

THE OBSERVER

An Independent Newspaper.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1917

OREGON'S IRRIGATION PROBLEM

Oregon has a big irrigation problem and outside of the Oregon Irrigation Congress there is no body of men in Oregon who are doing much with it.

With the water available for watering three or four million acres of the state, it is strange that more attention is not paid to it.

The United States reclamation department is overwhelmed with requests for the investigation of new projects, and its funds are so depleted that it can hardly manage to take care of its existing projects.

The fact of the matter is that the present national and state reclamation systems were started by indirection. The national system was started from the proceeds of the sale of national public lands; the state systems by the donation to the states of arid land, provided that the states would reclaim it.

What is needed is a national reclamation system, whereby funds are raised by the sale of national bonds. This money should then be carefully expended upon the irrigation works, which should be built for all time. After the irrigation works are completed, the land should be made ready for settlement so that the settler would not have to spend three years in an uphill fight to clear his land of sage brush, build his houses and barns and raise a little crop. In Australia the government assists settlers in this preliminary work, and as a result the settler has a better chance to succeed. Here we say to the settler, "There's a piece of land. We'll bet you a dollar and a quarter an acre you can't make a go of it," and we go off blithely on our way and let the settler toil and sweat and go broke.

Too much help is bad. But if we want to get our western country settled up and producing, we can at least do as much for our own people as the Canadian government can to entice some of the best of our American farmers away, that is make it reasonably possible for settlers to win out when they take up government land. This means that they should not be overburdened with too heavy interest payments for the first five years and should not make any payments on the principal for several years.

The settlers should be aided with soil tests, marketing advice and should be helped in every possible way until community spirit and co-operative enterprises developed.

Oregon has no need to look to the federal government for very much aid in solving its irrigation problem, and since we have as a state not taken much interest in it, there will probably be nothing done.

The same old scandals will develop, land will be sold to settlers without water, and the net result of our system of irrigation management will be to discredit the state.

The solution is: First to educate the people of the state that it has an irrigation problem and to get the best minds of the state working on it.

Second: To support the national campaign for a federal reclamation system adequately financed.

Third: To start in a small way, under a state board, to finance meritorious irrigation districts, by the purchase of irrigation districts bonds by the state, and to supervise the construction of irrigation district works by state officers.

In this way we might make some progress toward solving this vexing problem.

Extraordinary Opportunity to Save Money on Quality Merchandise During This January Clearance Sale - Money Saving Prices Throughout the Entire Store



Long Cloth, 36-in. wide, yard 13 1-2c, 16 2-3c
Princess Nainsook, yard 13 1-2c, 15 3-4c, 18c, 20c
Mercerized Nainsook, 42-in wide, yard 13 1-2c to 22 1-2c
India Linen, Extra Quality, yard 13 1-2c to 16 2-3c

Dress Gingham, New Patterns, 1st quality, yard 11c to 16 2-3c
Outing Flannel, Extra Heavy, plain and fancy patterns, yd. 11c
Cretannes, a big selection, yd. 13 1-2c, 18c, 22c, 27c
Serims, yard 12 1-2c, 15c, 20c, 22c

64-in. Extra Fine Mercerized Damask, yard 54c
66-in. Loom Heavy Weight Damask, yard 67 1-2c
62-in. All Linen Satin Damask, 1st quality, yard 81c

Your choice of any Ladies' Suit or Coat in the store. Latest styles, newest fabrics. Your Choice 1-2 Price

Entire Stock Waists, Dresses, Skirts 1-4 Off

Turkish Towels, full bleached Turkish Towels, full bleached
Turkish Towels, full bleached Turkish Towels, full bleached
Turkish Towels, full bleached 16x34, each 10c
17x38, each 15c 18x38, each 18c
22x45, each 22c 23x45, each 45c
Turkish Towels, colored ends 20x42, each 45c
18-in. All Linen Crash Toweling, yard 16c, 18c, 20c
18-in. Cotton Huckaback Toweling, heavy weight, yard 11c
18-in. Unbleached Union Crash, extra quality, yard 11c

