

# Morning Oregonian



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## WORK OF TODAY

### Suggestions for Irrigationists.

#### BY HYDROGRAPHER NEWELL

### People Should Read the Law Carefully.

#### DESCHUTES NOT ONLY PLACE

### Convention Should Recommend Several Localities Where Government Work Is Desired, in Order of Their Importance.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, United States Geological Survey, Washington, Nov. 12.—In my mind the matter of first importance is for the people of Oregon who are interested in the reclamation law to read it carefully and consider its provisions. I find that a large part of my time is taken up by inquiries which would not have been asked if the men had taken the trouble to read the law carefully. It is short, concise and reasonably clear.

It should also be borne in mind that the people of Portland have unusual facilities for knowing the scope and purpose of the law. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Irrigation, Senator Simon, has an office in your city; and the chairman of the House Committee on Irrigation, Hon. Thomas H. Tongue, lives not far distant. The latter committee in particular spent much time in discussing the bill, suggesting many amendments, some of which were adopted. Hon. Malcolm A. Moody, of The Dalles, is also deeply interested in the bill, and used every effort to secure its passage through the House. Senator Mitchell has also given considerable thought to the matter and should be able to advise you on details. I reiterate these facts, as it may save considerable correspondence on the bearing of the law itself.

As regards the detailed application of the law, there are, however, possibly some facts which can properly be explained from the standpoint of the engineer. The general spirit of the law seems to be that of authorizing the Government to reclaim arid land for the purpose of inducing settlement, and with the proviso that the work shall pay for itself. In the minds of the men having the most prominent requirement is that each project considered shall, if successfully executed, settle the largest number of families upon good land, where they can prosper and repay the investment. Other things being equal, the projects which are least expensive and least complicated would undoubtedly be considered first.

Replying to your question as to what you should do, it seems to me that after having carefully studied the law, the members of your convention could come together to discuss the relative merits of the various projects brought to their attention, weighing each carefully in accordance with their knowledge of its feasibility, and particularly as to its future bearing upon the utilization of vacant lands. Matters which can better be left to private or corporate enterprise should obviously not be urged for Government construction. If the state has already committed itself by contracts or otherwise to reclamation of any particular tract, and is obligated, it would seem to follow that these obligations should be carried out.

It is not to be supposed that in a meeting of the kind to be held in Portland, you can determine upon the en-

## HE HOLDS HIS OWN

### Mitchell Still on the Stand for Miners.

#### DOESN'T ENDORSE BOYCOTT

### Several Sharp Passages Between Lawyer and the Witness—Responsibility of Labor Unions—Refraining of Non-Unionists.

SCRANTON, Pa., Nov. 12.—In the presence of as many persons as could be jammed into the Superior Courtroom today, Wayne MacVeagh, for the Erie Coal Company, and John Mitchell, for the miners, continued their brilliant battle of cross-examination before the Anthracite Coal Commission. The two men, the one in his 30s, and the other in his 70s, were followed with intense interest by both the Commissioners and the crowd throughout the day, and the contest will be resumed in the morning. The fourth demand of the union, which calls for a yearly trade agreement, and which means a straight-out recognition of the union, was the bone of contention, and although four hours were taken up in a discussion of the question, not much progress was made. Wayne MacVeagh, skilled in the art of cross-examination, attempted to show the utter irresponsibility of the union and its inability to make contracts which it could not live up to. His principal argument was the alleged boycott, and he often had pressed the miners' president for an answer. The latter, however, slowly and deliberately gave some reply, but it did not always satisfy his inquirer. Mr. MacVeagh, in the presence of the assemblage, expressed his admiration of the ability of the witness, and on one occasion, when Mr. Mitchell parried a question regarding the boycotting of a coal-and-iron policeman by a hotel-keeper, the distinguished attorney threw up his hands, laughed, and said: "Mr. Mitchell, you are the best witness for yourself I ever confronted."

