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BIG IRRIGATION PLAN AFOOT.

Burnt River Valley Will Use Water to Aid Their Farmers.

One of the biggest irrigation ventures in the state of Oregon is being undertaken by the farmers of upper Burnt river valley. Warned by the unprecedented shortness of water during the irrigation season just closed and awakened to the fact that increased cultivated acreage means a constantly decreasing supply of water, the land owners of the Unity country have banded themselves together to create an irrigation district and to work out their own salvation in the problem of irrigation.

The scheme of the farmers is to utilize an immense natural reservoir site above the upper end of the valley which is formed on the Jake Hardman ranch, for the storage of the flood waters of the south fork of Burnt river. In addition to this the plan contemplates the banding together of all the established ditches of that end of the country to the end that a more general and economical distribution of the normal flow of the upper Burnt river and tributaries may be secured.

Meetings have been held for the

past several weeks and sentiment is generally favorable to the idea. Engineers have been engaged by the farmers and are now at work going over the reservoir site preparing a report as to the capacity of the same. Another meeting of the farmers has been called for an early date to consider more fully the question of creating an irrigation district and bonding the improved farms of the valley to raise funds with which to build the reservoir.

A potent factor is awakening the Burnt river people to this movement is the prospect that henceforth they may not expect as much water as formerly, since the Willow Rier Irrigation company has bought the old Malheur ditch and is preparing to take through it a large quantity of the waters of Burnt river for the purpose of irrigating the large holding of this company in Malheur county.

The reservoir idea now being worked out is not a new one. About a year ago Cato Johns, at that time of Sumpster, announced that he had secured an option on the Hardman ranch and that he had interested capitalists to take hold of the site. This deal however, fell through and the farmers con-

cluded their only salvation lies in mutual cooperation in working out the question of water supply.—Baker City Herald.

HOBO IS A LAWYER.

Defends Himself With Ability of an Expert Attorney.

A scene for the curious was that enacted in the circuit court room today when a poorly dressed, unkempt and friendless inmate of the county jail waved aside the offer of Judge Smith to have council appointed to defend him against the charge of burglary, and took the lawyer's table himself and plead in his own behalf, says the Baker City Herald.

As the news of this unusual occasion became noised about the city, attorneys, business men and women made their way to the court room and were amazed to see the skill and culture displayed by the ragged defendant as he cross-examined the witnesses of the state, later went on the stand in his own behalf and at the close of the afternoon made a well prepared and better delivered address for his delivery.

A. C. Lucas was the name given by the defendant, his address, Birmingham, Alabama, and his occupation that of an accountant. His father had been an attorney and it was in his home associations that he had acquired the knowledge of law and evidence that enabled him to take his place at the lawyer's table and match his own wits against those of the district attorney for his liberty.

The accusation Lucas was called upon to meet was that he had committed burglary on the night of September 5th, from the Baker City Implement Co. by stealing therefrom a number of knives and razors. The state's witnesses testified that Lucas had been seen near the premises before the burglary and the officers proved that they had found the stolen goods on the defendant when they arrested him near Haines.

Lucas appeared in the court room with the ragged apparel of a hobo, and that he admitted himself to be; but it was with the skill and poise of an educated professional man that he addressed the court, examined the witnesses and later testified and argued in his own behalf.

Local court officials do not recall within the history of the local court when a prisoner has refused counsel and has preferred to appear for himself.

The jury this afternoon returned a verdict of "Guilty as charged."

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