

# The Redmond Spokesman

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## IRRIGATION CONGRESS DID MUCH FOR THIS COUNTY AND BALANCE OF CENTRAL OREGON

### PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY IRRIGATION CONGRESS AT PORTLAND LAST WEEK

State to adopt "some comprehensive reclamation policy," constitutional amendment providing bond issue is indorsed and federal co-operation is recommended.

Federal Government to construct Tumalo extension in Central Oregon.

Desert Land Board not to issue certificate of proofs to settlers until one-half of land under contract has been cultivated.

Federal Reclamation Service to take up Malheur and Owyhee Projects in Eastern Oregon.

That Deschutes Valley Irrigation Project now under joint state and federal investigation be indorsed.

State and Federal Governments to take over Carey Act Project of Central Oregon Irrigation Company and relieve settlers on those lands.

State Desert Land Board to grant no more extensions to owners of Benham Falls segregation in Crook county.

Amendment to state water laws providing for board of control of which State Engineer is not a member.

Plan of teaching agriculture in schools and colleges indorsed.

That State Agricultural College establish substation on each project.

A series of heated debates centered around the report of the resolutions committee at the close of the afternoon session of the Oregon Irrigation Congress in Portland last Saturday.

But one resolution recommended by the committee—that asking that the office of the state engineer be made appointive instead of elective—was defeated.

Indorsement of the proposed state bond issue and of Secretary Lane's \$100,000,000 federal bond issue for general reclamation work went through with a whoop.

Other measures had narrow escapes, however. A sharp discussion waged for nearly half an hour around the plan that proposes to make settlers on irrigated land put at least half of their irrigable area under cultivation before being granted a certificate of proof entitling them to patent. This is the resolution that is intended to curb speculation and after prolonged discussion it was upheld by the convention.

J. E. Morsen of La Pine, early attacked this resolution on the grounds that its provisions are in conflict with the Carey Act. J. W. Brewer of this city, chairman of the resolutions committee, declared that this was not sufficient cause to reject it.

"If it is in conflict with the law," he said, "let's change it, but let's preserve its principles. It aims to keep the legitimate settler on the land and to drive away the speculator and the fraudulent locator."

A motion of M. J. Lee of Canby to table the resolution was lost. The debate on its adoption then was taken up in earnest.

Mr. Brewer again appealed on behalf of it. He explained that the people of Central Oregon have been "harrassed by the speculator," and that more than half of the irrigated area is not being cultivated merely because people living in Chicago and New York and other eastern places have secured title to the land without being reprinted to live on it or to farm it.

"Those fellows profit from the industry of the actual locators," he said. "They get the land merely to sell it. We want more settling and less selling."

Mr. Lee contended that if settlers are required to cultivate half of their area it will cause many of them to desert—that the expense of bringing the land under cultivation will be too great.

A. O. Walker of Alfalfa supported Mr. Brewer and the resolution. He lives in the heart of an irrigated section and says he has had a lot of experience with speculators and fraudulent locators. When the vote finally was taken there was little opposition.

Another measure that called forth much debate is that which recommends an amendment to the state water laws that will provide for a board of control of three members of which the state engineer shall not be a member, and that the state engineer shall be directed to represent the state in all water controversies as a partisan.

In spite of considerable opposition

this resolution was adopted. W. Lair Thompson of Lakeview was earnest in its support. John H. Lewis, state engineer, opposed it.

Engineer Lewis won his contention, however, when the resolution to make his office an appointive one was presented. While he declined to take a position for or against the measure, the tone of his remarks were such as to indicate plainly that he was opposed to it.

E. G. Hopson, supervising engineer for the United States Reclamation Service, entered vigorous protest against the resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior to authorize the immediate construction of the Tumalo Project extension.

The government now is engaged in the task of investigating the feasibility of this project, explained Mr. Hopson. He declared it would be presumptuous for the Congress to go on record as recommending something regarding the feasibility of which there is no definite knowledge.

"But private engineers have declared it feasible," asserted J. W. Brewer. "The Reclamation Service is not everything. If this Congress is going to accomplish anything it must specify something."

"We can stipulate that we do not want this work done if it isn't feasible," suggested M. J. Lee.

