

WASHINGTON, June 24.—When the President wrote his name at the bottom of a bill of Congress last Tuesday night he performed an act whose importance will be far reaching. The bill which he signed was the famous Hensbrough irrigation bill and from this time forth the Government is committed to the policy of developing and making ready for settlement the arid lands on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast.

Several of the more prominent of the great Eastern newspapers, the New York Sun among them, have been indulging in heavy editorial assaults upon the bill, presumably in the hope that the President would be influenced by them. The Hensbrough bill—so they call it, and that is the right name—is vicious in principle, they say, and will impoverish the National Treasury. The latter proposition is the one to which they give great emphasis; but there is no danger that they will become true prophets. There are now \$4,000,000 of available cash in the Treasury for irrigation purposes, and the sum is growing steadily. Probably the fund will never be exhausted, for the President's policy will be to extend the work so carefully and systematically as to keep it always within due bounds.

On Wednesday of last week there was an hour's conference between him and Senator Hensbrough, at the close of which, the subject not being completed, and arrangement was made for another meeting, at which it is their plan to work out the details of the Administration irrigation policy. The President thinks that the work will pay for itself as it goes along, and that it never will be necessary to appeal to the National Treasury for aid. With Senator Hensbrough, he says that it will be possible to irrigate half a million acres per annum, on an average for the next quarter of a century. The work will be kept within the proper limits, for it is realized that if the policy now initiated is to continue there must be proper management and strict economy. The President has something at stake in seeing a proper administration of the new law; Senator Hensbrough, as its author, has something at stake, for both have said, the former in his message to Congress, in which irrigation was strongly recommended, and the latter in his speeches in the Senate and to the Senate committee, that the work should never be made a charge on the public Treasury. Without further argument, it may be accepted that there will be no extravagance in putting the new law into operation, and that it will be the purpose of the Administration to show that the anti-irrigationists of the Eastern States have talked unadvisedly.

Several months ago James J. Hill was in Washington, remaining several days. At that time it was suggested that his purpose in coming was to talk about the Federal suits against the Northern Securities Company. It can be stated authoritatively that this was not the purpose of his visit. He came to urge upon the Senate the passage of the Hensbrough irrigation bill. The most important project under the new law so far discussed looks to the irrigation and rapid settlement immediately thereafter of half a million acres of land in North Central Montana, and in Northwestern North Dakota, along the line of the Great Northern Railroad. This is known as the St. Mary's project, and, if carried out, it will add immensely to the population and material wealth of the

country through which the Great Northern runs, and in that way increase Mr. Hill's income.

Representative Jones, of Washington says that probably nothing will actually be done in that state in the way of construction of reservoirs and ditches for several years. He says that the geological survey must make the necessary surveys to determine where the reservoirs are to be located, and then prepare plans and estimates for their construction. They are large enterprises and require considerable capital. The bill provides that one-half of the annual proceeds of the sale of land shall be expended in that state. That does not mean, however, that this proportion of the proceeds shall be segregated each year, but that a record shall be kept and whenever it is determined to begin operations the amount that has been earned shall be spent in the state from the general fund. Assuming, according to Mr. Jones, that the Government has not perfected plans for beginning work in the State of Washington for five or six years, there will be something like \$1,000,000 to be expended in the state, as the annual income from the sale of lands is about \$300,000, and half of that will go to the credit of the state each year. Mr. Jones assumes that the reservoirs in the State of Washington will be located on the small streams, and that that the irrigation works will be located in two central places. One of these will be located in Yakima County, and the other in Franklin and Adams Counties.

