

The Redmond Spokesman

NO. 25.

REDMOND, CROOK COUNTY OREGON, THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 1916.

\$1.50 PER YEAR.

UTES COUNTY BODY CORPORATE

LIST OF OFFICIALS NAMED BY ELS OF GOVERNMENT SET IN MOTION

In the week the county court organized and Tuesday the having qualified, met at 1 proceeded with the organization appointing the following list:

clerk, J. H. Haner, of Bend. er, Clyde McKay, of Bend. er, W. T. Mullarky, of Red-

f, S. E. Roberts, of Bend. or, George S. Young, of

ntendent of public instruc-Alton Thompson, Tumalo. r, Elmer Nelswonger, Bend. au—Dr. Dwight S. Miller,

was named as the temporary government.

UTES COUNTY COURT OLDS ITS FIRST MEETING.

rst meeting of the Deschutes mmissioners was held in the end, Monday afternoon, the ion meeting in the council hich had been extended to r their use while perfecting nization, says the Bend

ing a talk of several hours, as held behind closed doors, missioners were sworn in by Attorney De Armond, who ived his commission from rnor.

principal topic informally dis- the meeting was the prob- ointees to the county offices, aces will be filled by the ion at an early meeting in at the county may get to its soon as possible.

IN QUO WARRANTO IS FILED AT PRINEVILLE

in attendance at the meeting Deschutes Mutual Telephone here yesterday, Attorney N. ce stated that a proceeding rarranto would be filed today row, and if the officials of y proposed county would not hold matters pertaining to nization in abeyance, an in- also would be asked to pre- h organization until the lef the same could be fully in- ed, as the first named proce- es all points upon which re- placed to defeat the organ- ing of the proposed new county. ing, Mr. Wallace said: are just beginning the fight ill be pursued to a finish as as possible, nor have we a to the result of such action."

ANE WILL GET FARM LOAN BANK

AND PASSED UP BUT WORKERS THINK LOSS IS VERY SMALL.

ation received from Wash- makes it clear that Portland be selected as the place for leral farm loan bank of this, but that Spokane will be Oregon will be included ashington, Idaho and Montana district covering the Pacific west, California, Nevada, Ari- nd Utah will be in another dis- with the loan bank located at ento. Because San Francisco e federal reserve bank for the east district, it was disqual- law from consideration as a for a district farm loan bank.

THE STEALING CHARGED

arrant was issued from the of- Deputy District Attorney Chas. skine for the arrest of George charged with the theft of ead of cattle belonging to J. L. who resides on the Tumalo tion project. Mr. Couch missed ock November 25, and recover- last Sunday, through an ad- sment. Local officers believe ave trace of Ninon, and Sheriff Knox has gone into Lake coun- search of him.

RABBIT SKINS WANTED FOR EXPERIMENT

FARMERS TO SUPPLY MANUFACTURERS WITH FELT HAT MATERIALS

County Agriculturist R. A. Blanchard is in receipt of a wire from Congressman N. J. Sinnott asking for a shipment of 50 rabbit skins to be sent to a felt hat manufacturer in Philadelphia. This is the result of several weeks' inquiry into the question of finding a market for the famous eastern Oregon jack rabbit. Both Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Sinnott have been making overtures to eastern hattery concerns in an attempt to find some use for the rabbit.

Post a Blessing

The skins to be used in the experiment are being furnished by the farmers on the High Desert region back of Bend. Mr. A. S. Fogg of Hampton, Mr. S. W. Merrill of Brothers, and Mr. Chas. Marrin of Held are the most active in securing the skins.

Some care is required in the preparation of the skins, which must be well dried and stretched on a board before shipment. As yet there are not quite enough skins to satisfy the demand of the hatteries, and other attempts are being made by Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Blanchard is endeavoring in every way to serve the farmers of Crook county, to the best of his ability. One of his many activities has been to make an investigation of the possibilities of commercializing the rabbit. From the earliest reports so far indications lead to believe that should the Oregon rabbits satisfy the requirements of the manufacturers, they will be able to pay from 35 to 40 cents per pound for the skins. It takes four or five dried skins to make a pound, which together with the bounty already placed upon the rodents would make each rabbit worth about 10 or 12 cents. Who can tell but that the long time pest of the sage brush country may at last prove a blessing in disguise?