64-in. Extra Heavy All Linen Satin Damask, yard \$1.12 1-2c
72-in. Extra Fine, 1st quality, all linen damask, yard \$1.57 1-2c
Entire Stock Wool Dress Goods, Silks and Velvets—Reduced

Entire Stock Men's Suits and Overcoats, Reduced 25 per cent

Your Choice of any Boys' Suits or Overcoat 1-4 Off

Sheep-Lined Coats, Mackinaws, Malone Pants 1-4 Off



ONE CAUSE OF FAILURE

Congressman McArthur is to be commended for making a fight for the national guardsmen. Congress appropriated four millions of dollars to aid the families of dependent guardsmen but the war department was so slow that the wives and babies almost starved before they got any help and then as a rule they got it from private charity. No wonder the boys at the front wanted to come home. If we ever have a real war, we will have to devise some scheme of feeding the women and children left behind by the boys who go to the front to fight their country's battles.

"PARLOUS" TIMES

What a contentious lot we are, how hard to get along with. Here is Villa on a rampage, Allies refusing peace, Lawson fussing about an alleged leak from Washington to Wail street, Colonel Roosevelt opening his adjective box, a row in the senate over the endorsement of President Wilson's peace note, Carranza refusing to do neighborly, Colonel House butting in on the world peace movement, Senator Lodge denouncing foreign entanglements, Senator J. Ham Lewis unslinging his 42-centimeter voice against money madness, Representative Wood repeating hearsay and scandal about Secretary Tully. Truly these are "parlous" times.

STATE TREASURER KAY.

State Treasurer Kay has aroused the opposition of the farmers by delaying the operation of the state rural credits amendment.

At Corvallis the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, The people, on November 7, 1916, amended the constitution of the state of Oregon providing for a system of rural credits, and

"Whereas, The state land board was designated to carry into effect the provisions of said amendment, and

"Whereas, There are now on hand numerous applications for loans under the provisions of this amendment, and

"Whereas, The state land board up to the present time has made no arrangements for taking care of such loans, nor for the sale of bonds as provided in said amendment, to the detriment and financial loss of the whole people of the state of Oregon; therefore be it

"Resolved, by a conference called for the purpose of considering the question of rural legislation at Corvallis, this, the third day of January, 1917, that we urge that the state land board should not delay longer the putting into effect of this amendment."

State Treasurer Kay's explanation should be heard before condemning him for his stand in this matter.

RAILROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

President E. E. Calvin has announced that the Union Pacific will spend \$14,180,000 on improvements this year.

Of this amount \$4,000,000 will go to complete the double track in Wyoming, making the road a double track road throughout. Eight hundred thousand dollars will be spent on a new bridge on the St. Joseph & Grand

Island near St. Joseph, Mo.; \$600,000 at the Omaha shops and terminals; about \$200,000 at Grand Island for new power house, coaling station and terminal improvements and the remainder will be distributed through the various divisions for terminal and motive power improvements.

This is good news. We hope that some of this money will be spent at La Grande.

CHANCE FOR LA GRANDE BOYS.

There is a chance for two bright La Grande boys to go to West Point. The examination will be held here February 1 at the postoffice.

The examination, which will be the same in every city, will be written in form, and will embrace the following subjects: Algebra, English composition and English literature, geography, plane geometry, history, and English grammar.

Usually there is but one vacancy at a time for each district at West Point. The increase in number of cadets making two at this time furnishes to the boys of Eastern Oregon the best opportunity to get in the Academy ever offered to them, with several weeks in which to prepare. Any one thinking of entering the contest can get full information about the Military Academy and sample questions by writing to Congressman N. J. Sinnott, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Two-Sided Shield

A friend comes to me and says: I don't believe in all this socialized religion, and institutional churches. Christ emphasized the individual spiritually, the community will take care of itself.

Another one says: "This individualism in your churches, this doctrinal business, prayers and singing hymns, does not appeal to me. Christianity should be a service. Jesus went about doing good. The community, not the individual, is the thing for religion."

Thus we have two distinct and different views as to what Christianity should be and do, one aimed at the individual, the other at society.

