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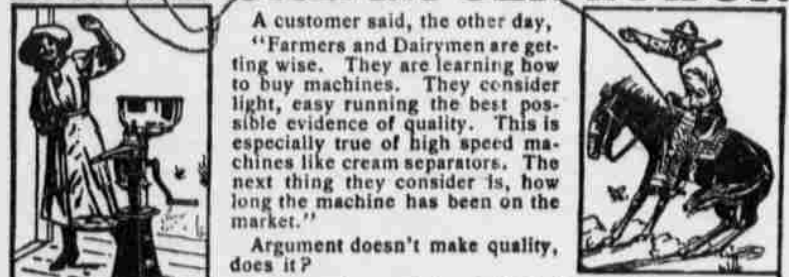
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FOR SALE

INTERIOR WAREHOUSE & LUMBER COMPANY

Vale

Oregon

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

(Continued from page 6)

If they fail the public, through its laws and officials, takes adequate and inevitable steps for its protection. The construction payments and interest and operation and maintenance charges are thus taken care of more nearly as a first consideration and as a matter of course than under any other plan which has been devised.

Farmers' Credits. The success of the farmers is vital to the success of private or Federal project, and one of the great difficulties which has been encountered by the

water users under the Federal reclamation projects has been that of securing money for development purposes during the life of the lien for the cost of the project. Similar difficulties are experienced under the private corporation plan, and here again the irrigation district is a great improvement.

Under this form of organization the creditor far more readily realizes the actual status of the matter, namely, that the lien is not, properly speaking, a liability but rather an asset, in that thereby there is created the means for giving the property value;

that is, the use of the water in irrigation, and that without the irrigation-district lien and what it means

the creditor himself would have less security rather than more. The creditor is familiar with liens for all manner of taxes and improvements and looks upon the irrigation-district lien in this light rather than in the light of a mortgage prior to that proposed to be given to him. Hence the settlers under irrigation districts, whether such districts receive water through Federal aid or otherwise, do not find themselves handicapped in this regard to anything like so great an extent as under private methods of organization, or under water-users' associations incorporated to cooperate with the United States in the earlier history of the Federal work.

Supplemental Work. Now, suppose the project to have been completed and in operation, and suppose it is found advisable to do some additional work not contemplated in the beginning. Suppose it is desired to increase the water supply by additional storage, or to take in additional lands to which water can be pumped, or to enlarge the capacity of its ditches so as to permit of rotation in delivery, or to concrete the system, or to build a drainage system. Under the private plan of financing, all the lands within the project have been plastered with a prior mortgage. It becomes necessary to arrange for some kind of consolidation of the proposed new lien with the old, or else to secure new creditors willing to accept a second mortgage, or one still lower if meanwhile other liens have been placed on the land. This form of security is practically unmarketable.

An irrigation district, however, holds another election after due notice, secures an additional confirmatory decree, and immediately has more public bonds for sale. They are simply a new issue of municipal bonds. The proposing purchasers can readily examine the district and find out whether as a whole the lands will give sufficient security for the additional bond issue. They examine the proposition as a single transaction without the necessity for examining each individual tract and the title thereto.

This is an enormous advantage. I have come into contact with this problem in connection with the Okanogan project in Washington where it was proposed by the United States to expend additional funds, amounting to about \$30 per acre. The land owners urged, practically unanimously, to have the additional work done, but it was essential to secure a supplemental lien upon every tract in the entire project and waivers of private mortgage priorities, simply because no irrigation-district organization had been effected. This required two years, whereas under the irrigation-district plan it would have been possible to have secured far better security in 60 days.

Popular Control and Responsibility. There is a final advantage in the irrigation-district plan to which I will refer, namely, that as a public corporation provision is made for popular democratic control. The electors of the district run its affairs, and whether their success is qualified or unqualified, I believe they are apt to be better satisfied than if the system were run for them even though it might be with a somewhat greater degree of competency by an organization beyond their control. Men instinctively prefer to do their own business rather than to have it done for them, and it is better in the long run that they should do so. Men who have a vote in the election who shall be elected as a board of directors will put up with annoyances uncomplainingly over which they would make a great stir against a private corporation which might be administering the system or write long letters to the Secretary of the Interior in case it were a Government project.

Self-government in irrigation also has a strong tendency to promote interest in public affairs and in various lines of cooperation. Irrigation success in proportion as men work in cooperation with one another and the district promotes and necessitates this verily so greatly needed throughout our country.

