

# FARM IRRIGATED LANDS

## —Where Crop Returns Are Three Fold— The Great MALHEUR COUNTY IRRIGATED Lands Are Just Now Being Settled

### The Warmsprings Project, Watering 30,000 Acres of the Best Land with a Surplus of Water to Sell, Is the Ideal Spot for Profitable Farming and Stock Raising

#### The Value of Irrigation From the Standpoint of Crop Production.

M. G. Hope, a pioneer farmer and business man of Malheur Valley, now secretary of the Warmsprings district, gives the following conservative observations and figures based on carefully compiled data.

I am glad to state some of the benefits which will come with the completion of the Warmsprings Irrigation Project now under construction. Under the present plans this project will serve about 30,000 acres of highly productive lands. In this valley, at present, there are only about 12,000 acres actually in cultivation and none of this land has to exceed a two-thirds water right. The Warmsprings system will give to this land the necessary one-third or full water right and will also reclaim the remaining 18,000 acres in the district which is now arid. There is no better land to be found in the inter-mountain country and none that will produce more abundantly than the land of the Warmsprings Irrigation Project. I have compiled some figures to show what we can reasonably expect with the completion of the Warmsprings system. My calculations are ultra-conservative and I believe will be interesting. Of the present 12,000 acres now under cultivation within this district which we commonly designate "wet lands" probably one-third or 4,000 acres are producing alfalfa. With the full water right these lands can be made to yield at least two tons per acre more than is now harvested under present water conditions. Therefore the present wet lands will at least produce 8000 tons of alfalfa more each year which estimated at \$19 per ton will enrich the present farmers \$380,000 annually. For the balance of lands now irrigated let us make wheat the basis of our calculations as it is easily figured and more readily understood although, to be sure, there are other crops that can be raised on this land that will yield larger returns. Now the remaining 8000 acres can be made to harvest one third more wheat or, say, ten bushels per acre in excess of the present yield. Estimating this at \$1.25 per bushel there will be added to the income of our present farmers \$100,000 each year. These two items are large in themselves, but they constitute only a small portion of the actual benefits to be derived to the district as a whole as we have thus far only considered the present wet lands. We have yet to consider the remaining 18,000 acres which are now totally nonproductive. Let us assume that 10,000 acres of the new lands will soon be

raising alfalfa and will produce eight tons from each acre per year. This means 80,000 tons which if estimated at \$19 per ton shows an annual hay crop of \$1,520,000 for the farmers of the new lands. Now let us suppose the balance of 8000 acres will yield forty bushels of wheat per acre or a total of 320,000 bushels, which, if estimated at \$1.25 per bushel produces \$400,000 which will be placed in the pockets of the farmers. Therefore from the above observations we can draw the following conclusions:

Increased alfalfa crop, old land	\$ 80,000.00
Increased wheat crop, old lands	100,000.00
Alfalfa crop from new land	800,000.00
Wheat crop from new land	400,000.00
Total	\$1,580,000.00

You will note from the above I have figured prices on a very conservative basis and also have not even touched on the increased production of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, fowls of all kinds, etc., which, of course will amount to a great many thousands of dollars each year. Safely therefore the income to the farmers of the Warmsprings Irrigation District may be reckoned at about \$2,000,000 annually, as follows:

Value present alfalfa crop	\$ 210,000.00
1000 acres x 5 tons, @ \$19	95,000.00
Value present wheat crop	200,000.00
8000 acres x 30 bu., @ \$1.25	300,000.00
Value of increased wheat and alfalfa crops	1,280,000.00
Value of other farm produce including poultry, dairying, live stock, fruit and vegetables, averaged at \$10 per acre	200,000.00
Total	\$2,225,000.00

Note: Alfalfa is now selling at from \$12 to \$15 and wheat is worth \$2.00 per bushel.

With the project finished we can also look for the early coming of factories, mills and industries of all kinds and no doubt the populations of our cities and towns will increase many times.

#### 4 1/2 Bu. Wheat—4 Tons Alfalfa

If 40 acres will produce this without summer water, what will a full water right make possible. Chamber of Commerce, Vale, Oregon. I have 40 acres of land adjoining the city limits of Vale, Oregon. 7 acres of which are taken up with buildings, corrals, garden etc. In the year of 1918 from 11 acres I threshed 458 bushels of wheat that I am now selling for 2 1/2 cents per lb. From the remaining 23 acres of ground I cut 125 tons of alfalfa. 26 tons I kept to feed my cows and horses and the other 109 tons I sold for \$14.00 per ton measured in the stack. I had 1 had no water for irrigation after the 1st day of June except what I pumped for the garden of about 2 acres. L. J. RADLEY.

