

RECLAMATION OFFICIALS VIEW DAM SITES PROPOSED OWYHEE PROJECT

DIRECTOR A. P. DAVIS WITH CHIEF ENGINEER F. E. WEYMOUTH, PROJECT MANAGER J. B. BOND ACCOMPANIED BY LOCAL COMMITTEE INSPECT CANYON

ENGINEERING DATA STUDIED

New Plan Being Considered Which Would Water 135,000 acres Including Beside Original Project the Gem District in Idaho

Director A. P. Davis, Chief Engineer F. E. Weymouth of the Reclamation Service, accompanied by J. B. Bond, project manager of the Boise-Payette project and a local committee spent two days of last week inspecting the proposed Owyhee Project.

The visitors did not spend practically the entire time they were here viewing the sites of the proposed dams. They did not view the lands under the project for these they are thoroughly familiar with through previous investigations, and they declared their knowledge in their superiority.

"There is no question as to the quality of the soil of this district, it is equal to any to be found in the west," they said.

"The problem of this project is that of water storage and cost of construction of dams and distributing system. The land can stand as high an acre cost as any land in the intermountain country," they added.

In order to personally view the sites of the proposed dams at Duncan's Ferry and above Mitchell Bluff the party spent two strenuous days. With autos they went as far as they could up the canyon toward the site of the proposed diversion dam. Then they walked a long way, and when this means of transportation failed to take them to the site a row boat was secured and with C. R. Emison furnishing the motive power Mr. Davis and Mr. Weymouth went up the canyon to the spot selected by Mr. Bond and his assistants and examined every foot of the canyon walls carefully. No detail was overlooked in the minute examination.

This portion of the trip occupied all of Friday and in this party there were beside the officials already mentioned the following Ontario men: Mayor W. H. Doolittle, R. W. Jones, E. A. Frazer, P. J. Gallagher, C. R. Emison, T. W. Clagett, W. J. Pinney, E. M. Greig and D. W. Powers.

On Saturday the officials accompanied by Messrs. Doolittle, Gallagher and Pinney made the trip to Jordan Valley and thence to the Duncan's Ferry site of the dam for the storage reservoir, returning to Nampa and Ontario on Sunday.

An Enlarged Project
One thing that developed during the course of the trip was the fact that the engineers are now working on a very much enlarged project, one that when completed will embrace 135,000 acres, covering not only the lands in the original Owyhee Project—which included Dead Ox Flat—but also the Gem District of Idaho and other lands on the Idaho side.

Two Arrowrocks
To accomplish this gigantic project will require the construction of two dams each of which will be as high as the famous Arrowrock dam, though not so wide.

Both dam sites are deemed ideal, being situated in canyons whose perpendicular walls of basaltic rock are only 150 feet apart at the tops.

The construction of these high dams however is not the sole engineering feature that is new, for the present plans call for the construction of four miles of tunnels from the diversion dam, which while expensive is justified in their estimation by the fact that it permits of increasing the acreage so materially that the per acre cost will actually be deduced.

By the construction of the high dams, too, the water will be taken out at the 2550 elevation thus covering all the bench lands possible both north and south of the Malheur and all of the lands of the Gem and adjacent regions in Idaho.

Officials Non-Committal
Naturally the officials were non-

SHEEP PRICES SHOW INCREASE MALHEUR LAMBS NET \$6.17

When Donald McLeod sold four carloads of February lambs on the Denver market on July at \$9.40 per hundred he secured what is believed here to be the highest price paid for Oregon lambs this summer. That the lambs were in exceptional condition was evident from the fact that the average weight of the four car loads was 77 pounds per lamb making the gross price per lamb \$7.24 while the net return after freight, feeding and commission was paid was \$6.17. Local stockmen believe that with lambs reaching this level the ewe that raised them and also a clip of wool is worth more than prices which have prevailed and that this condition will be reflected in an early rise in sheep prices.