The District for Fully Constructed Projects. The Legislature of the State of Washington in 1915 passed an act which expressly confers the power upon irrigation districts to organize solely for operation and maintenance purposes where the construction work has been entirely completed. There are a great many fully constructed projects under the private plan which are running with a great deal of friction. In some cases the landowners at the head of the ditch are using more water than they are entitled to, and the statutes of several of the States fall very much short of giving proper protection, to the end that the majority can compel the minority to do their share of the maintenance work and to properly provide for reasonable impartial administration and operation of the system.

Every assistance and inducement should be offered by the statutes of the various States for the incorporation of going concerns as irrigation districts, just as provision is already fully made for incorporation in order to provide for new development. Irrigation, where working properly, unquestionably promotes a higher type of community than the humid type of agriculture; but where proper safeguards are not furnished by the law and the form of organization, the neighborhood quarrels are often deplorable, and, as you are aware, many a murder has occurred because neighbors are unable to agree upon the proper amount of water for their farms. If the minority is brought into a district, whether they will or not, I am confident that a long step will be taken in many of these valleys for proper cooperation. The use of water on a larger scale would in many cases result in the extension of the area irrigated in the aggregate to thousands of acres.

Future Development. Now, I want to say something of the future; how the irrigation district can be of service in further development work. We are all, I am sure, exceedingly anxious that the resources of the West in land and water should be utilized, and that within our life-time so far as may be. How can that work be carried forward? We all know that private enterprises have not been eminently successful. Far too isolated are the cases on a large scale where the original investor and the average original farmer have made a success. The emphasis in this statement should be placed upon the word "original." As you know there have been a great many receiverships, there have been a great many failures on the part of farmers, and the investors often have lost everything. Hence irrigation securities for several years past have been unsalable to a very great extent. The Federal work has not been entirely immune from failures on the part of the settlers in spite of the fact that no interest is being charged.

Would the irrigation district organization and financing, if adopted, have made these private projects succeed? In many cases I believe it would have done so in so far as the investor is concerned, and in some cases for the original settler also, but not in all cases by any means. The irrigation district is not a panacea. The security it has to offer rests not so much in the value of the land when the money is loaned, but in the prospective value when irrigated by the wise expenditure of the money by the district. The result has generally been one of an inflated cost and interest rate, even under the district plan. The district plan does the most for the investor that any known form of organization can do, and therefore does the best for the farmer to secure low cost and interest rates, but it has its limitations nevertheless so far as making the average original farmer successful is concerned. Those limits are found for the district as well as for other forms of organization in the answer to the question: How much can the farmer stand?

Can the settler struggle under the burdens existing under the project as ordinarily financed, to wit, payment of the principal and the interest on the building cost from the start, the cost of his improvements, including house, ranch buildings, fencing and leveling and ditching of the land, the cost of the maintenance of himself and family, the purchase price of the land with interest, and the operation and maintenance expenses of the project?

Can the farmer struggle under all of these burdens at the same time? I doubt it, Mr. Chairman. I doubt, therefore, if private enterprise can handle the situation except under particularly favorable conditions. The investor is entitled not merely to security but a reasonable rate of interest upon his money from the start. Some means must be taken to alleviate the burden.

The further development of the West, in my judgment, demands governmental assistance, either State or Federal, upon a larger scale than heretofore, unless the record of the past, namely, a large proportion of cases of the failure of the original farmer or the original investor, or both. The private method of financing, in my judgment, is a failure; not, in general, on account of incompetency or dishonesty, but on account of the fundamental weakness of the system—on account of the falsity of the view that the settler can bear all the heavy burdens which I have enumerated.

State Development. Now, from my merely personal point of view, the National Government is better able to conduct this work at present than the States. The State government is, after all, a local proposition and the responsibility of the government devolves upon a few men, and the pressure from any large irrigation project is simply tremendous on men who are local in their affiliations. Of course where a proposi-

tion is clearly infeasible any competent and honest State official would be willing to render a distinctly unfavorable report or take definite action against the project, but the West is now full of borderline projects, some of which are meritorious today and others should await the day of larger population and better nearby markets, but under State control I fancy it might be exceedingly difficult to prevent these projects from being prematurely and perhaps disastrously undertaken.

Do not understand me to imply by any means that the agents of the Federal Government are entirely free from this kind of pressure, but both Congress and the Department of the Interior are able to resist local pressure to a far greater extent than State officials can possibly be under ordinary conditions. The Department of the Interior can always, with good grace, supplement such examination as may have been made by conference and inspection by men of wide experience who could be summoned from a distance and who would come into conference without prejudice or favoritism.

