

3. Extracts from a Diary.

ONE MAN'S SYSTEM

"I talked with our foreman yesterday. I spoke of the cost of living. He says he started in on less wages than I am getting, and managed to save money. It seems almost impossible, but he began by making a schedule of his living expenses—those things absolutely necessary. What remained he called his profits, and used half for pleasure expenses, saving the other half. He said it was all due to the little system he used and knowing exactly what he spent".

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LAND BOARD GETTING BUSY

Continued from first page

slipshod manner, without the Desert Land Board paying particular attention to what was going on. Hazy ideas regarding the Carey act, absence of proper water legislation and inexperience of engineers and projectors have grown a crop of troubles and litigation, dissatisfaction and disappointment until now, with a new Desert Land Board at Salem, a policy has been mapped out which aims to solve the problems and meet conditions existing and make things better for the future. This activity of the board has only just started and before the board is through, complete reorganization of these irrigation enterprises is hoped for.

Summed in a nutshell, irrigation companies must make good on their water promises, or the Desert Land Board will know the reason why.

The board is between two fires and is confronted by a delicate problem, which demands skillful treatment so as not to jeopardize interests and inflict needless and irreparable loss on capital and the settlers. On one hand the board, if it would enforce its rules to safeguard the settlers, would cause the forfeiture of much land, and the protection of the settlers would be doubtful. On the other hand, irrigation projects have not been successful investments for capitalists, as these projects require more money to finance than at first appears. Companies, although not living up to agreement, are struggling along, trying to increase the water supply while being handicapped for lack of capital. If the Desert Land Board calls a halt, the companies will lose all they have invested, and the dams and canals will be abandoned and the settlers will be no better off than at present. This is the nut which the members of the board are trying to crack.

One solution to the difficulty is for the Desert Land Board to act as a sort of anchor to windward for these projects. The plan is to have the companies managing the projects deposit with the state a certain percentage of the receipts from the sale of lands. This money is to be returned to the companies on the completion of their work, but if the companies fail, then the board will take the money deposited and carry the work to completion. The proposition seems reasonable to the board members but not to all of the companies. One company, however, has deposited with the state \$20,000 in cash and \$90,000 of settlers notes, but this \$110,000 is insufficient to complete that particular project.

It has been demonstrated conclusively by the settlers on these arid lands that where water has been obtained the crops have been eminently satisfactory. One project which was in bad shape a year ago, managed to advance its work sufficiently to put under water a large tract last spring, with the result that the settlers are raising good crops this summer.

Largest of the projects is the

Central Oregon Irrigation Company, which has 214,000 acres. This company took over two old companies and applied for more land of its own. This company has got water on some of its land, but at present is financially embarrassed. Also, the company has sold more lands than it has water to cover, but as not all the purchasers have asked for water there is today plenty of water for those on the ground and using it. The Desert Land Board is considering the question of preventing further sale of lands until provision is made for an adequate water supply by construction of an additional canal, known as the North Canal, or of permitting further sale, and have the company deposit part of the proceeds with the state as a guarantee. The company insists that it has abundant assets to construct the North Canal. While everything appears satisfactory so far, the matter must be adjusted at an early date. The board inspected the project personally and had an engineer on the job.

Insofar as the Desert Land Board is concerned, it merely acts as an agent for the government and is really a go-between for the government and the settlers. No deeds are given to this segregated lands by the government until affidavits are submitted and approved by the Desert Land Board that there is sufficient water for the acreage involved. There is an instance where false affidavits were made that water was abundant, whereas it was not, and the government gave the deeds. It is difficult to place the responsibility for this manipulation and false affidavit and as it happened several years ago, the present board does not intend probing the transaction. What the board is determined to do, however, is to try to straighten out the snarl in which these projects have become involved so that the rights of settlers will be protected, the companies will make good and as many as possible will be satisfied.

FOREST FIRES ON METOLIUS

Considerable Area Burned
Over Before Fire
Is Controlled

Last week and the fore part of this a forest fire destroyed much valuable timber on the Metolius river west of here. Campers and fishing parties along the river were driven out by the flames, and the male members in some instances were impressed into fighting fire by the forest rangers. Considerable of an area was burned over before the fire was gotten under control. A strong wind Saturday and Sunday drove the fire rapidly. Sunday night portions of the fire could be seen here, and all day the air was filled with smoke.

SMITHROCK

(Formerly Hillman)

Miss Blanche Kingsbury is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. A. Cleland.

Mr. Harmon of the Monarch Lumber Co. was here last week.

Mrs. W. E. Thievoldt entertained the Ladies Pioneer Club last week Wednesday afternoon.

Rev. C. R. Scafe and family have arrived from Potlatch, Idaho, and are living on their ranch near here.

Hegardt Bros. and Thievoldt sold their stone building last week to Geo. O'Neil.

N. H. Elliott and Geo. Elliott and families returned last Tuesday from a camping trip to Blue and Suttle lakes.

The local ball team was defeated by the Opal City team on the home grounds last Sunday.

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