COUNTY FAIR PROGRAM REDUCED BY ONE DAY

Three Days Free Show To Be Staged By Fair Board—Ball Games and Races May Be Grandstand Features With Night Shows Downtown

The Malheur County Fair this year, so far as the agricultural section is concerned will last three days and will be free to all. The entertainment features to be staged before the grandstand have not yet been determined but plans are under consideration for something worthwhile for every day.

One or two days of base ball and a combination of auto races or horse races is being considered for which a small admission charge to the grandstand will be made to defray the expenses. The details of this section of the program are being considered and will be announced later.

Updown during the fair there will be a series of entertainments. The Kelley Comedians are to return, a ferris wheel and merry-go-round have been located which will come here and many local firms will install booths for the carnival features minus carnival abuses. The show will be one in which the people visiting the city will get something for their money. It will be a clean show.

The American Legion will have a dance every evening and amusement features will be on hand to make the evenings pleasurable to those seeking a good time.

All this was the decision reached following conferences of business men and a thorough discussion of the effort to secure a guarantee fund for the program once planned along the lines usually followed by the previous fair boards.

In all \$1,000 of the stipulated \$1,500 was pledged, and while it was believed that the entire amount could be secured many felt that this was not the year to take chances of failure, so the modified plan was adopted.

Miss Ellen Carsten of Payette is visiting Miss Bessie Rutherford this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Edwards of Westfall were in Ontario Wednesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jones and daughter Katherine leave Friday for their ranch in Juntura, where they will spend a couple of weeks.

Mrs. N. O. Bedford left Wednesday evening for Portland to attend Buyers week. Allen Bedford is in Caldwell and Boise visiting relatives while his mother is away.

They did not indicate what their report will be, though the members of the local committee felt by their general attitude that they were favorably impressed. It is believed that the fate of the project lies in the general prosperity of the country, upon which the legislative action of Congress will be based.

While the details of the plans are being completed a crew of men will be engaged in making borings of the bed rock of the proposed dam sites and if these, as it is expected, prove satisfactory the completed plans will be ready for early presentation to the officials in Washington for their final approval. In the meantime the local committee is preparing to proceed with the necessary steps preliminary to entering into a contract with the federal government for the construction of the project, there being a mass of such detail which must be cared for in any event.

CLAIMS BEING FILED TO OWYHEE'S WATER

Water Commissioner Geo. T. Cochrane and Engineer C. E. Strickland Begin Preliminaries For Adjudication of Owyhee

George T. Cochrane, water superintendent for the second district and Charles E. Strickland, an engineer from the office of the State Water Board reached Ontario Tuesday and received claims filed by Owyhee Water users. They had been at Vale on Monday and listed claims and from Ontario they went to Jordan Valley yesterday to file the claims of the users in the upper river.

Owyhee Ditch Stockholders Split
The one feature that developed in the formal application for water rights was the division among the users under the Owyhee Ditch. After the directors of the ditch and most of the stockholders proceeded to file claims as a unit under the company title in the main canal, a number of users in the upper region about Nyssa separated their claims and filed them as individuals.

This action followed the theory upon which W. L. Gibson filed a suit against the Owyhee Ditch for a priority over users under the ditch who put their land into cultivation after the first lands. According to this theory the canal of the ditch company would be treated as a river or any natural source and the first water users would have priority to water in spite of the fact that the canal, diversion and other works were the result of efforts of a stock company. W. W. Wood and J. W. McCulloch are representing the claims of the individual stockholders who are thus seeking priority rights, while Brooke & Gallagher are retained by the directors of the company for the company as a whole. Claims of upper Owyhee water users are represented by Davis & Kester and Julien Hurley of Vale and where not adverse to Owyhee Ditch company some of these users are represented by Brooke & Gallagher.

While the claims are being filed now it is not anticipated that testimony will be heard until the spring or summer of 1922. Mr. Cochrane said that in all probability testimony would start next May. In that case it will be at least two years before a decision will be reached, if the Malheur river adjudication is a criterion by which to judge. This case was heard two years ago, and while the findings of the water board have been made, the confirmation of this from the district court has not yet been made.

