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The Ontario Argus.

Representative Newspaper of Malheur County.

BOOST
For the Malheur Project.

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"I CAME HERE TO LISTEN, AND NOT TO TALK."

But When Secretary of the Interior Ballinger Departed He Surely Knew How This Section Stands on Government Irrigation First, Last and All the Time.

The meeting at Ontario Friday afternoon attended by Secretary of the Interior Ballinger was the largest assemblage ever gathered together in Malheur county, there being fully 2000 people seated in the city park which was gaily decorated with flags, bunting and large banners. Secretary Ballinger was given an ovation as he ascended the platform erected for this meeting. He made a brief speech, saying he came to listen, not to talk.

Hon. Dalton Biggs acted as chairman of the monster meeting, and after a selection by the Ontario and Vale bands, Mr. Biggs stated that in October of last year the movement for the reclamation of the Malheur project was taken up. A delegation was sent to Washington, D. C., to urge the government to take up the project. In fulfillment of the promise of Secretary Ballinger to come to Ontario, he is here today to hear expressions of the people as to this project. On behalf of Malheur county I now welcome you, Mr. Secretary of the Interior.

Secretary Ballinger then said: I have come here today pursuant to the orders of the president, who is likewise interested in the reclamation of the arid west. The president told me to find out what is being done and what ought to be done for the betterment of the people. I see exemplified here a spirit of progress that makes American institutions grow anywhere in this great west. (Cheers.)

I told your committee I was coming here to listen and not to talk. I wish to assure you the government is interested in everything that interests the people. It is the purpose of the government to aid you as far as possible. The government wants to extend no favoritism anywhere. I want to see if the government can properly develop this valley. If the government does not develop this valley, it is because the government has not at present got the necessary finances. It is not the purpose of the government to interfere with private enterprise, on the other hand, the government will develop where private enterprise cannot enter. (Cheers.)

Walter Griffiths of Caldwell said: You've heard me express my views, you know what they are. I have not changed my views one bit. I believe you will develop the resources of this valley by your own efforts in better shape than any one else can. Last fall you took up the Malheur project. You signed petitions, and I'm satisfied those petitions had their effect in having Secretary Ballinger here today. We believe this project will be successful under government supervision. We want to induce the secretary to believe this is the best and only way of developing this great valley.

The principal address of the afternoon was made by Col. C. E. S. Wood, who said in part: Mr. Secretary, this is your meeting. I am here as a representative for the 25,000 acres under this irrigation project owned by the Cascade Military Road Grant.

We feel that the Malheur project is a child of the reclamation service, that there is a moral obligation due this project by the reclamation department.

This project was selected by the reclamation service as the choice project for development, and then dropped it.

This reclamation project was abandoned several years ago. Some people blamed the company I represent for the abandonment of this project.

Colonel Woods submitted evidence proving that the abandonment of this project was not due to the company he represents.

We stand here today encouraged in the belief if we stood solid for the reclamation of this land, the government would aid us, said the speaker. We all have unbounded confidence in



HON. R. A. BALLINGER.
Secretary of the Department
of the Interior.

Secretary Ballinger. He is a man who appreciates what moral obligation is and what justice is.

The situation here is one of extreme desire in favor of government irrigation. The private parties trying to enter this project, in June could not offer me any specific information as to the contract, etc. These private parties are now making a sliding scale on water rights. I do not like the fact of a sliding scale. No proper reclamation project should be under a sliding scale. Every rancher should have water at the same rate every other rancher has it.

I fear also that the contract made by private capital does not give the ranchers a complete knowledge of the exact amount of water each acre is to receive per year.

I made 13 criticisms to the contract made by private capital. If the government project was not here and there never was any hope of government reclamation here, I would not touch the present contract made by the private parties.

We believe when the secretary gets through with his investigation, he is going to make an effort to have the government carry through this project.

We believe we can ourselves complete this project if the government fails to do so. This project is as large as a small state and every acre awaits its settlement. We believe three trans-continental railroads will eventually cross this Malheur project.

Walter S. Martin of San Francisco, president of the Eastern Oregon Land company, with 15,000 acres in this project, said: We are willing to enter all our lands in this project under the government reclamation peti-

tion. We are afraid of the private irrigation enterprise in this project, because of the sliding scale of prices for water made by them. If the government cannot complete this project, we believe the land owners themselves can complete it. We prefer and want government irrigation of the lands we are concerned in.

J. M. Joseph, who owns 640 acres in the Dead Ox Flat, said: My neighbors and myself are all in favor of government irrigation. We are afraid of the private promoters. Many ranchers are living in destitution and are willing to continue thus to live until the government irrigates their land. They nor I will not sign their land to private parties. Privata capi I want too much for water.