Moreover, before States can go into reclamation work most of them would need to put through constitutional amendments—a long and laborious process in most jurisdictions.

Federal Funds at Low Ebb. Now, the reclamation funds of the United States are pretty thoroughly claimed for the indefinite future. They are reduced in amount and the projects undertaken should doubtless be completed and the water appropriations which have been obtained should be perfected in good faith before additional projects are taken up under the reclamation act as at present in force. Furthermore, under the law the \$20,000,000 loaned to the fund by Congress in 1910 must soon be returned in annual installments, consisting of half the receipts to the fund. Unless Congress makes provision therefore, the Federal Government is not likely to undertake large new developments at a very early date.

A Possible Plan to Cooperate with Districts.

I wish, however, to offer you a suggestion as to a plan for Federal assistance. Suppose the United States make a careful and complete investigation of the engineering facts, the water supply, the agricultural conditions, and all other necessities of a successful project, and the department and Congress are satisfied as to feasibility. Suppose then bonds of irrigation districts not exceeding a limit set by Congress to run for, say, 40 years, bearing charges at a rate of 1 per cent or perhaps one-half of 1 per cent more than the amount of the interest, are issued with guaranty of the United States. Such bonds should sell at a very low rate comparatively and the amount charged in excess of interest would go toward the amortization of the principal debt. The interest during the construction period and for a few years of development thereafter should be carried as construction cost by the sale of a larger number of bonds than the actual building of the works would require. The Federal Government should perform the work of construction and might also operate and maintain for a period of years, thus further safeguarding the project to both settlers and bondholders.

This plan would be equally adaptable to reclamation by drainage of swamped and overflowed lands all over the country under district organization. This would add strength to the measure in Congress.

Comprehensive provision should also be made by Congress for a lien in form of districts upon public lands. Unquestionably the need of the hour in irrigation work is conservatism. Nothing further should be done in our present stage of development and financing that is not placed upon a sound platform of business common sense. The original farmer, if he be a man of average intelligence and ability, and the original investigator must be given an excellent chance to succeed. I would rather see no more money spent in irrigation development for many years than that the repudiation of irrigation debts should be carried further. The stagnation of the last few years is a just retribution for having followed unsound methods, and for success in the future we must have sound foundations.

I submit that the plan above outlined is conservative. It makes provision for the farmer and gives him opportunity as the basis of success. The Federal Government will be protected by the district lien, provided but due care is exercised in the selection of projects. It is not as sweeping as Government cooperation undertaken in development work in various parts of the world, which I have not time to discuss.

The entire country knows Secretary Lane's deep interest in and comprehensive grasp of this work, but I do not know what plans for the future he favors. Hence my suggestions must not be taken as representing the views of the department in the slightest.

School Department

Under Direction of FAY CLARK, County School Superintendent

A few of the teachers seem to be laboring under the mistake that the library books arrived late this year. Such is not the case. Books that are ordered in the spring and summer are not shipped to the county superintendent's office until the last of November or the first of December and as they come by freight they are often delayed on the road. The repacking and distribution of the books for the districts—and there are over sixty of them—means several days labor and in addition to office work is often not completed for ten days or two weeks. In view of these facts no district should expect to receive library books until near the close of each year.

School in the Bonita District will be closed for two months on account of bad weather and the long distances the children have to go through the snow.

The Cow Valley or Bonita school and Sunday School gave a Christmas program at the school house. Santa Claus remembered the children with a treat that would please children anywhere.

The Skullspring boys and girls were given the privilege of voting on the question of a Christmas holiday—and they voted to have school instead of a vacation! Either Miss Stuve is an excellent teacher or those are exceptional children. Of course there is a possibility that both are true. Beulah Baker of this school treated the school with her birthday cake Christmas eve. This is further evidence that a splendid spirit prevails in this little school. Blanche Slayton has the distinction of making the highest average in the December examinations.

The Beulah teacher writes that her boys and girls had a jolly time Thursday afternoon before Christmas. They popped corn, played games and were given a complete surprise in the form of a "grab bag" and a hunt for a gift book. Friday evening the children gave a Christmas program and the entire community enjoyed the Christmas tree. This school, along with all the others report a good deal of illness caused by bad colds and lagrippe.

School in District No. 29 closed December 24th for the holidays. The teachers spent their holidays in their respective homes, Mrs. Spaulding in Weiser and Miss Weir in New Plymouth.