FIRE MARSHALS ORDER OLD SHACKS REMOVED

Report to Council Says General Condition of City Improved—Notes Betterment of Fire Equipment—Wants Inspection System

In its report of the inspection of the city for fire hazards the State Fire Marshal's department orders the city council to remove a number of the old shacks in the alleys back of the business blocks. The report also asks that a regular inspection system be installed for the safety of the city. The report in full which was read at the meeting of the city Council Monday night was as follows:

CONDITIONS
We find that since the last inspection of the city by the Fire Marshal Department a great deal of improvement has been made. The fire-fighting equipment has been improved by the addition of motor apparatus and the city is found to be well kept and quite free from rubbish. There is still opportunity for improvement and we offer the following recommendations to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS
We recommend that the city (Continued on Last Page)

UPPER COUNTY ROADS TO BE LET AT AUGUST MEETING

While in Portland last week the Editor of the Argus was informed by members of the Highway Commission that the Vale-Burrell section of the Central Oregon Highway and the Jamieson-Brogan section of the John Day Highway will be advertised for letting at the August meeting. In the case of the Slide to Huntington section of the Old Oregon Trail the commission has decided to let this later in the year so that more contractors can be secured to bid upon it, and better prices received which it is believed will result after many now engaged have completed their work.

DAUGHTER OF FORMER ONTARIO GIRL KILLED

Auto Crashes On Mount Wilson In California Killing Little Katherine Messenger, Daughter of Former Ontario Girl

Mrs. Ruby Hanes this week received word of the death of little Katherine Messenger, daughter of Mrs. Ira Messenger of Los Angeles, who was Miss Olive Haribert of Ontario. With the word of the little girl's death came the following clipping from a Los Angeles paper telling the sad story:

"Katherine Elizabeth Messenger, 7 1/2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Messenger of Burbank, was instantly killed on the Mount Wilson toll road yesterday when the automobile in which she was riding with her father catapulted down a sloping embankment for 400 feet. Her father, driving the car, escaped without injury.

"The fatal accident came as a sad ending to a day planned for happiness. Little Katherine had never been up to the top of Mount Wilson. After repeated entreaties, her father determined to grant her request.

"The mother remained at home when father and daughter started out for the top of the slope. There were smiles on the faces of all as parting words were spoken. Katherine was supremely happy. Her longing was to become reality.

Dashes Into Ravine
The machine rolled along on its way to the foot of the grade and started the ascent. Mr. Messenger, driving, approached a very narrow turn in the road. He stopped the car. In excess of the side of a sheer rise, he believed he did not have room to make the turn. He reversed the gear of the machine, and backed up. He planned to get a wider swing and thus make the curve in safety.

"For a moment the car backed as it would under ordinary circumstances. Then the earth seemed to slip from beneath them. The car had slipped over the edge of the embankment. It crashed down into the ravine, turning over and over on its downward course.

Death Instantaneous
Both father and daughter were thrown clear of the car as it came to its resting place at the bottom, badly smashed and battered. "From the position in which Katherine's inert form was found it was evident," it was said, "that death had been instantaneous. Yet save for scratches and bruises, Mr. Messenger was not hurt.

"The body of the little girl was taken to the Burnham undertaking parlors in Pasadena. Funeral arrangements have not been completed."

ELMER DORY MURDERED BY COMPANION AT IDAHO FALLS

Shooting Said to Have Followed Few Words—Victim Killed with His Own Gun—Leaves Wife and Son Here in Ontario

Elmer Dorey who lived here in Ontario for many years was murdered at Idaho Falls last Friday afternoon by a man named Ponnell who was immediately arrested on information furnished by two boys who witnessed the deed. Ponnell claims that the shooting resulted from a remark made by Dorey with whom he had been drinking.

Dorey was killed instantly, and strange to say the weapon used was his own, according to the reports printed in the Salt Lake papers received here by relatives of the murdered man.