#### New Land Produces

The following letter is from the president of the Warmsprings Irrigation District Board of Directors and shows the productiveness of the new lands in the Malheur Valley.

Chamber of Commerce, Vale, Oregon, March 22, 1919: The past two years on a 16 acre field of new ground 5 miles east of Vale I have thrashed an average of 75 bushels of barley to the acre. On another field the first crop after scraping off the sage brush yielded 53 bushels of blue stem wheat. This is one of the greatest advantages of farming new land in this valley, for here it is not necessary to turn under a first grass crop to get the land producing. REX MARQUIS.

#### Alfalfa and Clover

Commercial Club, Ontario, Oregon: I have ten acres of alfalfa 1 1/2 miles west of Ontario, which produced in 1918 seventy-three and sixty-nine hundredths tons of fine alfalfa hay which sold at fifteen dollars a ton making a total of \$1105.35.

The first cutting of hay on a three-acre piece of clover brought \$195.00 and the seed crop made \$215.00 and the threshed hay from the seed made \$50.00. The three acres making a total of \$370.00 for one year besides pasturing ten head of cattle one month in the fall.

I also raised nine ton of good potatoes off one acre of ground which sold for \$29.00 per ton. C. E. SECROY.

#### Sheep and Cattle

There are at least 35,000 cattle in Malheur county, about 200,000 sheep, and something over 10,000 horses and mules. Malheur county has been the banner sheep county of the United States for many years and one of the leading cattle producing counties taking second place only to its neighbor, Harney county. Five million acres government range land in this and even a larger amount in Harney county make a vast empire that God made especially for the stockmen. These lands are naturally adapted for pasture and for grasses and will maintain even larger numbers of cattle, sheep and other livestock when it becomes necessary to properly care for them. The special value of the range to the irrigator farmer is that it is a perpetual guarantee of a ready market for his hay and grain and a large factor for prosperity in the community at large.

Relation of Livestock to Farming. In writing of the possibilities of Malheur county I will start with the

undisputable statement that the most prosperous counties on the face of the earth are those combining agricultural and live stock productions. We have seen fads and fashions change until the high tide of progress has left its shores strewn with the wreckage of outgrown and discarded industry, while primary producing sections have weathered the ages.

After all the lands of Malheur county are reclaimed that is possible under any irrigation project, there will remain five million acres of pasture lands. From these vast areas thousands of cattle and sheep are annually produced, which has in the past represented the larger portion of our earning capacity.

We have been short on agricultural products and top heavy with livestock, therefore, our annual increase has gone from us in an immature condition to be finished in other states, that were top heavy in agricultural products.

We are constructing the Warmsprings project to raise the agricultural production until the two come nearer to a balance.

With the watering of an empire of new land that in productivity seems to be unlimited, surrounded with a pasture that for years has produced the livestock to consume the surplus and make wealthy several of the western states; with a climate ideal for feeding; the future of Malheur county is safely assured. GEO. W. MCKNIGHT, President Malheur County Woolgrowers

Malheur county's standing as compared with other counties of the state gives us first in corn, alfalfa, sheep, wool, honey; second in area, cattle, forage; high in fruit, grain and all staple products.

#### Soil and Lay of the Land

The soils of the district are sedimentary in character. The prevailing texture is a fine sandy loam, consisting of volcanic ash and silt with basalt and granite content which is very rich with good moisture retaining power. Drainage may be necessary in some parts of the valley for the production of the best crops but for the most part the river meandering thru the center of the district furnishes a most productive and natural drainage channel.

The land is generally level with a good slope toward the river. Gently sloping bench lands adjoin the valley except for the Vale and Malheur Buttes. The Warmsprings district includes practically all of the valley proper which extends about twenty-eight miles from the head of the

valley twelve miles west of Vale to Ontario and varies from two to five miles in width.

#### Alfalfa

Malheur county ranks first in alfalfa production in Oregon; it has been the principal crop in the Malheur and Snake valleys for many years. Alfalfa leads all other forage plants for feeding purposes, grows continually from March to November and produces from eight to ten tons per acre with full irrigation. It does a double duty as it also permeates the soil with nitrogen, thus increasing the fertility. A plowed under field of alfalfa in Malheur county will produce a fifty bushel wheat crop or a hundred bushel corn yield.

