

#### Irrigation Bill.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—It is perfectly safe to say that the irrigation bill will pass the House during the next few days. The bill will then go to conference with the Senate committee, for the bill adopted by the House is the bill which passed the Senate, but to which important amendments have been made. No more striking change in the status of a legislative matter has taken place during this session than that which has come over the attitude of Congress towards the irrigation bill. Four months ago it was evident to those best informed that a National irrigation bill would pass the Senate, though in what shape was considered doubtful. It was equally apparent at that date that there was a majority in the House against the bill of probably 150.

After the Senate passed its irrigation bill it was still evident that the House was against any such measure, and, what was more significant, the Senate bill was objectionable to President Roosevelt and to the National Irrigation Association. President Roosevelt and others who desired an irrigation bill which should be a home-making bill immediately instituted a vigorous campaign to secure such amendments as would eliminate from the Senate measure its pernicious features. The Western members of Congress were practically united to secure this result. Many conferences were held, both at the Capitol and at the White House, and a personal canvass was conducted by the advocates of a proper measure, not only to secure amendments for the Senate bill but to secure the passage of the measure through the House and its final enactment into a law.

The House committee on irrigation decided to abandon its own measure for the purpose of gaining time, and adopted the Senate measure, making the necessary amendments thereto to secure the support of the Administration and of the National Irrigation Association. Earlier predictions to the effect that no irrigation legislation could be enacted at this session of Congress were based entirely upon lack of knowledge of the importance of the measure among many members of Congress and the lack of support from President Roosevelt and the National Irrigation Association for any bill such as the Senate measure, which did not conform to the fundamental idea of homebuilding on the public lands. The House committee reported the amended Senate measure April 7, and this bill, as reported, has received the full approval of President Roosevelt and the hearty support of the National Irrigation Association, which it may be said, is absolutely necessary to the enactment of any irrigation legislation by Congress.

This bill, as now before the House, has received the approval of nearly three-quarters of the members, and the support which has come to the measure since its amendment demonstrates most effectively that the strength of the irrigation movement lies in the idea of home making on the public lands. This idea was the keynote of President Roosevelt's message concerning such legislation, and it is the foundation of the great strength of the National Irrigation Association with Congress and with the people of the country as a whole.

It has been a foregone conclusion that any irrigation bill which did not reserve the land for the exclusive use of homestead settlers, who should live five years upon their claim before securing title to the same, would not receive popular support or the support of those in

authority who had to do with legislation. The land speculator, the water speculator and the land-grabber are eliminated from the situation under the restrictions attending settlement, as contained in the bill reported by the House committee. Some of the amendments made appear immaterial and trifling to those who are not fully alive to the necessity of strictly guarding the homesteader in his rights. The most carefully worded law generally affords some opportunity for fraud, which, perhaps without being directly a technical violation of the law, is a violation of the spirit in which it is passed. A loosely drawn measure becomes merely a vehicle for fraud, and it was of supreme importance that the inauguration of the National irrigation policy should be under the auspices of the homesteader.

An honest administration of a National irrigation law which is inscribed upon the statute books in the form of the bill now before the House will produce the results intended, and in the course of a few years the people of the country as a whole, in the East as well as in the West, will be proud of the addition to the strength, wealth and prosperity of the country which has come through its enactment, and will wonder at the blindness of those who opposed the adoption of such a policy by a Nation whose tremendous growth and strength abroad lies in the production from the soil of the food of the world by a multitude of American homesteaders. The irrigation bill now before Congress is a new homestead law, and should be known as such.

#### President splits up district of Oregon.

The Evening Journal says the President Tuesday issued an order detaching the State of Washington from the Internal Revenue District of Oregon and creating a new internal revenue district for the former state, with headquarters at Tacoma. B. D. Crocker, of Walla Walla, is appointed Collector in the new district.

The new order will result in the reduction of the force of clerks in the internal revenue headquarters at Portland and the transfer of some to Tacoma.

(It is not regarded as probable at the Portland Internal Revenue Office that there will be any reduction of the force of clerks. The probable meaning of the order is that Idaho will be taken from the Utah district and attached to Oregon. The inner meaning of the departmental order, in all probability, is that it offers a solution of the fight for the Washington Collectorship, which has engrossed the attention of the people in Western Washington. As is well known, Clarence W. Ide is an applicant for reappointment. It is now believed that the new internal revenue district is created partly for the purpose of giving Ide the coveted Collectorship, while B. D. Crocker, the Walla Walla man, is taken care of in the Collectorship of the new district.)