Shortly after the murder authorities at Idaho Falls telephoned to Ralph Dorey of this city son of the victim, who went to the scene to take charge of his father's body. Beside the son Dorey leaves his wife who lives here and a brother, a resident of Western Oregon and his sister, Mrs. Carrie Simpson of Ironside.

TWO-MILLION DOLLAR FRUIT CROP RIPENING ON BENCH

Officials of the packing companies on the Fruitland Bench declare that the fruit crop from Welsch and Emmett will yield the growers nearly two million dollars. Already sales on which advance payments have been made confirm this statement. One grower alone has received advances which show that he will receive \$25,000 for his crop.

The present prices for apples, the highest received in the history of the fruit business has stimulated the demand for orchard lands and several real estate deals of \$20,000 or more have been made on the Fruitland Bench.

The growers declare that the fruit is in better condition this year than ever which in part accounts for the fact that sales of apples at \$50 and \$60 per ton, orchard run are the rule. Some of the ranchers are holding for \$75.

WAGES OF CITY EMPLOYEES CUT AND ALL VACATIONS ELIMINATED

POTATO PRICES ENCOURAGING GROWERS NOW OFFERED \$1.25

Potato growers who, until recently were discouraged at prices offered for their product are not so blue now. During the past week prices for spuds have strengthened and the quotations yesterday were \$1.25 per hundred. At this price and at from \$1.00 to \$1.10 several cars have been sold. G. W. Dean one of the pioneers in the potato game sold four cars at the latter prices and has several additional cars to market. "I believe that potatoes at \$1.10 are equal to \$15 alfalfa," said Mr. Dean, "and since the buyers who have been here declare that our potatoes surpass those of the Idaho section around Caldwell and Parma I can see no reason for feeling discouraged."

VALE FORFEITS GAME WHEN ONTARIO LEADS

County Seat Visitors Leave Field With Score 2 to 1 In Ontario's Favor—Umpire Awards Game by 9 to 6 Score—No Third Contest

With the score 2 to 1 in Ontario's favor in the last half of the seventh inning the Vale team left the field at the fair ground last Sunday afternoon so Umpire Gibson who was officiating awarded the contest to Ontario by the regulation score in such case of 9 to 6.

The game thus interrupted had been a pretty contest with honors fairly even until the break in the luck sent Ontario into the lead. Then it was that Joy Husted connected with one of Stiles' offerings for a single which he endeavored to stretch into a double when it was slowly relayed from the outfield.

Husted reached second by sliding. Yancey the Vale second baseman touched him on the body, Gwynn the umpire ruled that Husted' feet hit the bag before the baseman tagged him. In any event the play was close, and Yancey and Rose, the Vale captain insisted on quitting the game.

Many of the Vale men, including Stiles who had pitched good ball all afternoon wanted to continue, as did Ike Robinette the manager of the Vale team, but Rose and Yancey would have none of it. They elected to forfeit rather than play the last two innings.

Up to the point of dispute the game was one of the best seen here this year. Penson pitching for Ontario, with Bybee his battery mate from the Emmett team had a slight edge on Stiles but the margin was not great and the crowd was enjoying an interesting game.

Vale was the first to score, and held a one run lead up to the sixth when Penson beat out a bunt. Harry Chapman followed with a terrific wallop to right field which the fielder misjudged, and in his attempt to get under the ball fell. Before the center fielder could recover the ball Chapman completed the circuit for a home run, with Penson ahead of him. Then came the seventh inning and the wrangle, which deprived the crowd of the balance of the game for which as individuals they had paid admission.

Among the interesting fielding stunts of the game were the two circus catches intercepted by Jack Hamman, and the generally tight fielding of the entire infield. The Vale team was strengthened for the contest by several men from the Nyssa team who gave good accounts of themselves and supported Stiles' pitching in excellent shape.

