

# The Redmond Spokesman

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## COLUMBIA SOUTHERN BILL PASSES HOUSE

**HINKLE'S ELOQUENT PLEA WINS FOR IRRIGATION, AND APPROPRIATION MEASURE CARRYING \$500,000 FOR COLUMBIA SOUTHERN PROJECT IS PASSED IN THE HOUSE—SETTLERS BEGIN TO SEE RAY OF HOPE**

At the conclusion of one of the most brilliant speeches ever delivered on the floor of the house, the Forbes bill, appropriating \$500,000 for the Columbia Southern irrigation project, passed by an overwhelming vote last Wednesday. There were but few votes against it.

Gill of Clackamas, and Hill and Johnson of Marion, were among those opposing. They held it to be a dangerous precedent for the state to align itself with irrigation projects by the appropriation of funds, even though it be for a loan. They feared that the state will never get back the money.

Hinkle of Umatilla, took the floor and made the most eloquent plea for the bill. He declared the biggest piece of legislation ever before the House, and he said he doubted if any greater will ever be presented. He said in part:

"State reclamation of desert lands is a new thing in Oregon. The time has come when this state must look to its 16,000,000 acres of sterile, but unoccupied, land and adopt a definite policy which will insure its speedy use and reclamation. We have extended a broad invitation to the homeseeker. It is our imperative duty to see that he is not flimflammed upon his rival.

"But aside from all this, we must bear in mind that the state's hands touched this Columbia Southern project, and the state's hands are not yet washed of the transaction. It is my duty to say the state bears no legal responsibility. But I say to you the state's moral responsibility is one that rests heavily upon the shoulders of every citizen. The state cannot shift a responsibility. The state must make good on every proposition with which its fair name is associated in any capacity. The first contract in the matter of the proposed reclamation was made by the officers of the state and the impress of the great seal of the state was affixed to the document. The settler relied upon that. He had a right to rely upon it. The mistakes of the officers of the state are no justification. The loophole by which the state may escape legal liability is no justification. We cannot blame the original Land Board for not throwing stronger safeguards around the settlers who were to occupy the lands and ultimately pay the full cost of reclamation. These officers acted in good faith, I doubt not, and in the light of such meager information and data as they possessed at the time. But the glaring fact remains that the project failed, and it is up to the state to see that under its great seal, and in the glory of its fair name, there is no

such word as failure.

"Will this legislature leave any lasting mark on the page of history? I say to you that this measure marks a new epic in the history of the state. And when the records of this Legislature are finally made up, and our children and our children's children shall read this page of history, let it not be said that we were weighed in the balance and found wanting, but rather let it be said that we saw and grasped an opportunity for greatness."

## MORSON BEATS GOVERNOR WEST IN HIS CASE IN SUPREME COURT

J. E. Morson, president of the Deschutes Land Co., an irrigation project in the vicinity of La Pine, won his first victory in the fight being waged upon him and his company by Governor West last week, when the Supreme Court handed down a decision holding that he was wholly within his right in assigning liens held on lands in his project to prospective settlers.

Taking the position that he was not allowed under his contract with the state to assign liens on the lands in his project until the lands had been reclaimed, Governor West directed the Attorney General to bring injunction proceedings against the company. The Attorney General at the time advised the Board that Mr. Morson was within his rights, and demurred. The other members of the Board were of the same opinion, but the Governor was insistent, and not satisfied to have the Attorney General to represent the state, employed his satellite, Senator McColloch, to prosecute the case.

Now the Supreme Court sustains the opinion given the Board by the Attorney General, holding that Morson is within his rights in assigning the liens on his lands to prospective settlers, and that it is not incumbent upon him to wait until the land is reclaimed before disposing of them.

After instituting the suit to enjoin the company from assigning the liens on the lands the Governor also, in further waging his fight, represented to the Department of the Interior that Morson was failing to comply with his contract with the state. He also suggested that he was using the mails to defraud. Heeding the appeal of the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior denied the company's application for a right of way across Federal land to appropriate water needed for the project from Clear Lake, until an investigation of the matter could be made by a special agent.

This special agent has now completed his labors. If his report exonerates Morson, and he recommends that the application for the right of way be granted, Morson will have won a second victory in the fight waged against him by the Governor.

The House last week passed the bill, by Abbott of Multnomah, appropriating \$50,000 for a survey of the Deschutes river. There were 45 votes for and six against. Speaker McArthur and other members spoke in favor of the bill, saying it is one of the greatest pieces of constructive legislation before the Legislature. The emergency clause was attacked by some members, but carried, as it was shown that 3 months' delay might beat the state out of a similar appropriation from the Federal government.

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## AGRICULTURAL BILL PASSED BY SENATE

**THREE MEMBERS ONLY VOTE NO—EXTENSION OF STATE COLLEGE FARMING WORK TO SETTLERS, AS PROVIDED, OREGON'S BIGGEST PIECE OF LAW MAKING, SAY SOLONS**

The first big victory was won for the Smith and Thompson Senate bill 72, providing for agricultural extension work, when the Senate passed the bill last Thursday with but three dissenting votes. It was almost unanimously declared by those favoring the bill that it was the biggest single piece of legislation in its aims and purposes that has ever come before an Oregon Legislature.

Some sentiment was expressed as to particular provisions of the bill, but the work that it will accomplish was conceded to far overshadow these difficulties. Its advocates are satisfied that it will pass the House and have no fear but that it will receive the approval of the Governor when it comes up to him.

Eastern and Central Oregon Senators were particularly strong for the bill, and the Multnomah delegation went as a unit in its favor. Senator Stewart was particularly strong in his expressions of favor for the proposal.

"If you cannot bring some suggestion to the settlers of Eastern and Central Oregon as to how to make a living, don't for humanity's sake give us any more settlers to starve," was his plea in urging that the state must do something to show a large number of the new settlers how they can develop their land to a point of efficiency and productiveness.

McColloch declared that the measure is one of such large importance that details which

might meet with personal criticism must be overlooked.

"The empire east of the Cascade Mountains has been overcapitalized by Portland," said the Senator from Baker. "Irrigation has not proved the success that had been prophesied for it. The great problem before the empire is to prepare it for the settler. The great cry is to educate the occupants of the land. Scientific cooperation between the Agricultural College and the tiller of the soil is the one method to bring about the most successful results."

Thompson also made an urgent plea for the measure, showing the vast wealth producing results for Portland that a system of scientific cultivation of the soil will mean.

"This is the missing link between the farmers and the Oregon Agricultural College," cried Thompson, in closing the debate.

Dimick, Neuner and Wood voted against the bill.

## BUBBLING FOUNTAIN IS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF CUP ON TRAINS

The common drinking cup on board trains has been prohibited by the Railroad Commission after a hearing at Salem last Thursday, and instead, the bubbling fountain may be substituted, upon the advice of State Health Officer Calvin S. White, as being the most sanitary appliance. Of the 21 roads in the state, 17 were represented at the hearing last Thursday, and the Commission was given assurance that efforts would be made to comply with the suggestion of the State Health officer. The Commission will be satisfied with paraffine paper cups, and a provision is made that the water served must be of good quality.

After a debate during which Governor West received a severe tongue lashing from Lewelling, Forbes and Hinkle, the House last Thursday by a vote of 55 to 1, passed House Bill No. 98 by Mann, over the Governor's head, declaring that the bill would save the taxpayers considerable money, and that the Governor's "watchword" during his administration had been economy. The vote is important in that it shows the strength of the organization in the House against Governor West.

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