FRENCH MAKE GAINS AND TAKE PRISONERS

GAIN TWO MILES ALONG SIX MILE FRONT—FORCE GERMAN TO RETIRE

As his last act before assuming the chief command of the French armies on the western front, General Nivelle Friday smashed the German line in the Verdun region east of the Meuse along a front of six miles. The victory advanced the French positions two miles, and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive last February. The military authorities describe the victory as complete and crushing and carried out without a hitch.

The French struck the German positions between the Meuse and Woivre rivers north of Douaumont and north-northeast of the fortress. Along the front of six miles the German crown prince's army was pressed back for about two miles.

Since his last great stroke, when the blood-soaked ruins of Forts Vaux and Douaumont fell once more into the hands of Verdun's defenders, General Nivelle has been quietly preparing to push his advantages by an attack on a larger scale. Men and great guns had been assembled, shells piled and everything was in readiness for the moment when the general should see his opportunity.

Then the blow fell like a thunderbolt. A terrific artillery preparation flattened the German defenses, then the guns were elevated and threw a curtain of steel, behind which the infantry from every trench from Pepper hill to beyond Damloup dashed forward on an enemy still stunned by the bombardment.

One after another Vacheraville and Louvemont villages, Chambrette farm and the Hardaumont and Besonvaux works fell without the defenders having time to carry away either guns or material, and prisoners began to stream steadily rearward to positions prepared for their reception.

IRRIGATION AND BONDING SCHEMES ABLY DISCUSSED

Writer Presents His Case With Much Force and Logic—Ochoco Project Special Object of Criticism

(By C. Sam Smith.)

A great many people have asked why I am opposed to bonding the Ochoco Irrigation district as proposed, and so I have decided to set forth some of the more important reasons for my opposition.

Not Opposed to Irrigation

Let it be understood in the beginning that I am not opposed to irrigation. I have worked the best years of my life in this community for its up-building and no man can say that I have ever held back either financially or otherwise when any legitimate development program was put forward; and so, when any feasible, business-like plan is advanced for the irrigation of this section, I will be one of its chief supporters, for I know the value and advantages of irrigation; but the scheme of the present promoters of the Ochoco project I cannot endorse. I consider their ideas and what they are seeking to do by way of bonding our lands, impracticable, hasty, ill-advised, and contrary to sound business principles and good engineering practice. If the present program of selling bonds for \$1,100,000 is carried out and our lands placed under a lien of \$50 per acre it will amount to nothing less than confiscation of the improved lands in the project, and those who have cheap unimproved land will be disappointed in their hopes, either of a quick sale, or great increase in values of their holdings.

Did Not Advise Bonds

The first point I wish to make is that the government engineers and soil experts who prepared the report on the Ochoco project, based upon which those who advocate the district are proceeding, did not advocate bonding the lands for private money. On the contrary, they recommended that the project proceed only in the event that extremely cheap government money could be secured for the work. At page 32 of the government report, it is said: "It is believed that the project offers a comparatively safe field for irrigation development and is worth the estimated cost if interest charges do not exceed 3 per cent."

On page 96 the government report says: "That the Ochoco project is feasible at the estimated cost of \$51.30 if interest charges do not exceed 3 or 4 per cent per annum; that is, if the credit of the state or nation is used in financing the project."

And again on the same page: "That the cost of the project probably can be borne by the land if the interest charges on capital borrowed for construction do not exceed 3 or 4 per cent."

Private money will cost at least 6 per cent. No irrigation district bond in Oregon has ever sold for less. Now, why are these people rushing us so fast under this great bonded indebtedness, in disregard of the government recommendation printed above? Can they see no importance in an added 3 per cent interest on \$1,100,000?

Interest Rate Must Be Low

The recommendation of the government experts that this project be built is only faint-hearted, taken at its best. The report says only that the lands "probably" can stand the cost if money at 3 per cent or not to exceed 4 per cent can be secured. The difference between 3 per cent on \$1,100,000 in bonds for 20 years, what the government recommends, and 6 per cent, what our "boosters" want to saddle on us, is \$660,000 or \$42.58 per acre. I call upon my neighbors who will have to pay the bills out of their lands to join me in resisting this monumental folly. At \$51.30 per acre, I have the gravest doubts if we can pay out. Add \$42.58 in addition by way of excess interest charges, and I am convinced that we face ruin and confiscation of our land holdings.