Other delegates expressed themselves plainly in favor of the measure and it was passed without a dissenting voice.

There was no opposition to any of the other measures.

Hearty support was promised to the public schools and colleges that are trying to instill into the minds of the young that agriculture and livestock are the basis of the state's prosperity, and "that there is no occupation more worthy."

A topographic and stream gauging survey was asked for, so that the irrigation and power possibilities of the streams in the state may be made a matter of public record.

Calling attention to the fact that Oregon has not received its full share of the reclamation fund, the congress went on record as indorsing the plan of Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, for a \$100,000,000 federal bond issue for further construction of irrigation projects, approved payments and commended his attitude toward co-operation.

**Purchase of Canal Unit in Central Oregon Indorsed**

The purchase by the state of the north canal unit of the Central Oregon Irrigation Project, which was made a chief issue of the session by the big Crook county delegation, was approved by the Irrigation Congress through this resolution:

Whereas, the Carey Act Project lying on the east side of the Deschutes river in Crook county, Oregon, known as the Central Oregon Irrigation Company's North Canal Segregation, is only partially completed, but that a large number of acres of land has already been sold to settlers out of its segregation, and that many of said settlers are now on said land,

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### HOME MADE PRODUCTS BANQUET TO BE HELD

#### COMMERCIAL CLUB WILL PULL OFF A NEW STUNT

Plan to Have a Number of the Commercial Clubs of the County Meet Here

At the Commercial Club meeting last night it was decided to have a home-made product banquet the first regular meeting night of the club in March, to be given by the members of the club and the wives of the members of the club. The committee having the banquet in charge is Z. Tallafiero, R. L. James, R. L. Schee, J. W. Moore and C. B. Drake. Later in the season it is intended to give a barbecue for the whole community.

A communication was received from County School Superintendent Myers of Prineville, in regard to holding an old fashioned "spelling bee" in Redmond in the near future. Mr. Myers' idea was to give an Encyclopedia Britannica for first prize, Books of Universal Knowledge for second prize, and a new International Dictionary for the third prize. He asked the club to take up the matter in the way of helping along the contest in connection with other clubs of the county. The secretary was instructed to write Mr. Myers as to what the other clubs would do in the matter.

The committee appointed to look into the matter of securing a club room for the organization made a report, and on motion the committee was thanked for their work and discharged, and the proposition of a permanent club room was postponed for future action.

The names of J. W. Moore and C. B. Drake were added to the Entertainment Committee, which now consists of Z. Tallafiero, R. L. James, R. L. Schee, J. W. Moore and C. B. Drake.

The Park Committee asked for further time in which to report.

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### LOSS ON WAREHOUSE HAS BEEN ADJUSTED

#### COMPANY WILL COME OUT A LITTLE TO THE GOOD

Meeting Called for Next Saturday to Take Action in Regard to Rebuilding

Stockholders of the Redmond Union Warehouse Company and some farmers interested in the company met at Ebert's hall last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Talks were made by L. E. Smith, H. J. Harris, Guy E. Dobson, C. E. Merrick, W. G. Phoenix and others.

A committee of five, L. E. Smith, W. G. Phoenix, William Ogg, Frank Donlavy and Mr. Van Allen, was appointed to ascertain the financial condition of the warehouse company and report at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon, February 21, when stockholders and others who are favorable to rebuilding the warehouse will meet.

The insurance as adjusted on the burned warehouse is \$8,095.78, and it is estimated that the company will have about approximately \$1,500 after all debts are paid, and perhaps this sum may be extended to \$2,000.

President Harris of the warehouse company says that if all or a majority at the meeting next Saturday are in favor of rebuilding, the company will immediately start a stock selling tour through the county and when all the stock is sold will start rebuilding.

## Advantages of a Bank Account, However Small It May Be

It is well to pay bills promptly, but not to pay the same bill twice. Sometimes bookkeepers, by mistake, send out bills after they have been paid. If you pay by check, however, the cancelled checks are returned to you and can be produced as receipts.

Checking accounts are therefore more than a convenience. They are an insurance against over payment. Every man or woman who pays bills should do so with checks.