Chairman Biggs called for a representative of the private capitalists to address the secretary, but none responded at the afternoon meeting.

C. W. Mallett of Ontario, who owns 1000 acres, said: We stand almost as a unit in favor of government irrigation. This valley is marvelously rich. We can produce here seven tons of alfalfa per acre per year.

George McKnight, of Vale, said: The settlers here propose to stay with the government until the government drops us.

H. C. Cleveland of Willow Creek, who he owns 320 acres, said: Out of 50,000 acres in Willow Creek, there are only 320 acres signed up with the high line project.

Adjournment was taken at 8:50 to 8 p. m., when Secretary Ballinger delivered an address, as did also A. P. Davis, chief engineer of the reclamation service, who is traveling with Secretary Ballinger.

The evening meeting at 8 o'clock was opened by several pretty selections by the Ontario-Vale band.

Several land owners then gave brief addresses. H. L. Poorman, who owns 320 acres on Dead Ox Flat, said there are 30,000 acres on Dead Ox Flat and 15,000 acres on the lower flat. The upper land in the Dead Ox is said to be the finest in the country. The soil is 40 feet deep. We on Dead Ox Flat are all in favor of government irrigation.

H. E. Carter of near Vale, who owns 160 acres, said: I don't want a high line ditch in mine. I consider it a graft. I want the government now. I represent 500 people in the same condition as myself.

Perry Hayden of Dead Ox Flat said he rode horseback over 20 miles of this desert seven years ago when he saw only two cayuses and three jackrabbits. Now there are many settlers in this area and 95 per cent of them are for government irrigation.

Attorney Geo. W. Hayes of Vale, and a land-owner, said: We ask the secretary to help us so far as in his power lies.

B. F. Meredith, a land owner, said I am glad that I am one of the very few who have given consent to the high line ditch company. I frankly admit that most of my neighbors are in favor of the government, and I am too now.

Edward Dayaran of Dead Ox Flat said his neighbors without

exception were in favor of government irrigation for three reasons: First, the government will put in a first class project; second, government payments are easier; third, the government will not graft and will furnish it at cost. We consider the high line ditch company as grafters. He stated to the secretary that he thought the government was in duty bound to build the project, and if the secretary would give his consent the name of Richard A. Ballinger would be revered by our children and our children's children for ages to come. The old war-horse of the Flat was given an ovation at the conclusion of his speech.

Chief Engineer A. P. Davis of the reclamation service said in part:

I was here 15 years ago, eight years afterward the reclamation act was passed. Many investigations were made in Oregon since then.

I wish to emphasize that the reclamation service places the power in one officer, and that officer is the secretary of the interior. When you say something has been promised in reclamation matters, you must prove the promise was made by the secretary of the interior. He is the only one who can make a promise in reclamation matters.

The reclamation service has made some mistakes, it is true. The state of Oregon has not many feasible irrigation projects because of the physical difficulties of the projects. All any reclamation officer can do is to get facts and figures pertaining to irrigation projects.

Even the president cannot change any decision the secretary of the interior makes.

The secretary cannot build projects without money. It is far more expensive to build irrigation works now than five years ago. The cost of irrigation projects is more now because everything entering into the building of projects is higher than five years ago.

Money expended by the government for irrigation must be returned to the government. If a project costs more than the estimates first made, then the settlers must pay the difference. I want you to remember this.

Distribution of funds, large ownership of lands, sure water rights, proper arrangements for right-of-way, all these must be considered in the matter of distribution of funds.

There are a dozen projects in Central Oregon. All must be considered by the department of the interior as well as this. There is no desire on the part of the interior department to interfere with private irrigation projects. No person can promise anything in irrigation matters but the secretary of the interior, and his signature should be secured to make any promises binding.

Secretary Ballinger was the last speaker of the evening and said in his closing remarks:

"As I said before, I came here to listen and not to talk. I appreciate how much you are interested to have the government build this project. I have promised to consider this project deliberately and fairly, and that is all I can promise you tonight."

This project will cost completed about \$5,000,000. The law says the secretary must first determine the feasibility of every irrigation project. Then the law says the secretary may proceed to let contracts for the project, provided there are funds in the reclamation department of the U. S. for this purpose. While I might ever so much want to favor any project, yet when the law places a barrier before me, I must stop.

"My sympathies are with you. The government will consider this project without any regard to private capital. If I find it impossible to carry on this project I want you to be fair and patient with me, as I am fair with you."

