



Malheur Enterprise



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PROBABLY NO HELP FROM WASHINGTON

Secretary of Interior Meets C. E. S. Wood and C. W. Mallett, and Discouraging Conference is Result.

CONGRESS WILL NOT TAKE INITIATIVE

No Appropriation May Be Secured Except by Favorable Recommendation To Congress.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 13.—There is little likelihood that the Secretary of the Interior will recommend to Congress that an appropriation be made from the reclamation fund to build the Warm Springs reservoir on the Malheur irrigation project in Eastern Oregon. This was developed today at a conference between Secretary Lane and the Oregon Congressional delegation, C. E. S. Wood, of Portland, and C. W. Mallett, of Ontario. Although he admitted the merit of the project and that Oregon has not been fairly treated in past apportionments of money from the reclamation fund, Secretary Lane nevertheless said he could not recommend to Congress the construction of any new project unless called on by Congress to make recommendation and report.

Representative Sinnott read to the Secretary both the reclamation law and the reclamation extension act, which specifically direct the Secretary on his own initiative to recommend new projects which he regards as feasible and worthy. The Secretary insisted he understood differently, but promised to look into the subject further.

Congress Will Not Take Initiative. Mr. Sinnott later conferred with Chairman Fitzgerald and other leading House Democrats and was told by all that recommendations for new projects must come from the Secretary of the Interior and that Congress never would ask for them. Mr. Fitzgerald made it plain that he will not approve any bill or resolution calling on the Secretary for such recommendations.

When Mr. Sinnott showed the Secretary that he had authority to approve and recommend new projects, Mr. Lane went on to say that he had been holding to the belief all along that the Government should complete projects now under way before undertaking new projects; that while the co-operative examination of the Warm Springs or Malheur project has shown it to be feasible and desirable there are other feasible and meritorious projects also clamoring for adoption, and if he should recommend one he would have to recommend many. There is not enough money now available to hasten the completion of existing projects, he said.

Canals and Laterals Built. It was shown at the hearing that the settlers on this project have already built the canals and laterals, but need a storage reservoir to supply water for the late season. Construction of a storage dam would cost \$390,000, which is less than already has been expended by the settlers in the irrigation district. Existing canals irrigate about 12,000 acres, but with an adequate dam, such as is asked, the project could be enlarged to reclaim 30,000 acres, including the land now under ditches.

The Oregon delegation, Colonel Wood and Mr. Mallett will have a further conference tomorrow, but after their talk today with Secretary Lane they have little hope of securing a favorable recommendation to Congress. Without such a recommendation no appropriation can be secured.

ROBT. DRAPER RETURNS

Robt. Draper returned early in the week from an eight weeks sojourn at Brogan where Mr. Draper erected a fine bungalow for Tom Logan.

You can't put out enough danger signals to save some people.

THE "ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS" SHOW GAINS BY BANK

Interesting Book Published By Nyssa Bank.

The "Anniversary Greetings" of the Malheur County Bank, of Nyssa, of which H. J. Ward is president, John Ray, vice-president, and J. H. Wolf is secretary, is a neat and excellent production showing appreciation of the patronage it has received in the financial statement where in it states:

Capital stock	\$25,000
Surplus	5,000
Undivided profits	10,000

On the final page may be found this excellent advice to others inside or outside of banking circles: "To catch Dame Fortune's golden smile, Assiduous wait upon her; And gather gear by every wile That's justified by honor. Not for to hide it in a hedge, Nor for a trim attendant; But for the glorious privilege O' being independent."

MALHEUR MAKES POOR SHOWING

Great County Makes Dismal Appearance In Report by State at Salem—But Three Lower Valuations.

The following items from Salem should be of interest to the taxpayers of Malheur county. The figures given make some dismal showings for our great county. Second largest in the state we find only three counties below us in valuations.

Of all the Eastern Oregon counties it is found that Malheur is the only one fallen off in valuation over 1915. All gain a little except Klamath which falls off one and one half per cent; Morrow a trifle more than one per cent and Wasco two per cent while Malheur falls off 33 per cent and more.

There are three counties lower than Malheur—Curry, Jefferson and Wheeler. The average of assessed valuation, a hasty calculation shows to be about 64 per cent. Malheur has been fixed by the state at 42 per cent. For state purposes we will be raised 22 per cent and for assessment of Public Utilities for our use the state will use the 42 per cent valuation.

Valuations of All Property Lowered. SALEM, Ore., Nov. 28.—Exclusive of the valuations of the public service corporations the total valuation of the taxable property in the state this year is \$761,035,127, according to reports received by the state tax commission. This is \$51,481,512 less than last year.

In Baker, Clatsop, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler the valuations have slightly increased. In all others valuations have decreased. In Multnomah county there is a slump of \$15,530,315. Two causes are given for the decrease—the elimination of the Oregon & California land grants from the tax roll and a general shrinkage in property values.