#### Louisiana Topographic Map.

The United States Geological Survey has recently reissued two topographic map sheets of the sections of the State lying northeast of the delta of the Mississippi River. They are the Chandeaur sheet, showing some of the islands lying on the west of Chandeaur Sound, notably the Mitchel Key, Holmes Island, and Martins Island; and La Fortuna sheet, showing a portion of the low lying land bordering Lake Fortuna, Lake Anastasio Eloi Bay, southwest of the area represented on the former sheet.

It is of interest to note that all the land shown on both these sheets is less than 5 feet above sea level.

#### Geer expects to be elected.

Governor Geer was in Portland last Saturday, and in an interview with the Evening Journal said:

"As to the senatorship I will only say that the flatteringly large vote given me by the people will give me the office without question, unless the legislature sees proper to ignore the will which is not likely.

"While I have apparently carried every county in the state, Mr. Wood has in every case, so far as I have seen, polled his full party vote. In almost every county my majority is far in excess of the newly elected members and since no man voted for me who favored some other for United States senator, it is difficult to suppose that such members will have any disposition to disregard the instruction received on this question.

"A presidential elector would have the same right to ignore the popular vote as would a member of the legislature under those circumstances. This vote should settle the senatorship."

W. J. Furnish's reputation as a citizen and a business man and as a friend was not affected by the result of the recent election in the least. His hometown is to be congratulated in not having him take his departure from it, as would have been the case in the event that the election had resulted in his favor. Though he was defeated in his field of usefulness and his capacity for performances are just as great as they ever were. For "sweet are the uses of adversity, which like the toad ugly and venomous, yet wears a precious jewel in his head; and thus our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything." Men who cannot stand defeat are not deserving of victory. Mr. Furnish's attitude in defeat is excellent. It displays the good that is in him and this is a victory.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

#### Chautauquus Speakers.

Henry Watterson, of national reputation as an orator and editor, will be the most prominent speaker at the Chautauquus assembly this year. His first lecture will be on the evening of July 10th, but on the following afternoon he will deliver his greatest lecture on Abraham Lincoln. His second best lecture, "Money and Morals," will also be delivered there. Mr. Watterson was personally acquainted with both Lincoln and Douglas, and personal experiences with great men are always heard with interest. The assembly this year at Gladstone Park will be the ninth in the history of the association, and promises to be the greatest yet held. It will open on July 8th and close the evening of July 19th.

#### List of Patents.

Granted to Pacific state inventors this week. Reported by C. A. Snow & Co., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C.—J. Aegerter, San Francisco, Cal., Screw propeller. C. F. Allen, Hueneme, Cal., Vaginal syringe. W. H. Ames, Watsonville, Cal., Refrigerator case. J. W. Bedford, San Francisco, Cal., Life boat launching device. A. F. L. Bell, Carpenter, Cal., Extracting and refining asphaltum. G. S. Bennet, San Francisco, Cal., Battery. H. C. Black, Oakland, Cal., Can and soldering machine. A. B. Buren, Salem, Ore., Burial vault. G. H. Chance, Portland, Ore., Picture hanger. A. Cole, Hood river, Ore.,

Necktie frame. E. W. Dunn, San Jose, Cal., Oil burner. H. T. Hazard, Los Angeles, Cal., Suspenders. I. G. Hoag, Los Angeles, Cal., Train order box. J. Hoey, San Francisco, Cal., Bed bottom. R. A. Ludlow, Hanford, Cal., Transferring car or truck. J. D. McFarland, Jr., San Francisco, Cal., Adjustable speed gear. R. N. Moody, Aberdeen, Wash., Marking machine. A. Mullan, San Francisco, Cal., Apparatus for unloading ship's cargoes. E. P. Smith, Stockton, Cal., Bicycle pump. W. J. Spillman, Pullman, Wash., Cheese cutter. M. O. Teel, The Dalles, Ore., Drawer guard or support. R. G. Whitlock, Los Angeles, Cal., Device for holding removable leaves. F. D. Wood, San Francisco, Cal., Means for working ores by cyanid process. Z. Xevers, Santa Cruz, Cal., Stock or poultry feeding device. J. N. Young, Alameda, Cal., Heating apparatus.

For copy of any of above patents send ten cents in postage stamps with date of this paper to C. A. Snow & Co., Washington, D. C.