Secretary Ballinger was taken on an automobile trip Saturday morning over a considerable portion of the project, and over the Dead Ox Flat to Weiser.

It is understood that in case the government finds it impossible to build the Malheur project because of a lack of funds, that the land-owners in the project will propose to assist the government in building the project. The government under this latest plan will be asked to build the necessary reservoirs

Continued on Fourth Page.

Investigate Oil Lands.

Representative Ellis has asked the director of the geological survey to make an investigation of the oil fields of Eastern Oregon to determine the extent of the oil deposits and the commercial value of the oil. He found the survey had never studied the oil deposits of Malheur county. The director said his oil expert is now in Colorado, but when he concludes his work there in the late summer he will be sent to Oregon to make a preliminary investigation, to be followed by detailed study later.

Nearly Fatal Accident

While returning home from the Gramme ranch, and descending King hill, Judge Clement, Mrs. Boyd and son Jimmy, had a narrow escape from death. The horse the judge was driving took fright at an auto and dashed into a barbed-wire fence throwing Mr. Clement heavily against a post, severely injuring his chest. Mrs. Boyd's right hand was lacerated and little Jimmy was bruised about the face.

Farmers' Institute.

The Farmers' Institute, postponed from July 23 will be held in the opera house tomorrow. Prof. Conklin will preside, and the program, recently published in the Argus will be rendered. Three of the prominent instructors of the Oregon Agricultural College will address the meeting—Messrs. Withycombe, Kerr and Lewis. An instructive meeting is promised.

FOR SALE

Seven Kentucky-bred Jacks, standing 15 to 16 hands high; among the largest and best ever shipped to this country. BUY NOW, so that your purchase will become acquainted and accustomed to his home and acclimated for next spring service. R. D. REDMAN, Ontario, Oregon.

Local News.

Wilson-Duffy Drug Co. All kinds of drugs.

Mrs. J. H. Farley left Sunday for Seattle to visit the fair.

S. W. Hillhouse, an old friend of the Argus man, is visiting in the city.

W. H. Brooke is home from an extended legal trip to Harney county.

Born—In this city, to the wife of Frank Brittingham, a daughter.

Attorney Leovel A. Webster, county judge of Multnomah county, was in the city during the week.

G. W. Long returned Wednesday from an extended business visit to Portland and an outing at the Seattle fair.

O. E. Blair, proprietor of the City Meat Market, was taken to Boise on Tuesday. He is suffering from heart failure.

A. N. Soliss left for Portland on Sunday to join his wife, and they will visit the Seattle fair before returning home.

Dr. J. Prinzing and wife and F. B. Ball and wife have arrived home from the Seattle fair and report having an enjoyable time.

Thos. Turnbull, the prominent sheepman, has purchased the R. D. Greer ranch on the Owyhee. Consideration, \$12,700.

C. E. Larson, cashier of the Marathon, Iowa, National Bank, is a guest of O. G. Leuhrs. The gentleman is looking over this section with a view of investment.

Rev. G. W. Morrison will preach at the Mallett school house next Sabbath afternoon, after Sabbath school. Topic, "The Probability of a Revelation from God."

Dalton Biggs received a dispatch from Odessa, Mo., Saturday, that his father was critically ill and departed for the old home the same evening. Later—Mr. Biggs expired early Wednesday morning, aged 67 years.

The many friends of Billy O'Brien will regret to learn that he has been seriously ill at his home, near Weiser. We all hope the old pioneer will regain his health and soon be able to mingle with us as of yore.

Topic for morning service at United Presbyterian church "How Much Owest Thou Unto My Lord?" A full attendance of the members of the church is desired, as matters of special interest to them will be discussed. No evening service.

The articles of incorporation of the Ontario Independent Telephone Co. were received from the secretary of state the first of the week. A meeting of the company was held last night and arrangements made for the early completion of the line.

Mayor Pogue received the sad tidings the first of the week from Findlay, Ill., of the death of E. K. Schwartz, Mrs. Pogue's brother-in-law. The deceased will be remembered in Ontario, he and his wife having visited here two years ago. He was aged 70 years, and a first lieutenant in the civil war.

BIG REDUCTION IN— Baseball Goods.

	Former Price.	Now.
Gloves.....	\$1.25	75
Gloves.....	1.00	60
Gloves.....	1.50	90
Gloves.....	75	40
Balls.....	1.25	75
Balls.....	1.00	60
Balls.....	35	20
Balls.....	25	15
Masks.....	1.25	1.00
Masks.....	50	30
Caps.....	25	15
Belts.....	50	30
Belts.....	25	15
Bats.....	1.50	1.00
Bats.....	1.00	60
Bats.....	75	40

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