But, if this project could be built with 3 per cent money I would still oppose it at the estimated cost. I am satisfied that those owning land under the project who voted for the bonds did so without full informa-

tion, at least, full appreciation of what the burdens of paying such a large lien would be.

Interest Default Certain

I venture the assertion that under the Oregon law as it now is, this project would default in its bonds and some would lose their lands in less than five years from the date construction began.

One million one hundred thousand dollars at 6 per cent means \$66,000 interest per year; for three years it means \$198,000 in interest.

Under the Oregon law, as it now stands, that much interest would accumulate against the district and have to be paid by assessments on the land, before a dollar's worth of use could be had from the water.

These figures are arrived at by simply estimating that construction would take two years and at least one year more would elapse before any crop could be made with the water.

As a matter of fact, the construction would, no doubt, take longer and on the low land it would be two and possibly three years after before any kind of a crop could be made.

Interest Will Eat It Up

Now apply that to individual cases, and see where the land owner would get off. It means that approximately \$8.25 in interest per acre would accumulate before the water could be put to earning; add to that one year's maintenance which is estimated at 75 cents per acre, total \$10 per acre. In any case, owning 300 acres, my interest and maintenance would be \$3,000 before the water was worth anything to me. In the case of a larger holding of say 1,000 acres, it would mean a tax of \$10,000.

Do I need to argue with anyone that we would fail under this load, that while we might be able to stagger along for a few years by borrowing money on warrants, eventually at least 25 per cent of the land in the district would default and the whole burden be thrown on the improved land, which in turn, would find it too heavy to carry? Approximately 5200 acres in the district is either unbroken land or owned by people in hard circumstances. How would the man owning 320 acres of either of these classes be able to raise \$3,200 cash to put up for water tax while waiting for the water to be delivered? He might in some cases be able to borrow outside, but this would only be temporary relief, be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Condition, Not a Theory

This is no theoretical consideration I am advancing. I am simply trying to apply in advance to the Ochoco irrigation district the experience of other districts in other states. A little later on I will show that four-fifths of the irrigation districts elsewhere have failed and ruined either the land owners or bondholders, and often both. It is enough to state now that one of the chief causes for these failures has been the attempt to pay interest in advance of the use of the water and to say that other western states, where they are trying to do anything with the irrigation district plan, have amended their laws to exempt the lands from interest charges for at least four years after construction. These states have learned by bitter experience that the land owner can't pay interest until he has the water at hand to earn it with. A banker wouldn't lend a man a large sum of money unless he could first show that he had a place to put it where, within a reasonable time, it would carry itself. The old district law, under which we are trying to work here in Oregon, thus violates a first and fundamental rule of finance, and must first be amended in this particular before any successful project under it can be constructed.

Law Is at Fault

Two small projects in Hood River county are the only two successful districts in this state, and they were only successful because the land was

(Continued on Page Four)

WILL GIVE EAR TO PEACE PROPOSALS

THE TONE OF PRESS IS CHANGING AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF NEGOTIATIONS

There is a noticeable change in the tone of the press comments of the English and French papers and the idea is taking root that the German proposal may have been made with an earnest purpose to bring peace. At any rate it is now apparent that negotiations will grow out of the proposal and while these may result in nothing definite, they are a step toward the much desired end. Counter proposals will be made and claims for immense damages may be made, but a peace congress could easily trim these to a point that all belligerents would accept.

Germany will consider any reply the entente allies make to the central powers' "peace proposals," it was learned at the German embassy at Washington. A strong belief is held that within a very short time the way will be open for the Dutch government to invite the belligerents to a conference at The Hague and that by that time the other neutrals can and will enter the situation.

So important is the situation existing already, Ambassador von Bernstorff reconsidered his intention of going to Boston for the funeral of Prof. Munsterberg. Instead he sent word to the German consul there to lay a wreath in his name at the famous educator's bier and to attend the funeral.

The ambassador has also abandoned his projected trip to Florida for the holidays, and will remain in Washington until the situation clarifies. He is awaiting with the utmost interest Lloyd-George's address in parliament.