There is one interest which the players of the Vale team who insisted on leaving the field entirely overlooked; namely that of the public which paid to see the contest. The management of teams should see to it that the games are finished even if rank substitutes have to be put into the field to replace peevish players, and these players should be barred from playing until they learn to take the public's interest into account. Unless some such drastic action is taken it will be impossible for base ball to secure the public support that is necessary to its continuance in this section.

EXPENDITURES TO BE KEPT WITHIN INCOME—WAGES FOR LABOR PLACED AT 40 CENTS PER HOUR—MAN AND TEAM AT 75 CENTS PER HOUR

WILL NOT ABANDON STREETS

Adopt Report Favoring River Route of Old Oregon Trail Into City—Firms Which Make Public Pay For Deliveries Must Obtain Drayage Licenses

Further retrenchment in the expenses of the City of Ontario were ordered by the City Council at its regular meeting Monday night following an interesting session in which the city dads divided their votes on several matters.

The economy keynote was struck by Councilman E. M. Greig when Councilman D. W. Powers, chairman of the street committee presented the request of Street Commissioner Artie Pool for a two weeks vacation for himself and his team.

"Mr. Pool has put in many hours of overtime for which he has never put in a bill," said Mr. Powers "and I believe he is entitled to a vacation, but if he is given one, then the other employees will make the same request, in fact I understand two other such requests have been made. If we give these vacations on pay it will cost the city approximately \$10,000 in additional help, and I don't see where we have the money to meet the bill."

"We just cannot do it," interposed Councilman Greig. "It is not our fault that the city finances are in the condition they are in, but we have to work with the funds we have.

"Not only can we not give vacations but there is no reason why the city should be paying more for men and teams than the farmers are paying. The farmers are paying \$2 and board for men and teams far less than the city is paying. There is no excuse for the city paying more than the prevailing wage when men and teams can be obtained for less than we are paying now. Taking account of the board allowed by the farmers I move that the wages paid be 40 cents per hour for men and 75 cents for a man and team." This motion carried unanimously.

"Not only must the wages be reduced, but the expenditures of the city in every form must be curtailed," added Mr. Greig in his campaign to cut expenses. "I move that no supplies be ordered for any department and no work done until approved by the Mayor and if he does not want to assume the responsibility then he can get the appropriate committee together or wait until the entire council can act." A motion making that suggestion effective carried.

Favor River Route
The council heard the report of the committee on streets and alleys taking up in detail the arguments for and against river route as the entrance of the Old Oregon Trail highway into the city. This report recommended the river route and was adopted. Instructions were given the city attorney P. J. Gallagher to proceed with the necessary steps to secure this right-of-way.

Will Not Abandon Street

A motion to recall the remonstrance filed by the City with the County Court concerning the request of C. E. Secoy for the abandonment of the right of way of the street along the western boundary of the city in Villa park, leading northward from the county highway was offered by Councilman H. R. Udick after the matter had been discussed by Mr. Secoy and Councilman D. W. Powers and a legal opinion given by City Attorney P. J. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher pointed the effect of a relinquishment of the right-of-way in case the city should ever want to extend boundaries to the west, as well as the fact that the land involved like all other portions of the city is held under the terms of bond issues etc. and therefore he advised against the withdrawal of the remonstrance. On vote being taken the Udick motion lost by a three to two vote as follows: against the withdrawal; Turner, Powers, Greig; for the withdrawal; Wesse and Udick.

On the motion to grant vacations in a modified form of one week on pay, the vote was against vacations, Turner, Powers Wesse and Greig; for vacations, Udick.

Beside these matters the usual grist of city bills were ordered paid. William Vlernow who bauls for the Boise-Payette company asked the Council to return to him the license fee he had paid, because he said the men hauling for the Van Petten Lumber company and Henry Griffin, both of whom followed the same practice of collecting for coal and other deliveries did not pay a license. Mr. Vlernow's request was denied and the City Recorder was instructed to make the others conform to the license requirements.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. K. Aiken and family returned Sunday evening from Portland, Bend and other points, where they have been visiting for the past two weeks.