet of Bread and Water—Wife Insane and Hired Turned White, While Body is Mere Skeleton—Child Not Expected to Survive—Count Banished From the Country.

Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 14.—A modern Bluebeard was revealed today when the facts leading to the recent banishment of Count Margalho, lord of an old Portuguese family, from the king's court, became public.

For torturing his beautiful young wife until she went insane, and mistreating his infant child until it is feared the little one cannot live, the count was brought before the king and deprived of the high offices he held under the late King Carlos, and was ordered sent from the country in disgrace.

The count married the daughter of a rich Lisbon banker three years ago.

(Continued on page 3.)

BOY OF TENDER AGE A CRIMINAL

REARED IN CRIME AND TAKES READILY TO IT.

Little Fellow of Fourteen Years Captured and Confesses to Many Crimes—One of the Most Notorious Boys in the Southwest—Reared in Criminal World, Though He Was in Reform School for a While—Heavily Armed When Caught.

West Las Vegas, N. M., Aug. 14.—Confessing to four burglaries, one holdup, Joseph Emory, aged 14 years, was given a hearing in the justice court today, and bound over to await the action of the grand jury. Emory is one of the most notorious youths in the southwest, and was reared among criminals. His entire education was derived in the "under-world." At one time he was confined in a reform school, but won his release by good behavior. After leaving the reform school he soon resumed his criminal operations. When arrested he was heavily armed and was handcuffed,

but on his way to jail he slipped the cuffs off and attempted to escape by jumping from the train.

ANOTHER PIONEER GONE.

Mrs. Martha Walker Dies After a Lingering Illness.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Martha Walker, who died at the home of M. L. Hulse, Wednesday afternoon, was held at the Hulse home this morning at 11 o'clock, the Rev. O. H. King officiating. The interment took place at the Ackles cemetery, following the funeral. The deceased was one of Union county's pioneer ladies. She had been a resident of this county for the past 40 years. She was nearly 70 years of age at the time of her death, and had been a constant sufferer for some time. Besides a husband, J. S. Walker, she leaves a number of sons, daughters and grand children to mourn her loss.

Taft Mum Yet.

Hot Springs, Va., Aug. 14.—William H. Taft refuses to comment on Bryan's speech of acceptance. He says he will read all of it first.

Preparing His Speech.

Laurel, N. H., Aug. 14.—A shower of rain today kept many visitors from calling on W. J. Bryan. Mr. Bryan buried himself in his study preparing his speech.

BALLOON KILLS AND MAIMS MANY

AMERICAN'S BALLOON IN LONDON SPREADS DEATH.

Three Killed, Many Fatally or Seriously Wounded as Result of an Explosion to an American Balloon—Lighted Match Ignites Escaping Gas—Terrible Detonation That Shakes the Earth—Bodies of Victims Removed From the Ruins.

London, Aug. 14.—Two were killed outright, three fatally hurt, and a dozen frightfully burned, and scores almost suffocated at the Franco-British exhibition grounds, when a huge balloon belonging to Captain Lovelace, an American aeronaut, exploded with a terrific detonation. The body of Miss Blanche Hill, an English society lady, was taken from the ruins. The ground rocked and hundreds of windows were shattered. A gas explosion following a match ignited the gas, which resulted in the explosion.

A tremendous crowd had gathered to witness the ascension. The mon-

ter balloon was being inflated and the crowd had gathered close around it. The explosion shattered the framework of the structure used in inflating and the trappings were scattered all over the ground.

Most of the injured were blinded by gas. The panic which followed is indescribable. Women and children were trampled upon. Captain Lovelace was badly injured.

Miss Hill was missing for some time and it was hoped she had escaped, but when the ruins were cleared the body was found crushed to a pulp. A man's body was also taken from the same ruins. The inflation was nearly completed when the match was struck. Lovelace is almost insane with grief.

A Resident of New York.

New York, Aug. 4.—Captain Lovelace is a resident of New York, and went to London with Dr. Julian Thomas, the New York aeronaut, representing the Aero club of America.

Food for Fleet.

Washington, Aug. 14.—With a cargo consisting of 800,000 pounds of food, 100,000 pounds of potatoes and 100,000 pounds of canned meats and vegetables, the transport Buffalo will sail from San Francisco for Manila tomorrow. The provisions are intended for the Atlantic fleet. About January 1 the supply ship Celtic will cross the Atlantic with a similar cargo to meet the fleet at Port Said or Gibraltar.

Take a Little Soda For Your Stomach's Sake

This Advice Certainly Holds Good with Everyone
This Sort of Weather

Soda served at our fountain is more than a tasty thirst-quenching beverage. It is tonic and refreshing and every glass a strengthener for the stomach.

Our Soda is absolutely pure, strengthening, reviving, refreshing and healthful. It "lands direct" on the "dry" spot and quenches thirst as nothing else will, because we serve it at just the right temperature.

HILL'S DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON