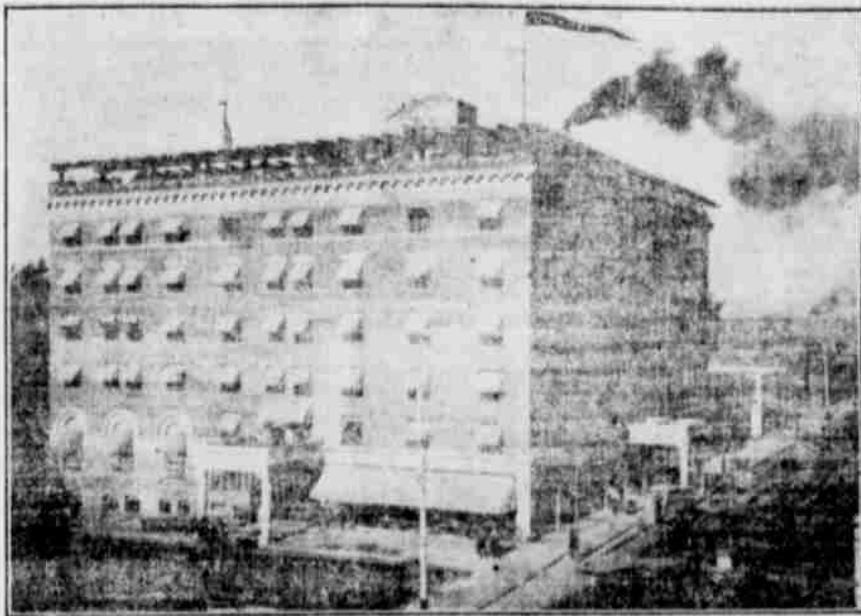


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LEO. J. FALK, Manager

Owyhee Irrigation District and the Proposed High Line Ditch

The Owyhee irrigation district consists of about 25,000 acres of sage brush land between the Owyhee and Malheur rivers and just above the Owyhee, Nevada and Ontario-Nyssa ditches at an elevation of from 50 to 300 feet above Snake river.

This is unquestionably one of the best and most fertile tracts of land in Snake river valley. The soil is a deep rich volcanic ash mixed with silica and clay, generally level, with just slope enough to irrigate and drain easily. The elevation is from 2,200 to 2,500 feet, making it especially adapted to the growing of fruits, alfalfa, grains and vegetables of almost every variety.

The board of directors of the district have practically accepted a proposition from Messrs. Purdum, Bonnell and their associates, to irrigate the lands of the district by the installation of a power plant on the Payette river about four miles above Horse Shoe Bend, develop hydro-electrical power, transmit this power to pumping plants in the district located on the bank of the Snake river, and pump the water into canals for the irrigation of these lands. They offer to do this for \$50 worth of district bonds per acre, and when completed, the district will own its own power plant and everything connected with it.

In order to do this the district must have 30,000 acres of land to irrigate. To comply with this part of the proposition, a petition has been circulated by the land owners south of the Owyhee river asking that their lands be included within the boundaries of

the actual construction work started. The first advantage will be the great lessening in the power charge compared with the price asked by the large power corporations now selling power in the vicinity. The cost, after the electrical current reaches the motors, is exactly the same whether the district owns its power or buys it, that is, the cost of maintaining and operating the pumping stations, pumps, pipe lines, flumes, ditches, etc.

The power consumed by the motors to raise three acre feet per acre during the irrigation season as stated by Mr. A. J. Wiley in his report, is 9,750 horse power which, at present prices, would cost the district \$224,250 or \$7.47 1/2 per acre per year. This, under present conditions, the district cannot pay because it would bankrupt every land owner in it. Mr. Wiley's estimate for the maintenance and operation of a power plant and transmission line owned by the district as proposed in the proposition of Messrs. Purdum and Bonnell is 52c per acre. To this must be added the depreciation of the machinery, transmission lines, etc. This would not have to be paid for some years, when a large part of the land will be in cultivation and the settlers much more able to pay for same.