#### Grain

Malheur county produces more corn than any other county in the state and ranks high as a successful producer of all the small grains. With proper crop rotation and irrigation, wheat will produce 40 bushels to the acre while corn with proper care will average over 75 bushels. In the higher hill lands of the county considerable grain is raised by dry farming methods yielding about half as much as the irrigated lands.

#### Fruit

While we represent the Warmsprings project as a hay and grain producing region there is no disputing the fact of its adaptability to the growing of fruits of all varieties known in the temperate climates. A few miles up the Willow Creek Valley from Vale is the famous Brogan section where there has been no fruit failure since it was changed from a sagebrush flat. Extending east from Ontario to Nyssa and on up the Snake river is one of the largest commercially producing fruit sections of the Northwest, hundreds of carloads being shipped annually to all parts of the earth. The Malheur valley lands raise good crops of watermelons, cantaloupes, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, etc. In the larger varieties, the apple, peach, and prunes vie for supremacy all yielding faithfully excellent crops. Cherries, apricots and pears also do equally well.

#### Vegetables

Gardens for both domestic and commercial purposes are exceedingly productive and profitable and the Snake river valley of which the Malheur is a part is becoming known as the world's greatest producing center. Potatoes, onions, pumpkins, sweet corn, spring vegetables and root varieties respond to but little care and attention. One farmer writes that he produced sixteen tons

of onions on one acre while twelve ton potato yields are not uncommon and beans are grown quite extensively and yield abundantly.

#### Dairying

Dairying is a rapidly increasing industry of Malheur county and one that is proving exceedingly profitable besides giving the farmer a monthly pay check. The prolific yields of such crops as corn, alfalfa, beets, carrots and grain assure an abundant supply and a splendid variety for the cow's feed. Good prices are paid by northwest creameries for butterfat and there is always a ready demand for home made butter. In the last few years a rapid improvement of dairy stock has been underway there being several registered herds of Holsteins and Jersey dairy cows in the valley at present.

#### Bees and Honey

Honey production is unusually profitable in the Malheur Valley on account of the ideal climate and the prevalence of alfalfa, clover and fruit blossoms. The bees thrive exceptionally well, increase rapidly and have a long feeding season which produces the clear, white honey so much sought after in eastern and foreign markets. Each colony will average around ninety pounds of honey annually; some stands producing as high as one hundred and fifty pounds.

#### Poultry and Hogs

Additional useful revenues can be gathered by the farmer in the selling of poultry and pork products. Chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese thrive well and find ready markets, buyers visiting this section from several of the large coast cities. A flock of fowls and a bunch of hogs can be kept on a Malheur Valley farm with little or no direct expense, as waste, alfalfa pasture and fruit droppings will maintain them. However, a number of people are specializing in poultry or hog raising and are making an enviable financial success, many carloads being shipped out each year. On a well-managed farm a few hogs will pay off the water charges and the cows and chickens make the family living while the grain and alfalfa should increase the bank account or buy luxuries and build improvements.

70 Acres Raised \$6,000 in Alfalfa. Chamber of Commerce, Vale, Oregon: I beg to state that on seventy acres of my ranch located about five miles south of Vale in Malheur Valley, I raised four hundred tons of alfalfa with one irrigation. This hay was sold by me for fifteen dollars per ton.

Yours very truly, TRENT JOHNSON, February 16, 1919.

## A Few Exceptional Bargains in Good Land

No. 1. 280 acres all fenced, and cross fenced, 225 acres under the ditch. Good soil. 165 acres in cultivation. Abundance of water for irrigation. Seeded to grain and alfalfa, 165 acres. The 225 acres can all be farmed. The river runs thru the place. Fine pasture on the river. Has good 4-room house, cellar, good well water, stable, granary and blacksmith shop, chicken house and other out buildings. Fine shade all around the house. Orchard. This is one of the finest stock and dairy farms in the valley. This land will produce 5 to 7 tons of alfalfa and 25 to 65 bushels of wheat per acre. Vegetables and melons, fine potato land. Sudan and blue grass, sorghum cane. Located 4 miles from Vale on county road. R. F. D. and telephone. Price \$125.00 per acre and a good reasonable cash payment down and good terms on remainder at 7%.

No. 2. 160 acres all fenced and cross fenced. 150 acres ready to crop.

