

A Portage Road a Necessity.

"A portage road, instead of hindering an open river, would be the first step toward getting an open channel. The first year it would save the people of the Columbia River Basin \$1,500,000. The O. R. & N., the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific spend large sums of money at Washington, D. C., every year to defeat the building of a portage road."

The speaker is one of the promoters of the embryo portage road. Continuing, he said:

"The railroads are more actively opposed toward a portage road than toward an open river. Why? Because the enormous expense necessary to create an open channel makes the possible completion of the same a very remote affair. On the other hand, the building of a portage road is practicable for immediate use, and would force down railroad rates almost to the level of water competition the minute the road is completed."

"A portage road, then, at the start, would force down rates, saving \$1,500,000 to the people the first year, not to speak of the amount each succeeding year until it is practicable to secure an appropriation large enough to begin work on the open river. Indeed, the portage road will be needed, for one will have to be built any way to assist in opening the channel."

"Those opposed to a portage road, including people honest and sincere in their convictions, say that a portage road will menace the interests of open navigation. The railroads encourage that notion. They say, furthermore, that a portage road cannot begin to haul the river traffic, and will be but a half-way measure at the best. It is true that such a road could not handle the traffic; but it would force rates down at the start and save the farmers over a million annually until it would be practicable to open the channel. How soon can we reasonably expect relief from an open channel? I

venture the assertion that Congress won't see its way clear to appropriate enough money even to start the work during the next ten years. It will send out its engineers, who will keep reporting up on the scheme, and the railroads will go on spending their money at Washington, D. C., and continue charging excessive rates. The meantime laughing up their sleeves at the huge joke that is being played upon the people of the Inland Empire."

"The minute a portage road begins construction the 'lobby combination' will cease spending money. The moment the road is completed rates will come down with a crash, almost to the level of water competition. If nothing more, such a road will furnish temporary relief."

"What assurance," was asked, "have the people that the portage road would not be absorbed by the competing railroads, and its usefulness killed as a level for reducing rates?"

The speaker paused a moment before replying.

"It is easy enough," he said, "for the people to protect their interests in the matter by providing the proper legislative remedy." —Telegram.

Says He Was Tortured.

"I suffered such pains from corns I could hardly walk," writes H. Robinson, Hillsborough, N. H., "but Bucklen's Arnica Salve completely cured them." Acts like magic on sprains, bruises, cuts, sores, scalds, burns, boils, ulcers. Perfect healer of skin diseases and piles. Cure guaranteed by Adamson & Winick Co. Price 25c.

Washington Letter.

Washington, D. C. Jan 31, 1903. Special to The Journal.

The acceptance by Congress of the principle of federal aid in the construction of irrigation works in the western states has given a great impetus to every industry in that section of the country. The people of the eastern states are just beginning to realize the opportunities offered in the territory to be opened up. As the proposition develops, a tide of immigration will inevitably set in and this region will become one of the most populous and prosperous in the country. With large areas of re-

claimable land and plenty of available water, Oregon especially will be benefitted by the measure.

The actual work of surveying, locating and constructing reservoirs and other irrigation work will be done by the Geological Survey. In order to obtain a better understanding of the present extent of irrigation, the location of the areas irrigated, and to gain other information useful in this work, the Fifty-seventh Congress authorized the Director of the Census to bring down to date the irrigation statistics obtained in 1900 by that office. Letters of inquiry and schedules are now being sent out to secure the necessary information. All interested in irrigation should answer as fully and as promptly as possible any inquiries they may receive so that the merits of the various sections of the country may become known. Irrigators who do not receive blanks within a reasonable time should notify the Census Office at Washington and they will be supplied.

It is interesting to note in this connection how much it will mean to the country at large to have the arid lands of the west reclaimed.

According to the census of 1900 the total improved farm acre of the United States was 414,800,000 acres. It is conservatively estimated that the reclaimable area is not less than 50,000,000 acres. Its reclamation, therefore, will add nearly one-eighth to the actual crop producing area of the country and will exceed by a liberal margin the tillable land of all the states, excepting New York, on the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida. Allowing 40 acres, the average size of irrigated farms, this area will make 1,250,000 farms, or a little less than one-fourth the number in the United States in 1900. The occupants of these farms will add directly to the population 6,250,000, and indirectly, in the accompanying mercantile, professional, manufacturing and industrial classes at least 3,125,000 more, a total increase in the population of the United States of 9, 375,000, or nearly twelve and one-half per cent.

The total value of all the farms in 1900, including all improvements except buildings, was \$13,115,000,000. At \$42.50 per acre, the average value of irrigated land,

the 50,000,000 acres to be reclaimed will add to the value of farm land \$1,250,000,000. If buildings are included, the value will be increased \$775,000,000, while the augmented wealth through railroads, cities, mills and factories, is beyond estimation.

The annual value of all the farm products in 1900 was \$4,379,000,000. The average value per acre of products of irrigated lands was \$14.81. At this rate the area to be reclaimed will add products worth \$730,500,000, an addition of nearly one-sixth of the life sustaining powers of the country.

The number of irrigating ditches and canals in operation in the United States exceeds 20,000, and their combined length is not less than 59,000 miles. If joined end to end they would reach twice around the world. Fanned into one they would constitute a navigable canal, such as the Erie, thirty feet wide and five feet deep, extending from San Francisco to New York, a distance of over 3,000 miles.

The figures of the last census show that the works required to irrigate 7,263,273 acres cost \$64,289,601, an average of \$8.85 per acre. At this rate the expenditure required to reclaim the area proposed would be at least \$450,000,000. After the Government has performed its part there will be no delay by the farmers in carrying on the work. While the initial expense is enormous, it is not comparable with the value of the crops which will be grown on the lands reclaimed. The total cost of all the irrigation works in use in the country is only three-fourths the value of the crops produced each year on irrigated lands.

Something That Will Do You Good.

We know of no way in which we can be of more service to our readers than to tell them of something that will be of real good to them. For this reason we want to acquaint them with what we consider one of the very best remedies on the market for coughs, colds, and that alarming complaint, croup. We refer to Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. We have used it with such good results in our family so long that it has become a household necessity. By its prompt use we haven't any doubt but that it has time and again prevented croup. The testimony is given upon our own experience, and we suggest that our readers, especially those who have small children, always keep it in their homes as a safeguard against croup.—Camden (S. C.) Messenger. For sale by all druggists.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the firm and partnership of White & Campbell, doing business in the City of Prineville, Crook County, State of Oregon, is hereby dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. John W. White retiring. All accounts due said firm will be collected and receipted for by Mr. J. E. Campbell, and all accounts owing by said firm will be paid by Mr. J. E. Campbell. Dated, this 4th day of November, 1902.

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A Little Boy's Life Saved.

I have a few words to say regarding Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It saved my little boy's life and I feel that I cannot praise it enough. I bought a bottle of it from A. E. Steere of Goodwin, S. D., and when I got home with it the poor baby could hardly breathe. I gave the medicine as directed every ten minutes until he "threw up" and then I thought sure he was going to choke to death. We had to pull the phlegm out of his mouth in great long strings. I am positive that if I had not got that bottle of cough medicine, my boy would not be on earth to-day.—JOHN DEMOST, Inwood, Iowa. For sale by all druggists.

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Press Dispatch to Portland Oregonian, February 7.
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