By counties the valuations last year and this, are as follows:

County	1915	1916
Baker	\$18,819,245	\$18,400,340
Benton	9,909,380	11,242,710
Clackamas	23,038,965	24,242,200
Clatsop	19,361,338	18,988,192
Columbia	10,645,560	15,087,925
Cook	18,229,545	20,578,677
Crook	7,909,170	7,562,895
Curry	4,633,755	4,815,670
Douglas	21,668,615	27,622,865
Gilliam	7,231,255	6,848,403
Grant	6,852,758	6,407,250
Harney	8,256,363	8,131,863
Hood River	7,324,340	8,154,160
Jackson	22,989,100	28,311,430
Jefferson	3,795,220	3,767,490
Josephine	6,761,410	8,606,520
Klamath	14,230,586	14,406,764
Lake	9,420,264	9,316,303
Lane	26,413,272	35,353,640
Lincoln	9,275,386	9,422,980
Linn	26,093,130	26,971,690

(Continued on page 6.)

COMPLETE REPORT OF "BUDGET DAY"

PETITION FILED BY AD GILHAM SOURCE OF MUCH COMMENT

Prominent Malheur Citizens Discuss Proposed County Budget in Vale Friday Afternoon.

The meeting of Friday, called by the County Commissioners for discussion of the budget for the ensuing year was attended by a number of citizens present in person and, representing a number of citizens by petition signed by Frank O'Neill and 45 others, were C. A. Gilham and Wm. G. Thomson.

Present in person were Wm. Jones, pioneer banker and stock raiser, C. H. Oxman, of Jamieson, owner of 600 acres of fine farming land, J. M. Addington, postmaster at Brogan, John Kennedy, merchant of Brogan, C. A. Gilham, deputy assessor, Wm. G. Thomson, W. F. Hall, Frank O'Neill, Dickerson Bros., of Bully Creek, all farmers of magnitude, together with a number of others directly interested in taxation. John Rigby being the only representative of the county press present.

Object of Meeting Explained. County Judge McKnight called the meeting to order and explained the object of the gathering and advised the taxpayers present on various items connected with county work over which the County Commissioners had no control.

Presentation of Petition. C. A. Gilham presented the petition of Frank O'Neill and 45 others. The petition is as follows:

List showing the Budgets for 1916 and 1917 and the amount expended before the 1st of Jan. and the first of Nov. 1916, with proposed reduction, 1916 1917 Amt Paid Reduce to

	1916	1917	Amt Paid	Reduce to
County Court	\$ 3,600	\$ 4,100	\$ 2,426.80	\$ 3,000
Sheriff	8,900	8,100	6,088.67	8,100
Assessor	6,000	6,000	5,380.07	6,000
Clerk	5,500	5,500	4,422.83	5,500
Treasurer	1,900	1,900	812.89	1,900
School superintendent	2,200	2,200	1,176.09	2,200
High School	2,000	2,000		2,000
Truant Officer	300	300	82.80	300
Sealer Weights & Meas.	200	200	160.71	200
Co. Veterinarian	500	500	282.44	500
Widows Pensions	2,500	2,500	1,575.00	2,000
Printing, (Adv.)	1,500	1,500	847.45	1,000
Int. B. Bridge Bonds	1,800	1,800	904.00	1,800
Water Master	2,000	2,000	1,587.10	2,000
Fruit Inspector	1,500	1,500	732.75	750
Co. Sculp Bounty	2,000	4,000	1,563.50	2,500
Elections	5,000		3,021.13	
Insane	200	200	5.40	100
Co. Jail & Board Pris.	3,000	1,500	852.38	1,000
Institute & Exams.	500	500	54.00	100
Circuit Court	7,000	8,500	8,247.76	7,000
Justice Court	1,000	1,000	142.07	250
Coroners Court	200	200	90.60	200
Juvenile Court	1,000	1,000	27.40	250
Co. Physician	300	300	225.00	300
Co. Fair	1,000	1,500	404.91	1,500
Co. Agri. Advisor	1,500	1,500	375.00	1,500
Ct. House Furn. & Fixts.	1,000	1,000	241.02	2,500
Current Expenses	2,500	2,500	2,904.82	2,500
Care of Poor	8,000	8,000	6,699.93	8,000
State & Other Fairs	500			
Retir. Co. Wrnts. (Jail)	14,000	12,000		
	\$88,500	\$83,250	\$51,283.56	
Inoculation Rabbits	2,000		250	1,500
Bovine Tuberculosis In.	2,000			1,000
Miscellaneous	33,183.75	40,230		20,300
State, 1916	25,546	25,000		16,000
Gen. School, 1916	1,617.51			
High School, 1916	46,253.73	54,700		44,700
Road Purposes, 1916				
Total levy 1916	\$196,092.33	\$196,998,207.73	\$144,700	
Amount of money in various funds Nov. 1st, 1916.	State Tax, \$41,533.29			
Gen. Co. Fund after Outstanding warrants are paid	\$20,549.41			
General Road fund	11,814.97			
General School fund	18,793.66			
State fund	15,746.12			
High School fund	1,537.14			
	\$68,441.90			

Funds obtained from other sources.