#### The Remaking of Oregon.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican. The striking features of the great migratory movement of settlers into Washington and Oregon this spring is said to be the unanimity with which they seek the country and avoid the cities. Considered as a class, these homeseekers in a new country have money. They travel in first-class style to their destination, and on their arrival pay cash for their land. Though the Government Land Offices are by no means idle, the majority of settlers are buyers rather than stakers of claims. Quite in contrast are these conditions with those existing during the early emigrant movements into the west, when families crossed the continent with ox teams, and sometimes felt aggrieved because the Government would do no more than furnish them land by the hundreds of acres each. The topography of the country is changed by the present influx. Farms are being rapidly subdividing in the old settled districts, and farms of 5, 10 or 20 acres are becoming common, where formerly were extensive tracts of land under single owners. Land under irrigation canals has passed rapidly to individual owners, and in one section of Washington 4800 acres of sagebrush land, described a little more than a year ago as a forbidding desert, is now cut into farms with a home on every 20 acres. Schools are springing up a similar rate, and the whole Pacific Northwest is feeling the impulse of the new life.

#### Big Lambing Record.

Charles Cunningham, who is the largest individual sheepowner in Oregon, holds the record this spring for lambing, his flock having dropped 9000 lambs, says the Pendleton East Oregonian. Mr. Cunningham made a change in his force this spring, and has secured a new superintendent for his ranches in the person of Tate Sullivan, of Idaho. Mr. Sullivan is a thoroughly experienced man, who has been connected with some of the largest ranches in the country, notably being superintendent for Hershey, the great Idaho sheep-raiser. The Cunningham flock now numbers 27,000 sheep of all ages, and a prettier lot of high-bred sheep cannot be found. The flock will be strengthened by the importation of 100 head of standardbred registered Rambouillet bucks from the East and California. The shearing this spring amounted to 200,000 pounds of wool, an average of 12 pounds to the sheep.

Mr. Cunningham has some fine bucks to dispose of. He and Mr. Sullivan are selling them at the Cunningham ranch, while Mr. Colwell has taken a large number to Arlington to supply people in that vicinity, who desire good stock.

Among the recent atlas sheets issued by the United States Geological Survey is the Mt. Leidy quadrangle, which shows a section of the Teton Forest Reserve, including Mt. Leidy, whose summit rises to an altitude of 10,317 feet above sea level. The region is an extremely rugged one forming a portion of the Continental Divide in western Wyoming and containing a number of lofty mountain masses. Its bold topography is clearly shown by the use of contour lines, which also emphasize the drainage features and the shape and slopes of the valleys. The headwaters of the Gros Ventre and Buffalo rivers appear on the sheet. These are tributaries of the Snake which through the Columbia River discharges into the Pacific Ocean. Within a fraction of a mile from them are found the headwaters of the Wind River, a tributary of the Big Horn and Yellowstone, whose waters pass through the Missouri and Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

It is reported that Governor Geer will call an extra session of the legislature to pass a flat salary law to take effect before the new officers take their seats in January.

A. R. Grieve of Ashland, a brakeman on the Southern Pacific, was crushed between two gravel cars at Melin last Friday, receiving injuries that will prove fatal.

Reports from the strawberry fields at Hood River place the estimates of the season's crop at about 80 carloads, or about \$125,000 in round figures. The berries are ripening fast, now that the sun has a chance to play its beams over the patches. Two carloads of berries have already started for the Dakotas, the middle west and Chicago, where the entire crop is marketed, and another carload is being completed. This leaves about 77 carloads yet to be shipped, so it will be seen that the season has just opened up.

Jack Marshall, residing in Malheur county, has made \$1500 in past three years trapping coyotes. Coyotes as a rule are wary of steel traps, but Marshall's claim is that he entices them into the snares by the use of scent of which he alone knows the secret. During the three years he has been paid for 750 scalps.

#### Growth of young salmon.

Last September Master Fish Warden Van Dusen and Deputy Bultman deposited about 400 young salmon, two inches in length, in the city reservoir on Shively Hill, says the Astoria News. When the reservoir was cleaned out it was found that the fish had grown to the size of nine inches. Some of them were found to be dead. Many escaped during the two days of the opened water gates, used to drain the reservoir. Several dozen were caught alive, but they died last night, owing to the lack of proper care. Mr. Van Dusen has taken a number of those that died last night to the cold storage to be preserved as specimens of growth. He deems the test a complete success.

#### Plow Grinding.

Ed Harbin desires to announce that he is prepared to do all kinds of grinding in the latest approved fashion. Chilled plowshare grinding a specialty.