In Oregon the irrigation works will be located in Grant, Baker, Crook, Malheur, Klamath and Lake Counties. Representative Moody said today that he had already secured the assurance of the geological survey for the triangulation and survey of the Blue Mountain country, and that Professor Russell, of that service, will be sent into Malheur and Harney Counties during the coming season to investigate and report on the water needed, or at least, a part of it from artesian wells. Professor Russell is the artesian expert of the survey, and is well acquainted with the geological formation in Eastern Oregon. The main supply for the reservoirs is to come from the small streams flowing from the mountains. He does not think that the work of completing the plans for the establishment of the reservoirs and ditches can be completed for some time, just how long being a matter of conjecture. He would not make any prediction on that.—Oregonian.

Shooting Scrape in Harney.

BURNS, June 24.—Jerry Daley shot and killed Robert Toney the evening of June 16, at the Buena Vista ranch, 15 miles south of the town of Narrows. The two men had never seen each other until a few hours before the shooting occurred. The tragedy was caused by Daley using insulting language to Foreman Zurcher's wife while her husband was away at Burns on business.

Toney was Zurcher's uncle, and had been left in charge of the ranch until the foreman returned. Daley came by the ranch and stopped to stay all night. He was under the influence of whiskey, and talked in an unbecoming manner. Toney ordered him to leave the ranch. Daley left the house and went to the barn, about 100 feet away, where he got a gun belonging to Jessie Cox, who had left it rolled up in his bed. After getting the gun Daley went back to the house, where the shooting occurred. Ton-

ey fired the first shot, and Daley jumped behind a horse standing tied to the fence and commenced shooting at Toney. The two men fired 11 shots altogether. One of Toney's shots hit the horse and made a slight wound.

Both men were employed of the French-Gleam Livestock Company, but were working at different ranches. The last shot killed Toney.

After the killing Daley took both guns and went into the house. The Coroner's jury, after hearing the statements of those present at the time of the affair, returned a verdict which charges Daley with unjustifiable killing of Toney. Daley came to town soon after the shooting and gave himself up.

Toney was struck three times. Two of the shots were mere scratches about the shoulders, but the one which proved to be the fatal shot was in the right breast, and pierced the lung, coming out below the shoulder blade.

Daley did not receive a wound, as he kept himself sheltered behind the horse.

Robert Toney is about 30 years of age, and was once a resident of Mitchell, Wheeler County. At the time of his death his home was in Lake City, Cal., where his widow and two children live. He and his brother came to Harney County about two weeks ago to work through the summer. He was a nephew of Hon. W. A. Booth, County Judge of Crook County, but he was not known in this county.

Jerry Daley is well known in this county. He is inclined to be wild, and has the name of being a little too handy about getting into trouble. Daley has several well-to-do relatives living in this county, who are among the best citizens in Harney County. Daley is a single man and is about 35 years of age.

Fishing in Morrow.

Pap Miner tells a good one on his playmate, Uncle Will Ayers, says the Heppner Times. These two old gentlemen, who would rather fish than eat, took a trip up Willow Creek one day last week to rake into the fold some of the festive trout. After fishing for an hour or so, Uncle Will was overtaken by that tired feeling, and, throwing his line down on the bank, he fell fast asleep alongside the babbling brook. About this time a 500-pound Oregon hog hove in sight in search for fish bait and such like. Uncle Will's hook had evidently been baited for something larger than trout, for after nibbling on it for a moment Mr. Hog, swallowed hook and all, and out over the alfalfa patch he struck like a streak of greased lightning, yelling like a locomotive.

Uncle Will wasn't very sleepy anyway and he just now woke up, and, taking in the situation, he struck out after the fleeing game with considerable more impatience and determination than speed.

Round and round the field they went, both puffing and blowing like a politician, with the chance of victory about even. Uncle Will had already shed his shoes and most of his clothing in order to bring out his best speed; but the hog had come from racing stock, and finally began to gain on his pursuer. By this time a couple of acres of alfalfa had been nicely flattened out, and both runners were as red in the face as a beet. Uncle Will's wind was about gone and he was just about to yell, "Go it you son-of-a-gun," when the rod caught in the fence, the line broke and the hog spurted for the alfalfa.

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