This is what we want; not the lonely individual staying in the garden amongst his flowers of spirituality and prayers, but taking his leaves of healing and covering the nations with them. The community gives the field and the meaning to our spiritual powers. The life of mercantile traffic gets overgrown with indifference; it lacks the "twelve manner of fruits" which the individual brings out of his quiet meditation to reanimate it. He who points his prayer-life, not inward to his own troubled heart, but outward to the healing of the town and the nation, is the Christian.—The Christian Herald.

Patriotism at Five Per Cent

To be sure, economy and giving up posters, and extravagant dress is urged every where on posters; but this can accomplish little. Some revolutionary method

32 YEARS IN LA GRANDE

KNABE
IVERS & POND
POOLE
BUSH & GERTS
SCHUMANN
SCHULZ
HADDORFF
BENNETT

WE ARE NOT TRYING TO BORE A BIG HOLE WITH A SMALL AUGER. HOWEVER, WE ARE HERE WITH THE GOODS. THE BEST LINE OF PIANOS REPRESENTED BY ANY ONE FIRM. THIS IS WHY WE STAY WHILE OTHERS COME AND GO.

WE INVITE COMPARISON WITH ANY LINE FOR PRICES AND QUALITIES.

This is what appeals to the customer making a life-time purchase. Buy of the dealer that is here to stay. Others claim to stay, do they? Call and examine goods, find fresh goods from the different factories, thus eliminating chances of being loaded up with goods that would discredit any house.

RICHEY PIANO HOUSE

STILL HERE TO FACE CUSTOMERS



KNABE
IVERS & POND
POOLE
BUSH & GERTS
SCHUMANN
SCHULZ
HADDORFF
BENNETT

SEVERAL OTHERS

We are no annex to any Portland house, thus you do not have to contribute to outside houses, nor do you have to accept of culls from other towns, or worked-over second-hand pianos. We do not open up and close out so often, that we do not know whether we are opening up or closing out.

WE INVITE COMPARISON WITH ANY LINE FOR PRICES AND QUALITIES.

This is what appeals to the customer making a life-time purchase. Buy of the dealer that is here to stay. Others claim to stay, do they? Call and examine goods, find fresh goods from the different factories, thus eliminating chances of being loaded up with goods that would discredit any house.

OPPOSITE SOMMER HOUSE

Favor Bulk Shipments.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Jr., Jan. 6.—(Special)—A decided impetus was added to the movement for the general adoption of the bulk system of handling grain throughout the Northwest yesterday, when resolutions were unanimously adopted by those in attendance at the Northwest grain convention being held at the Oregon Agricultural College this week, declaring that hereafter in all grain transactions all quotations of wheat prices in the Northwest shall be considered to be for bulk grain unless distinctly specified otherwise.

Realizing that rules relating to grain trading are generally formulated by merchants' exchanges and boards of trade, the resolutions committee distinctly declared that the producer has an equal authority to establish rules such as these.

Batholomew Is Convicted.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 6.—(Special)—Edward Batholomew was convicted of the murder of his friend, John Lind, yesterday, by the failure of the fabric of his manufactured story of the slaying to fit circumstances surrounding the crime.

He did not take the stand in his own

defense, his attorney waived argument, and the case went to the jury at noon. The first ballot taken was unanimous for conviction. The jury's deliberations covered two hours. Life imprisonment will be the sentence pronounced by Circuit Judge Davis Monday morning.

Smell of the Sea.

I am tired of streets and pavement, Crowds and lights, and smoky inns And the smileless stares of strangers, For my heart is in the winds.

There's a sweetness in the sea breeze That is blowing in to me, There's a Gypsy in my thinking That has sent my thoughts to sea.

And those white gulls in the harbor With their white wings drooping low Are the heralds of the harbors Where my heart has bid me go. —Percy Boatman, U. of O.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—(United Press)—Now is the winter of the taxicab's discontent. Recently imposed regulations provide a fine of \$15 for persons using taxies for pleasure and that includes theater trips, the driver's old-time source of his revenue.

SEE OUR WINDOW

January 8th

ALL ONE PRICE COATS

\$4.75

Jones & Rabone