Miss Weir writes that her pupils who expect to write in the January examinations are working hard and

will do their best to make record grades. Mr. Thompson, one of the directors in the Annex School, No. 29, was a school visitor the other day.

The Mooreville pupils and teacher had as their guests the people of the neighborhood Christmas night. Miss Elsie Brichoux is teaching her first term of school in Mooreville. The pupils there have spelling matches Friday afternoons after recess and last week LaRue Dutcher was the champion speller. Miss Brichoux reports Area Moore as a close second.

The patrons and pupils in the Oregon Canyon School celebrated Christmas December 23 with a program that was enjoyed by all of the thirty people present. One auto containing twelve people drove twenty miles to be present. Miss Iredale writes that Santa Claus is a good friend of the people in that community.

Two pupils in the McDermitt school will write in the January examinations. These are the first children in this district to write in the State examinations. We hope that in another year all of the rural schools will be sending out eighth grade graduates instead of reporting children who are leaving school when in the fifth, sixth or seventh grades. There is no reason why these children in our interior districts should not receive as good training as the boys and girls who live in or near towns. Mr. Thornburg deserves considerable credit for the interest in school work that he is developing in a district where such things have been somewhat neglected for the past year.

The remainder of the library books have been received and will be shipped to the various districts this week.

Thirteen districts have asked for examination questions for the January examinations. This is an exceptionally large number for mid-year.

The two schools in the vicinity of Westfall where Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Parker are teaching are progressing nicely. In Mrs. Jacobs' school twenty new library books, a mirror, wash basin, towels, etc., have been added recently. The liberal patronage of a basket social given recently made these additions possible. The children in this school gave a program before the holidays. One of the features was a "fish pond" full of presents. This made a great deal of fun for all concerned. The teacher's contribution was candy in choice Christmas boxes.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS AND SCHOOL BOARDS

In the recent convention of county school superintendents, the State Department of Education instructed the county superintendents to call attention to the following extracts from the School Laws of Oregon. Teachers, school boards and superintendents throughout the state will hereafter meet all of these requirements: Section 84, Page 44 of the 1915 Oregon School Laws.

Teacher Must File Certificate and Contract.

The county superintendent shall require teachers before beginning to teach in any school district in his county to register in his office, if they have not previously done so, their county certificates or State papers, and file a copy of their contracts, and should any teacher fail so to register his or her certificate or State paper, and file a copy of his or her contract in the office of the county school superintendent before beginning to teach in any district in his county, said teacher shall forfeit to the said district the full amount of salary for the time taught before said certificate, or State paper, or contract were so filed. The county school superintendent shall notify the clerk of said district of the amount of such forfeiture and shall deduct the amount of said forfeiture for the next apportionment due said school district. The requirements of this section shall be enforced only by the county school superintendent of the county in which the school building in which the teacher is employed shall be situated. Section 24, Page 19 of the 1915 Oregon School Laws.

Registration of Certificates.

1. All certificates issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be valid and entitle the holder thereof to teach in any district in any county of the State upon being registered annually by the county superintendent thereof, which fact shall be evidenced by him on the certificate in the words "Registered for use in _____ County," together with the date of registry, and his official signature;

provided, that a copy of the certificate or diploma duly certified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction may be used for the purpose of registry and endorsement in lieu of the original, but no certificate shall be registered in a county until the county superintendent has satisfied himself that the applicant has done the reading circle work prescribed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the teachers of the State for the previous year and such registration shall entitle said teacher to teach in said county; provided, that the registration and reading circle work required in this subdivision shall not apply to districts of the first class; provided, further, that it is hereby made the duty of the superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a teachers' reading circle course for teachers as provided for in this section and also to formulate rules and regulations governing the same. Section 101, Page 51 of the Oregon School Laws.

State Certificate and Diploma Must Be Endorsed. (11. No warrant upon the common school fund shall be drawn in favor of any teacher holding a state certificate or diploma, unless such certificate or diploma shows an endorsement signed by the county superintendent that it has been registered in his office, as required by law.) FAY CLARK, County School Superintendent.

HANDLING HOG CHOLERA

State Veterinarian W. H. Lytle will give a series of lectures and demonstrations on control of hog cholera and cattle tuberculosis, at the O. A. C. Short Course, Jan. 10 to Feb 4. He will also discuss the work of the State Sanitary Board. Disease of horses, with special reference to prevention, will be considered by Dr. B. T. Simms, of the College staff, who will also give demonstrations of unsoundness of horses.

The main difference between hen-pecked men is that some of them admit it.

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