Your checking account will be welcomed at this bank, where you are assured of absolute security and the most courteous treatment.

## REDMOND BANK OF COMMERCE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

B. A. Kendall L. E. Smith Dr. J. Barr J. W. Brewer Guy E. Dobson  
Guy E. Dobson, President J. W. Brewer, Vice President  
Chas. B. Drake, Cashier

## SOME SIDELIGHTS ON THE COUNTY COURT MUDDLE

### COUNTY JUDGE SPRINGER WIRES THE GOVERNOR FOR HELP TO RECOVER TAX ROLLS FROM THE SHERIFF, BUT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REFUSES TO INTERFERE—STATEMENTS OF SHERIFF ELKINS, COMMISSIONER BAYLEY AND STATE WATER MASTER BREWSTER IN REGARD TO THE CONTROVERSY—TAXPAYERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND MARCH MEETING COUNTY COURT

A Salem dispatch dated the 16th says: Governor West has received a message from G. Springer, county Judge of Crook county, stating that the sheriff has taken the taxroll and is refusing to return it, and inquiring if the executive will come to his aid, should the sheriff refuse to obey the court order commanding the return of the roll. Judge Springer wired as follows:

"Expert accountants are at Prineville, upon the order of the county court, to go over the taxroll. Last night the sheriff after hours, with the assistance of the janitor, entered the circuit room and swiped the taxroll, and is refusing to return it. I have telegraphed the circuit court for an order commanding the sheriff to return it. If the sheriff should refuse to obey the order will you give me assistance in enforcing the law? I am earnest in this matter from the fact that the expert shows that a large sum in delinquent taxes has been paid to the treasurer since this work has commenced."

He further declared that it appeared that Commissioner Bayley was back of the sheriff. Governor West stated that he had not replied, but

indicated that it was beyond his province, and that he did not see how he could take any hand in the affair.

A dispatch from Prineville dated the 16th to the Portland Oregonian in regard to the above matter says:

The fight which has been carried on for several months between Judge Springer of Crook county and other members of the Crook county board, and with the sheriff, culminated today at a mass meeting of the taxpayers of Crook county, presided over by the County Judge and Board of Commissioners. Various officers aired their grievances.

After an all-day argument the officers fell in line with the Judge's suggestions, thus settling their differences for the present at least.

**Sheriff Elkins Courts Investigation**

In an interview with Sheriff Elkins over the phone Tuesday afternoon in regard to Judge Springer's charge about him "swiping" the tax rolls, Mr. Elkins stated to The Spokesman that he was perfectly willing for an investigation to be made of his books and had offered the expert desk room in his office and every other facility for the conduct of the work, but he

would not allow the books to be taken from his office as it was necessary to have them there at all times in order to transact the necessary business of collecting delinquent taxes.

He further said that after the tax rolls had been taken from his office they were locked up in a room where they were unprotected from fire, and where they could be tampered with. Mr. Elkins said that he was under bond for \$30,000 for the safe conduct of the affairs of his office and he did not propose to let the tax rolls go from his possession.

**Commissioner Bayley's Statement**

Commissioner R. H. Bayley, who was in Redmond yesterday, in an interview in regard to charges made by Springer that he was upholding the sheriff in the above matter, said:

"Sheriff Elkins called me over the phone, stating that Springer's expert had returned, entered his office and removed all the tax rolls, taking them to an unoccupied room in the upper story of the Court House, and that he had no rolls to work on for the collection of delinquent taxes. As there were no vaults in this room the sheriff, in order to be safe from fire and to preserve the rolls intact, asked me what to do in the matter. I asked him if the expert could take a certain part of the rolls and leave the balance, and both continue their work. He stated that they could. I then advised him in that case to take whatever he considered necessary and leave the balance for the expert."

Commissioner Bayley requests that the taxpayers of the county be present at the March 4 meeting of the County Court to hear the continuation of the alleged grafting of county officials, as it is promised at that time that the whole matter will be threshed out and affairs of the county court shown up in their true light.

**Water Master Brewster Gives An Account of the Trouble**

G. H. Brewster of Prineville, state water master for this district, and who is conversant with county court affairs, made the following statement to The Spokesman while in Redmond yesterday:

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