640-ACRE HOMESTEAD BILL SENT TO WILSON TO SIGN

All the disputed points in the Ferris bill to provide 640-acre homesteads, principally for grazing purposes, were smoothed out in conferences between house and senate and the measure goes to the president.

LITERACY TEST WILL STAY IN THE BILL

SENATE PASSES IMMIGRATION MEASURE WITH CLAUSE INCORPORATED

The immigration bill containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens, which has caused three presidents to veto such a measure, was passed by the senate 64 to 7. The bill so amended in the senate now goes to conference. It passed the house last session.

The senate reconsidered the clause designed to exclude anarchists who teach the destruction of property as a propaganda. An amendment by Senator Hardwick for the committee, permitting entry of persons who advocate or teach destruction of property "in war, insurrection or revolution," but not otherwise, was adopted.

Three republicans—Brandegge, Colt and Du Pont—and four democrats—Husting, Martine, Phelan and Reed—voted against the bill. Senators Smith, of South Carolina, Hardwick and Lodge were appointed on the conference committee.

Authoritative statements have been made that President Wilson intends to veto the bill a second time because of a literacy test. In this event an effort will be made to pass the bill over the veto, two-thirds majority in each house being required.

The bill passed the house last April by a vote of 308 to 87, more than a two-thirds majority, and the senate vote, if repeated, would be sufficient to override an executive veto.

John Muller, aged 96, and the oldest living trotting horse driver, is dying at the Kalamazoo, Mich., poor farm. In October, 1859, he drove Flora Temple around the Kalamazoo track in 2:19 3-4, the first time a mare had beaten 2:20 in this country.

MORE TIME ASKED ON IRRIGATION LISTS

10-YEAR EXTENSION ASKED ON TWO CENTRAL OREGON PROJECTS

Following a session with representatives of the Central Oregon Irrigation company, the state desert land board fixed yesterday as the time for considering the company's request for a resolution urging congress to extend the time in which to reclaim lands in segregation lists Nos. 6 and 19. The board will also consider the excess acreage question at that time.

Representatives of the company asked for the passage of such a resolution but the board was in receipt of a telegram from the Water Users' association asking that it be heard on the subject and decided to defer action. Embraced within the lists are approximately 147,000 gross and 86,000 irrigable acres. The contract between the government and state relative to list 6 expires in February, 1918, and that relative to list 19 in 1920, and the company desires a ten-year extension. Action by the coming congress on the subject is necessary, it is asserted, for the next congress will not meet until December, 1917, and the time would then be too limited for the consideration of one of the contracts.

The company's representatives maintained that the extension would operate to the advantage of the settlers and state as well as the company, and declared they could see no objection to the passage of the resolution. The members declared, however, that it was a subject upon which the settlers were entitled to a hearing, and also desired to hear from them on the excess acreage question.

More or less of a controversy has existed for some time between the company's officials and the state engineer over the excess acreage question. The company desires to sell further lands and the engineer has objected on the ground that when the excess acreage in its project is taken into consideration the further sale of lands will overtax the canals. The settlers have been threatening to test this question in the courts.

With the view of laying the foundation for this the board some time ago allowed the company to sell additional lands and it allowed the sale of 450 more acres. For every additional acre sold the company must cancel an acre of excess area.

PROGRESSIVES WILL REORGANIZE PARTY

ONLY THOSE WHO REFUSED TO GO OVER TO OLD PARTIES TO BE HEARD

"Reincarnation" of the progressive party with a "new sense of party independence" based upon the "new liberal spirit" was agreed upon at a conference of prominent progressives from several states, held at New York Saturday.

Funds were subscribed to open a national progressive headquarters in that city until the national convention meets in St. Louis. Permission "for those leading progressives who have made party mistakes" to re-enter the party was discussed, but no action was taken.

Assurances also were given to those who seemed to fear that the "reactionary group of progressives" might gain control of the St. Louis convention that only those known to be "loyal and true progressives who had refused to go over to the republicans or democrats" would have a voice in organizing the new party.

The conference which was called by Matthew Hale, of Boston, national vice chairman of the progressive party, lasted three hours. Mr. Hale was authorized to select a committee to plan for the national convention some time in February. Its members will be announced later.

Letters and telegrams read at the conference from progressives who could not attend showed that 36 states were represented.