

The Ontario Argus
County Official Paper

An Independent Newspaper

Published Thursdays at Ontario, Oregon, and entered at the Ontario post office for distribution as 2nd class matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION.....One Year, \$2.00

ESTABLISHING A PRINCIPAL

In his request to President Harding that he veto the bill through which Homer E. Fenn, Fred W. Gooding and J. E. Clinton planned to secure the distribution of 260,000 acres of range land in Southern Idaho, Governor Davis of our sister state has established a most valuable and important precedent.

In principal the policy of consolidating the national forest for the purpose of reforestation and for better control of fire and other hazard is correct; but it was the method of distribution which condemned the Fenn-Gooding-Clinton plan.

This is not a matter of importance to Idaho alone. It is equally important to every public domain state, Oregon in particular is interested for we understand that a bill of similar import has been introduced in Congress already for the distribution and exchange of lands in private ownership for lands in the public domain in this state.

If one just stops to think of the possibilities of such a bill when taken in connection with the vast acreage controlled by big land owners already it is almost staggering. By judicious selections of land with water holes it would not be hard for some big outfit to secure a monopoly on the public range and run practically every small stockman out of business.

If by his action Governor Davis has set in motion forces which will establish the principle of having the public interest considered in such deals a debt of gratitude is due him, not from his own state alone but by all the residents of the public land states of the west.

EASTERN OREGON DISCOVERED

There is ground for hope for Eastern Oregon. During the past few weeks the Portland papers have discovered that there is something beside the Columbia river which might contribute to the material prosperity of the state's metropolis.

In proof of this the Oregon Journal of Sunday contained a lead editorial on the benefits of irrigation development in the Columbia basin. Of course this might be taken as a boost for the Columbia Basin project the construction of which would probably deplete the reclamation funds of the United States for years to come, and delay for generations the construction of the Owyhee and other projects in Eastern Oregon.

Yet the likelihood of the Columbia Basin securing this hold on the federal pocket book is remote, and



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the Portland papers will have to admit that if \$175 per acre can be spent advantageously for irrigation then projects which cost less have even greater merit. If any event it is worthy of note that the idea of settling the "back country" is gaining circulation in Portland.

Not to be outdone by the Journal, the Oregonian also of Sunday had a full page write up of Pine Valley in Baker county. That is getting down this way in Eastern Oregon. Also it would be well to observe that at the recent meeting of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce all of the Portland dailies were represented with their foremost writers. Special emphasis might be placed on the fact that Edgar B. Piper, managing editor of the Oregonian for the first time in many years of service with the Oregonian, visited Baker county. Some day, it is possible that he may be induced to travel a few miles further from tide water and view Malheur county. On his initial visit to South Eastern Oregon the Oregonian editor delivered what Ontario visitors declared was the notable speech of the meeting.

Over here Eastern Oregonians feel that if they could but be induced to come and see the possibilities, Portland citizens would become Eastern Oregon boosters, and realize that it will not always pay to trade off irrigation development for rivers and harbor appropriations.

PENALIZED FOR OTHERS

After listening to the statement by Jesse Hawley at the Idaho Power hearings here last week to the effect that 93 per cent of the delinquencies in payment for service are from irrigation companies, power users on the Oregon side are wondering what proportion of total is that of the Gem district.

Mr. Hawley said that there is due the company a total of \$629,000. Only a few thousand is due from Oregon power users, and arrangements are being made to pay these delinquencies before power is turned on in April.

It is the understanding of many power users here that the Gem District is the biggest debtor to the company and that a large portion of the total delinquency is to be found in its account. If this is true everyone regrets it; no one sympathizes with the people in the Gem district more than those who live under pumping systems in this section. Yet it is hard, under the difficulties which local users are experiencing, to accept the situation in which the Gem delinquency is placing the balance of the country.

The question the local power users are asking is: "Are we to be penalized for the failure of the Gem District to pay its bills?" That is how the proposition appeals to local ranchers, and it must be granted that there is apparent justice for their view point.

Ever since it was built the Gem district has been in difficulties. In the diadem of irrigation projects which are spreading their lustre through the Snake River valley, it may be a sparkling gem from the viewpoint of soil fertility, but it is a brilliant failure financially. It is not the people of the districts' fault, now. The trouble is that it is an attempt to do the impossible, under the conditions found there. The name is a misnomer.

The only possible relief for the people of the Gem district and of all the pumping systems which have a lift of over fifty feet is to secure the construction of the Owyhee project. If the possibility of cutting off of power will hasten that day when the Owyhee shall be built, then the Idaho Power company will have done the country a real service in its warning.

Portland might ponder on the fact that settlers on irrigated lands are not like ship owners, they ask for no subsidy.

LIBRARY NOTES

The library is open daily except Friday and Sunday from 2:30 to 5:30 and 7:00 to 9:00.

In response to the widespread interest and belief in the communication with the departed spirits as manifested in Sir Oliver Lodge's "Raymond", Mr. Edward Clodd, the well known English writer on evolution, folklore and religion, has written the book, "The question: If a man die shall he live again?" The subject of his book is "an examination of the evidence on which those base that belief" and is a record of the origin and early history of Spiritualism, together with an exposure of practitioners.