Clerks fees	6,000
Sheriff fees	300
Interest on Co. Money	1,200
Circuit, County and Justice Court fines	2,500
Personal Property Tax collected by Assessor	11,000
	\$89,441.30

Supt. Fay Clark Explains. Miss Clark was called by the court to explain regarding the proposed reduction of High School expense and a bomb was thrown into the meeting and the ill advised cutting of the proposed levy shown, when Miss Clark showed that instead of \$2,000 the High School tax would be \$5,600 at least, for the 76 outside pupils attending the High Schools of Vale, Nyssa and Ontario. As Mr. Oxman put it: "Seventy five dollars per pupil for tuition at our county high schools while I am paying \$40 per year for my son to attend an Idaho college."

Miss Clark showed that the estimate was based on the sworn statement of the school clerks of the three cities and here it was disclosed that at Vale it cost \$111 per pupil; at Nyssa, \$105 per pupil and at Ontario, \$51 per pupil. "Of course," said Miss Clark, "the larger the school the less cost per pupil." Miss Clark very carefully explained all other provisions, and answered satisfactorily all questions regarding the schools.

TO THE HONORABLE, The COUNTY COURT of Malheur County, Oregon.

We your petitioners, taxpayers of Malheur County, beg to submit the following protest.

The County Court having published their budget for the year 1917, and the same seeming to us excessive and needless in many respects, we have hereto annexed, a list showing the budgets for the years 1916 and 1917 and the money expended in the ten months between the first day of January and the first day of November, 1916.

The list also shows the amount of money on hand in various funds, and in said list you will find a column showing wherein several thousand dollars can be saved the taxpayers of this county.

Now, We your petitioners hereby object to and protest against such budget as published in the Malheur Enterprise, and respectfully ask that such reduction be made as stated in the annexed list.

And we your petitioners will ever pray.

Frank O'Neill, Phillip H. Bass, W. F. Pritchett, Ann D. Pritchett, Henry Eldredge, D. McLeod, Louis Zaninetta, W. M. Rose, Alfred Vogue, A. H. Chester, S. Humphrey, Geo. T. Carey, J. H. Gwilliam, H. C. Parker, Cleve Camman, W. F. Bohna, Jay Kimball, John Kircher, R. E. Weant, John McLaughlin, H. P. Davis, W. F. Hall, W. G. Thomson, T. Y. Stark, J. O. Thomson, Harry P. Stacey, F. W. Stacey, R. H. DeArmond, Geo. McLaughlin, Carl Reed, Newt Wilson, Martin Hanson, E. W. Moyer, A. A. Robbins, W. S. Campbell, F. Reed, Otis Thayer, Edward Parks, W. P. Harris, Emory Cole, Isaac Elmendorf, Leonard Cole, I. B. Quisenberry, C. A. Gilham, H. S. Sackett.

The Statement Accompanying the petition was a statement headed as follows:

Judge McKnight said they had examined into the feasibility of putting in a temporary wooden structure but found that it would cost \$2,000 additional.

"As to the Juntura bridge," said the Judge, "we were advised that this bridge was dangerous. We ordered an examination and its dangerous condition was confirmed. We bought the steel and put in the bridge for less money than we could contract it for and steel from the mills could be had in not less than five or six months, which was too long for us to take any chances."

Wm. Jones insisted that the commissioners had done the proper thing in both cases and that to do things like these in a permanent manner was a real saving for the county.

Mrs. Carlile, of Ontario, crosses the Great Divide.

Prominent Malheur County Lady Passes Away.

Mrs. R. M. Carlile, wife of assessor-elect Carlile, died Saturday at their home in Ontario. Mrs. Carlile had been ill several months, and the end had been expected for several weeks. The Carlile family have been residents of the county for many years. They resided at Ironside until about eight years ago, when they moved to Ontario. Mrs. Carlile was postmistress at Ironside for many years, and her husband owned the leading store there at that time.

The funeral was held Sunday, at which a great number of friends and sympathizers of the bereaved were present.

SCHOOL NOTES BY FAY CLARK

Entertainments Are Planned By Many Rural Schools in the County--Contests and Other Affairs Planned.