Another advantage will be the fact that, for seven months in the year, the district will not need their power for irrigation purposes, which should be quite a valuable asset. This winter power the district may be able to sell, and in that way, make a considerable payment towards the pay-



HEADGATE OF ONTARIO-NYSSA IRRIGATION PROJECT

the Owyhee irrigation district and that the board of directors provide for the irrigation of their lands in the same manner and at the same time that they provide for the irrigation of the lands of the district. This petition has now received the necessary number of signatures, is being published, and will be acted upon by the board of directors at their next regular meeting in January.

This proposition, especially the feature of the district's owning its own power, has been almost unanimously approved by the land owners of the district. The advantages are so great that everyone is very anxious to see

ing of the interest on the bonded indebtedness. If this is not done, it will only be a short time until the district will be able to build transmission lines and furnish light, heat and power to the land owners at a very moderate cost. This will enhance the price of every acre of land in the district and give to every farmer all the conveniences of city life.

This project is practical and feasible and we predict that by the spring of 1914 the district will be irrigated, own its own power, and become one of the most prosperous and productive communities in the United States.
W. LEE BLODGETT.

The Ontario Commercial Club

In most every town and city of any importance in the west are to be found Commercial clubs and Chambers of Commerce. Why? Because it has been proven by experience in the past decade that advertising is not only applicable to the merchant or manufacturer who has wares to dispose of, but that communities are to be benefited by making known to the world, the resources, climate and various opportunities whereby the person or enterprise seeking a new location may gain knowledge and learn whether or not the locality interests the investigator.

Laying aside what a commercial club should do, a few of the things that have been accomplished would not be amiss in this issue of the Argus. The most direct effort of the club has been put forth in building up the rural population. Little effort has been directed in seeking new additions to the business world in Ontario. As the surrounding country grows, so does the business growth of the city shape itself, consequently the major portion of the club's work has been along the line of advertising the agricultural and horticultural resources of Ontario and Malheur county, and imparting information to the homeseeker who is desirous of changing location either for benefits to be derived from climatic conditions or to till the soil where larger crops and better products result from the tilling of the ground which nature has endowed with so great an amount of fertility.

Advertising a community is somewhat different from advertising a sale of merchandise, quick results are obtained when a merchant uses printers ink in telling the people what bargains are on sale in the establishment, but telling the people of what a certain locality has to offer in the way of soil, climate, crop returns, etc., does not imply that as soon as the statements are read the reader immediately moves out and locates but on the contrary perhaps the present farm where he lives has to be sold, family agreements entered into as to whether all are satisfied to leave the old residence and make new friends and acquaintances in a land where some believe the Indians still inhabit the hills and plains. But it

is seed well sown as occasion has proven that many of the new residents of this county were one or two years getting ready before they actually took up their residence among us.

Two years ago the club issued forty thousand folders describing the benefits of residence in this section and imparting statements of fruitgrowers and farmers who have been well satisfied with their labors. This literature has gone into every state in the union and has brought many actual settlers. Those settlers have interested their friends and thus the country grows as a satisfied homeseeker is like unto a satisfied customer with the merchant.

Among the lines of publicity that has done Ontario and the county considerable good, were the exhibits made at the Northwestern Land Products show at St. Paul and Minneapolis. These displays were viewed in the two years by more than 200,000 people and many actual settlers have been obtained by this work. Here is where direct results are again not obtainable but as time progresses the efforts of the club in this specialty will be appreciated.

Letters are received daily at the club room from prospective homeseekers and hundreds of dollars have been expended in postage and effort in answering this correspondence. Newspaper writeups and stories of development have been sent out that have given Ontario publicity and today this little city is beginning to enjoy a reputation throughout the west for its activity and its method of doing things.

It has lent assistance to the work of the county fair, has fostered the annual poultry exhibition and this year will hold another show in January. As to what the club has done in the past two years space will not permit of its detail here but it has constantly worked for the upbuilding of Ontario and the county. The club has 125 members and a good set of officers. It maintains an office on the main street and an exhibit of the products of the farms and orchards. It is now preparing some lines of work for the coming year that materially benefit the community.

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