

**Crook County Journal**

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**CORPORATION VS. FARMER**

With the filing of the suit against the Ochoco Irrigation District on Friday by Twohy Brothers Company, the situation shifts from one in which a mild sort of disagreement between the company on the one hand and the board of directors, their engineer and attorney and the bond house, which has at all times been the best friend the district has had in its many-angled controversies with the contractor to one in which every individual in the district, in Prineville and in fact in the community, is brought directly into the issue with the contractor.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the work is far behind where it should have been at this date, and would have been, had the contractor been in a temper to get results instead of trying to arrive at a situation that was more profitable to him through a plan, which according to the opinion of those in a position to watch the work for the past few weeks, or since early in the last half of 1918, amounted to little less than a game of "freeze out."

The idea possessed by the contractor seemed to be that the lack of progress on their part would force a payment to them by the board of directors of a sum of money as a sort of

bonus, the board to take the position that standing squarely between them and water was the contractor, and a favorable settlement could thus be obtained, the board at all times taking the position that, under the contract, if the additional work claimed to have been done by the contractor had been done, then they should have extra pay for its execution.

This, however, be offset by damages done to the district by failure on the part of the contractor to progress with the work as it should have been.

Had the fight been only between the board and the contractor the result would have been of less general interest, but the result now is that all land owners under the project, many of whom are less able to stand financial loss from lack of water than the board members themselves, stand to suffer from the lack of effort on the part of the contractor.

It is doubtful if anyone who has been in touch with the work on the project since last June would assert that the effort on the part of the contractor has been toward getting water for the land owners.

The legal steps taken also indicate that the interest of the land owner is forgotten by the wealthy contracting firm, in their effort to force as much funds as possible from the district, which funds would be eventually paid by the land owners throughout the project.

The contract clearly provides that should any failure occur on the part of the contractor, equipment owned by them on the ground should be left there for the use of the district in completing the work.

One of the prayers of the wealthy corporation is to the effect that the district be forbidden to use this equipment in completing the dam and also in protecting the property it already had.

Every land owner under the project, and everyone else who knows the conditions as they exist on the project, will agree that a damage of as great as \$500,000 could result to the farmers under the project should they be estopped from using this equipment for the next four weeks, also that the part of the dam already constructed would be jeopardized by spring floods, that this loss is not only a loss to the individuals, but to the state and nation, and at a time when every day appeals are being sent from the ends of the earth for more food and food products.

This act alone should brand the contracting firm as an enemy to the people under the project, of an act that is next to disloyalty itself.

It is not a question of paying the contractor for work faithfully performed, and the offer of the board of directors less than a month ago, to pay the contractor \$60,000 as a lump sum for settlement, money to be paid as the contractor delivered the work and not before, was flatly refused by the contractor and in that refusal he supports the argument that he did not wish to progress with the work to a point where the land owner would be benefitted, without being paid a sum of money greater than is specified in the contract which he

signed when the work was started.

The aim, ambition and desire of every man under the district, as well as all those in the community is to secure water for his crops, while the attitude of the contractor would indicate that he did not wish to deliver the water, at least not until he was paid a sum of money in excess of that specified in the contract, and agreed to by the board of directors.

These tactics not only create distrust in the minds of those vitally interested but should be noted by all communities who are contemplating the work of like nature before future contracts are entered into with this concern.

**COMING TO OREGON**

Oregon will act as host this summer to the National Editorial Association as one of the results of the activities of the Pacific Northwest Tourist Association. This body of men and women is made up of the brightest minds in the newspaper world and the results that will accrue from a publicity standpoint are beyond computation. During the past two years the Tourist Association representing Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, has spent \$112,000 to attract tourists to the Pacific Northwest and the results have been far beyond expectation when war conditions were taken into consideration. That Oregon has received the greater benefit over the other commonwealths is evident in the attendance at Crater Lake. There are 11 National Parks in the United States and all but two showed a decrease in attendance except Crater Lake and Ranier National. Crater Lake showed an increase of between 25 and 40 per cent, and nearly 50,000 people visited Ranier National, while all parts of the Northwest were included in the various phases of publicity.

The total expenditure of the tourists and vacation seekers per annum is not less than One Billion Dollars and it is to secure our share of this immense revenue that this association exists.

It is safe to say that within a very short time the Pacific Northwest—and it can be demonstrated by figures—can derive from fifty to One Hundred Million Dollars of actual cash from the encouragement of this travel. This cash remains in the Pacific Northwest. It is not sent out for any raw material, nor for any other commodity, but remains here to help every individual citizen in the development of his business, and in the payment of his taxes and the Tourist is absolutely the fore-runner of the settler, the new investor, and the manufacturer.