A new technical book recently added to the library is A. A. Kelley's Expert Paint Mixer. It describes the bases, pigments and liquids employed in preparing paints, with

instructions for paint mixing for interior and exterior work.

Mrs. Rorer's little book on Home Candy Making is the result of years of teaching beginners how to make palatable candy. The introduction to the recipes is two pages of practical rules for candy making in general.

**MORE ABOUT LETTUCE DEAL
MADE WITH CALIFORNIA FIRM**

George W. Lattig Wellknown Rancher of Oregon Slope Presents His Views of Proposition Made by California

Too late for publication last week the Argus received the following communication which was in answer to an interview which was carried in the February 23rd issue, in which Mr. U. F. Powell of Boise, discussed the matter from the commission man's viewpoint.

The Argus with hundreds of others, believes in cooperative marketing and in the effort which the farmers are making to solve their problems, and also believes that both sides of any controversy should be heard and for that reason gave Mr. Powell's interview prominence, and likewise the communication of County Agent McCall of Canyon county, and likewise we are pleased to present Mr. Lattig's views and those of any other rancher or business man. The Argus columns are open at all times for the discussion of public questions. The Argus is in this sense "your paper" ready to carry your message to its readers.

In discussing the lettuce contract Mr. Lattig says:

There being considerable discussion about the new home marketing association organized and incorporated at Caldwell under the name of Idaho Producers Union for the purpose of growing and marketing lettuce and other farm products and having been appointed by the Farm Bureau of Malheur county chairman of the Lettuce growing campaign I desire to state my views in regard to the matter.

At a mass meeting of growers in Caldwell a committee was appointed to perfect the growers organization and to investigate and report back to the members the best method of selling the products of the association.

This committee was composed of picked men, many of whom having had experience in growing and marketing lettuce, and we must believe that their selection where they were so well known was a wise one and fully representative.

In organizing this Union the committee had constantly in mind all of the features of cooperative marketing as laid down by the American Farm Bureau Federation, believing that only through these principals they could be successful.

They held that the selling agency who proposed to market their products should have the following requirements:

First, that they should be fully financed. Second, that their business should be of large volume. Third, that they should be fully equipped and experienced in this class of selling and have large exclusive selling connections.

Bearing in mind these conditions the large marketing concerns of the northwest were invited to appear and frankly submit their selling propositions.

Each of the selling organizations that appeared and presented their selling plans had equal chance and after fully and carefully investigating the different plans and agencies it was decided to contract for three years with the California Vegetable Union of Los Angeles as being the agency best fitted to handle our products, but had the privilege of cancelling out at end of any one year.

The growers marketing agreement that we are asked to sign to become a member of this union is neither harsh nor unusual in its provisions. It is to bind the grower to deliver his head lettuce to the Union for a period of three years, and without such an agreement no cooperative union could possibly do any business.

This agency has had 20 years of successful experience in marketing farm products in U. S. and Canada, and is highly recommended by large banks in California as being morally and financially responsible and also by large cooperative marketing concerns whose products they have been handling.

They are not buyers but sell only on commission based on the selling price at shipping point, not on the price at destination.

They propose to furnish without cost an experienced field man to advise with the growers throughout the entire season and to furnish daily telegraphic market reports during the market season.

The Union growers will have their own packing house in every community where there is sufficient acreage, and new machinery will be on the market for planting, corrugating and cultivating the crop so that the most of the work may be performed by horses.

The Idaho Producers Union is a home community organization and should be supported by us in Malheur county as we are invited to join and operate with them on equal terms.

The growers will at a meeting called for that purpose elect of their members nine directors who will conduct all of the business of the Union in accordance with the By-laws of the Union.

In order to secure first class California lettuce seed it will be necessary for the growers to sign up contracts at once with the Idaho Producers Union.

It appears to the writer that the possibilities of vegetable growing as a business in this territory has been overlooked and the coming year may prove that this industry, properly conducted, will be the one thing to bring prosperity to us all.

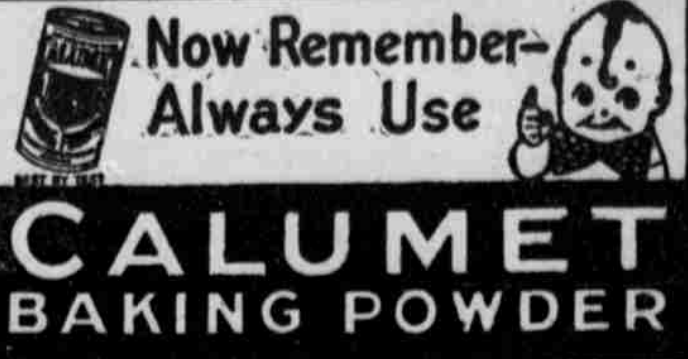
G. W. LATTIG.

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ar, 1 teaspoon
salt, 2 eggs, 2
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