The rural schools and many of the individual rooms in the town schools are planning their Christmas entertainments. Creston, Lincoln Settlement, Big Bend, Hart and others have reported interest on the part of the children and parents.

In several of the schools, contests of different kinds—map drawing, sewing and writing—are being carried on. Two teachers have sent the results of the contests to the County Office to be judged. The awards will be published next week. These little contests, whether done for the benefit of visitors on a certain day or for everyday work, are of great benefit. The average child will draw a better map if he is in contest with another child as will an older person do better work when he knows that his product will have to compete with that of another.

The two districts in Big Bend have improved their school property considerably this year. In the so called "Big Bend" district—the school of one room—new seats and other furniture have been added and the interior and exterior painted. In the Wade district the school house has been brightened by paint and curtains. Also sanitary toilets have been added. This latter item should be considered as soon as a district feels able financially to care for it.

The State Teachers' Association meets in Portland December 27, 28 and 29. One and one third fare rates have been granted until January 3. Receipts for tickets should be demanded if the return reduction is wished. Few Eastern Oregon teachers ever have the opportunity of attending a State Association meeting and if any of the Malheur County teachers are thinking of going to Portland for the holidays, they should plan to hear some of the Nation's foremost educators who will be on the program this year.

The Valley View school has been closed for some time because of illness in the community. Reports the last of the week were that work would be resumed Monday, Dec. 11.

Miss Viola Pfeister, formerly of the Medford schools, is teaching in the Ironside school. Miss Pfeister is an enthusiastic teacher.

The eighth grade in Vale will conduct a sale of fancy work and useful articles of needle work next Wednesday in the Post Office building. The boys have had a share in making some of the pieces of handwork and it is almost impossible to decide which of the work they have done. The proceeds go to buy something needed in this room, perhaps a Victrola.

The Circuit Court room has been decided upon as the place in which the Teachers' Examinations will be held. Work will begin as soon as possible.

MRS. CARLILE, OF ONTARIO, CROSSES THE GREAT DIVIDE

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CROSS-STATE ROAD IS NOW PROBABILITY

Problem of Highway to Remote Eastern Oregon Cities May Have Solution by Prominent Men.

ROAD WILL REACH TO ROCK CREEK

Will Be Practically an All-Year Road, and Will Have Water Grade for 100 Miles Along John Day River.

At last the serious problem of a short-cut highway to remote Eastern Oregon points that will furnish a feasible connection with the Lincoln Highway and all points east is about to be solved, if the hopes of J. E. Snow, Mayor of Dayville, Grant county, and J. G. Hoke, of Baker, expressed in Portland last week, are to be realized.

The apparent solution of the problem centers around what is to be known as the John Day Highway, most of which is already a traveled road, some 6 or 8 miles of survey in Baker county and about 20 miles of inexpensive work in Grant county remaining to link the entire chain. The complete survey has been made under the direction of the state highway officials and State Engineer Lewis, as well as the members of the State Highway Commission, are said to be heartily in accord with the John Day Highway plans.

Furthermore, the road has been adopted as a state highway, subject to the benefits of Federal aid and with each of the counties along the route in prosperous condition and willing to do its share in the general program the early completion of a standard highway through the John Day country is a probability rather than a possibility.

Road Reaches Rock Creek.

The highway, as proposed, connects with the Columbia River Highway at Rock Creek, Gilliam county, proceeds through Gilliam and Wheeler counties by way of Condon and Fossil and strikes the John Day River a short distance below the town of Spray. From that point it follows the John Day river to the Grant county line, then pierces the John Day Valley almost to its head. Then it crosses the Blue Mountains through the corner of Baker county and proceeds through Malheur county to Ontario.

According to the general plans of State Engineer Lewis several important connections can be made ultimately with the proposed John Day Highway. For instance, the proposed new road along the southern edge of Mount Hood could connect with the John Day Highway in Wheeler county after maintaining a 4 per cent grade all the way. Also the proposed through road from the Coast at Florence to Eugene and over the McKenzie Pass to Bend and Prineville could intersect with the John Day Highway not far below Dayville, in Grant county.

All-Year Road is Expected.

Mr. Snow, who has been a prominent resident in the Dayville community for 35 years, says that the proposed route would be practically an all-year road and that it would have a water grade for 100 miles along the John Day River. He hopes that the state of Idaho will ultimately build a road to connect with the Oregon highway at Ontario and carry it through to the Lincoln Highway, thereby adding substantial impetus to the so-called Portland, Or., to Portland, Me., Highway that has been so long talked of. Once the John Day Highway and its connections are in full working order Mr. Snow believes a heavy stream of Eastern motorists will be drawn to Oregon.

The new highway will bring Ontario and Vale 118 miles nearer Portland, according to Mr. Snow. He also points out that the John Day country is quite scenic particularly around the famous fossil beds of Grant county.