All level and good soil. 45 acres in alfalfa. Balance seeded to grain. Rented (can give possession this fall). Abundance of water for irrigation. Has one 4-room house and a 1-room house, good well water in kitchen, stable, granary and other outbuildings. Good shade all round houses, orchard. Located 7 miles from Vale on state highway, gravelled. One mile to good school, one mile to R. R. siding. There are wood and posts that can be gotten out of the large standing trees to last 5 years. Price \$100.00 per acre and a reasonable payment down and good terms on remainder at 7% interest.

No. 3. 160 acres all fenced and cross fenced, all in cultivation, the best of soil. Good for 5 to 9 tons of alfalfa per acre and 50 to 65 bushels of wheat. Fine corn land that will produce a heavy crop from 60 to 90 bushels per acre. Fine vegetable and melon and fruit land. Abundance of water for irrigation under the Warmsprings project. Has 2 1/2 house, other outbuildings, good

well water. Located 4 miles from Vale on state highway, gravelled. Price \$25,000 and \$5,000 cash will handle it. Terms to suit on remainder at 7% interest.

No. 4. 160 acres all fenced and cross fenced. Good soil. Level. All under irrigation. Warmsprings water. 100 acres in alfalfa balance in grain and garden, and building grounds. Abundance of water, has good 4-room house, stable and other out buildings. Good well water. Located 2 miles from Vale on county road. R. F. D. Price \$25,000 and \$5,000 cash will handle it. Good terms on remainder.

No. 5. 320 acres all fenced and cross fenced, 250 acres in cultivation, most all level fine soil. Sandy loam Good alfalfa and grain land. Corn and all kinds of vegetables. Abundance of water for irrigation. This is a good stock and dairy farm, joining good outside range. Good Spring and Fall range. Has small well house, just fair buildings. Good

well water. Located 8 miles from Vale on county road. R. F. D. Price \$125.00 per acre. This is a good buy. A reasonable cash payment down and good terms on the remainder at 7% interest.

No. 6. 160 acres all fenced and cross fenced. 70 acres under the ditch. Balance on the hill seeded to alfalfa and grain. Free water for irrigation—just the upkeep of the ditch. Each one keeps up his ditch. He has or owns a one-fifth interest in the ditch. This is a very rich creek bottom soil. Has good well-built 5-room house, 2 cellars, good well water, stable, blacksmith shop, and other out buildings, good family orchard, shade all around the house. All farm machinery and tools go with the place. Price \$8,500; half cash, good terms on remainder at 7% interest. Located 11 miles from Vale on county road. Good school close.

No. 7. 150 acres all fenced, and cross fenced. All level land and good soil. Rich creek bottom land, the very

best in the country. All in cultivation, being cropped to grain this season. Abundance of water for irrigation from the Warmsprings Project. This is fine alfalfa, grain, corn, blue grass, sudan grass, vegetable and melon land. Has small house and other out buildings. Located 2 1/2 miles from Vale on John Day highway, gravelled. This can be cut up in 40 and 80 acre tracts, all to face the road. Price \$25,000 and \$5,000 cash will handle it. Terms to suit on remainder at 8% interest.

No. 8. 160 acres all fenced and cross fenced, all in cultivation except 10 acres. All level and good soil. 50 acres in alfalfa, balance in grain and 20 acres of blue grass pasture that rents for \$800 each season. Abundance of water for irrigation. Has small dwelling house, stable, granary and other out buildings. The main dwelling burned down. Deep well of soft water, shade and a few fruit trees. Located 2 1/2 miles from Vale and six miles from Ontario, Ore., on county road. R.

F. D. One and one half mile to school. Price \$125.00 per acre and will give good terms on part of it.

No. 9. 160 acres most all fenced, 100 acres under ditch. Fine soil, sandy loam, 30 acres in cultivation. Abundance of water for irrigation. Remainder of the land is on the hill. Fine pasture. This is good corn and potato land. Vegetables and melons. Most of this is bench land. Located 4 miles from Vale on county road. R. F. D. Has small house; no other improvements in the way of buildings. Price \$6,000 and \$2,500 will handle it and terms to suit on remainder at 7%.

No. 10. 160 acres all fenced. Raw land with the brush on it. All level and good soil. Creek runs through the place. Abundance of water for irrigation. Part of this land has been cleared of the brush. Has small shack, no other buildings. Located a mile and a half from Vale. Price \$62.50 per acre and a reasonable cash payment down and long time on the remainder at 7%.

Consult these La Grande Real Estate Dealers for further information regarding these lands

**C. J. BLACK & CO.**      **SECURITY LAND & SAVINGS CO.**      **GEORGE H. CURREY**  
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