Travel by rail was discouraged last year and as far as going abroad is concerned there will be nothing doing this year. The war is over and the people have the money and a desire to travel. We have so far expended the \$11,000 to attract attention to the greatest asset we have and we only need to keep up the work to secure returns based on this expenditure far beyond the desires of the most avaricious. To illustrate: the

Park to Park Highway Association at a recent meeting in Spokane reported 10,000 machines entering entering Spokane over the Yellowstone Highway with an average of four in a machine. Suppose these machines were gathered together in Spokane in one day! You know what it costs you to travel. Take this amount and multiply it by 40,000 and look at the total and this is the way this new money that costs us practically nothing to get, flows in a steady stream into our lap. House Bill 76 calls for another appropriation to cover the same amount asked for two years and dependent upon Washington and British Columbia following with the same amount the gave previously. No appropriation has secured more for Oregon or been better administered. The work is under the constant attention of some of our leading business men who gave their time free of charge and pay their own expenses when attending the meetings of the Board of Directors.

The state revenues are used to develop every other asset, either by maintaining departments, enforcement of laws, maintaining institutions and the building of roads and bridges and the simplest way to increase these revenues is by a development more potent than any that has gone before, which will result in the coming here of thousands of men and women, who will see us as we are and who will in a large measure either remain permanently or leave their money for investments.

**WITH THE EXCHANGES**

R. D. Frogge and F. F. Wright of near Prineville were in town over Wednesday night. They came over after seed grain.—Jefferson County Record.

John Marsh, of Tumalo, who is interested in bringing a carload of Shorthorns and one of Guernseys into Central Oregon, through the efforts of the County Farm League, was in Bend Monday. Mr. Marsh sees in high-grade cattle the salvation of Central Oregon.—Bend Press.

A number of farmers are plowing in different parts of the county, especially in the light soil districts. In this vicinity Henry Barrett has one team plowing near town, and another team at work on his Pine creek ranch. It is said the soil is turning over nicely. Prevailing opinion is that there is not yet sufficient winter moisture, but the season is yet early and more moisture is expected.—Athena Press.

Sherman Barr, a sheep man of the Spray country, was in town last Saturday and Sunday. He has a scheme up to rid the country of all sheep killing animals, especially the coyote; he thinks the raising of the scalp bounty would be the proper thing to do and that every sheepman could reasonably give a hundred dollars or so for the purpose, and that it would be money in his pocket to do so.—Mitchell Sentinel.

Who ever thought that trapping of coyotes would ever grow into an important industry in the country. And yet with the present prices prevailing it does make a good substitute for the chrome business that was. By a new process of dying, developed during the war they are now making a beautiful and genuine (so far as the trade is concerned) fox fur out of the coyote pelt.—Blue Mountain Eagle.

Owing to the prevailing outbreak of rabies or hydrophobia in this community, owners of dogs are advised for their own protection to keep their dogs either muzzled or on chains until the present outbreak has subsided, which may mean a period of from one to three months. This precaution may be the means of saving your life as well as the lives of others.—The Haines Record.

C. P. Becker, the rancher-bee man, of Tumalo, was in Bend Tuesday. Mr. Becker says that the past season was one of the worst he has ever experienced in the bee business. Where he expected to clear over \$1,000 on bees this year, he got barely half of that amount, and where he expected to hive 50 new swarms, he secured only a few. Mr. Becker is carrying 50 swarms through the winter and is expecting great things of them this summer.—Bend Press.

On the mountain range the other day, Tom Diggins found a registered bull that had been missing since last fall. In the manner of an elk the bull had tramped for himself a sort of yard in the snow, which was more than three feet in depth, and there he remained—subsisting on the brush and branches within his reach. He was as wild as any deer when discovered, and ran through the snow until exhausted. Fighting mad, he was a difficult proposition to handle. Tom's characteristic description of the episode will hardly do to print, as he isn't in the Sunday school class.—Weston Leader.

William Byram, thoroughbred breeder, was in Canyon the first of the week. Mr. Byram has a fine line of cattle, and he has never spared any expense in improving the standard of his breed. Stockmen of the county are fortunate in having breeders within the county. W. O. Cummings of the Dayville district is also working along the same line. Their breeding stock is superior to imported stock insofar as it is accustomed to climate conditions, and inasmuch as they have imported the best blood that they could buy, they do, and they should find a ready market for their cattle right at home.—The Blue Mountain Eagle.

Traveling by sled and auto, 350,000 eastern brook trout eggs, gathered in Elk lake during the fall and early winter, were brought to Bend last night by Forest Ranger Burton Oney and Pearl Lynes, and Harry Smith, employes of the State fish and game commission. Twice as many eggs were left at the lake, and the two State men will return immediately to secure them.

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The collection of trout eggs for hatchery purposes at Elk lake was undertaken this year by the commission for the first time, and as far as the quantity obtained is concerned has been highly successful. Mr. Oney reported that 6,000,000 could probably have been obtained, but the lake froze over after the first million had been gathered. The fish are now spawning under the ice.

The eggs brought to Bend last night are to be taken to the Boneville hatchery at once, the next shipment from Elk lake to be reserved for the new hatchery on the Tumalo. Mr. Oney stated that the chief difficulty in bringing the eggs on the long trip from Elk lake lay in preventing them from freezing.—Bend Bulletin.

—W. S. S.—

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