Mr. MacVeagh bore heavily on what he said was a reign of terror in the anthracite region during the period of the strike. He read a list of 14 names of men who were killed during that time, and also submitted in evidence about 75 printed pages of acts of alleged violence, boycott and intimidation, and with the assistance of statistics and documents maintained that it would be utterly impracticable for the coal companies he represents to enter into agreements with an organization that could not control its own men. Mr. Mitchell stoutly maintained that the discipline in the organization is as good as it possibly could be where 147,000 men are involved. He claimed that the strikers were not entirely responsible for the acts of lawlessness that were committed. He regretted that members of the union had in some instances violated the law, even after they had been warned to refrain from doing so, but made the excuse that in times of great excitement there was always more or less disorder.

Replying to specific instances pointed out to him by Mr. MacVeagh, where men had been deterred from going to work through fear of personal harm or social ostracism for themselves and families, Mr. Mitchell said that in some cases men may have been deterred, but he denied the assertion that such alleged acts prevented the mines from being operated. He said that when the strike was declared every mineworker in the region quit work and remained out, even after the entire National Guard of the state had been thrown into the coal fields. In short, he said, the men would not have gone to work under any condition.

**Would Not Approve Boycotts.**  
The miners' president, no matter how skillfully he was questioned, could not be drawn into a flat admission that he, as president of the union, approved of the boycotts complained of by the companies. He had his personal opinions of some phases of the boycott, but would not express them as being the sentiment or policy of his organization.

During the cross-examination the Com-

## WAR ON ANKENY

### Tacoma Ledger Comes Out for Wilson.

#### LOUD CALL ON FOSTER

### Is Alliance Made in 1899 Effective in 1903?

#### WHAT TACOMA MAN THEN DID

### Promised the Spokane Candidate He Would Help Him Four Years Later—Where Pierce County Delegation Stands.

TACOMA, Nov. 17.—(Special.)—That the friends in Pierce County of ex-Senator John L. Wilson will make a strenuous effort to break into the Ankeny following in this county was made manifest yesterday morning, when the Tacoma Ledger, in a plentifully displayed article on the first page, reinforced by a double-headed editorial, declared in favor of the Spokane aspirant to the Senatorship and brought home to the members of the Pierce County Legislative delegation the promise which Senator A. G. Foster made four years ago—that he and his friends would support the Spokane man in 1903 in return for the 25 votes delivered by Wilson to Foster in the Legislative session of 1899. The Ledger's effort is palpably to influence political and public sentiment in Pierce County against Ankeny and in favor of Wilson. The campaign which the morning paper here started yesterday is noteworthy, from the fact that this is the home of Mr. Ankeny's managers, B. S. Grosscup, division counsel for the Northern Pacific, and George Stevenson, who has represented the O. R. & N. and other railroads during many Legislative sessions at Olympia. Moreover, it is well known and well established that Senator Foster favors the election of Mr. Ankeny, this being the Senator's home, his wishes are thus opposed by the leading Republican paper in this county.

The Ledger claims in its Sunday article that Foster and Pierce County both owe a debt to Wilson, and that Foster and his friends were bound in writing at Olympia, January 31, 1899, to support Wilson in 1903, provided his friends brought his name before the Legislature. Without the 25 votes delivered by Wilson to Foster in 1899, the Ledger says, Foster would have been beaten and Ankeny elected. The Ledger concludes by saying that it, as well as Senator Foster's other friends and supporters in the Senatorial contest of 1899, is now bound in all honor and fairness to redeem the promise which Foster made.

Prominently displayed on the first page of the Sunday Ledger is a paragraph taken from the agreement signed by Senator Foster January 31, 1899, after receiving Senator Wilson's support. This reads as follows:

AN AGREEMENT.  
OLYMPIA, Jan. 31, 1899.  
Fifth. If it shall transpire that John L. Wilson's friends desire to present his name for election to the Legislature as a candidate for United States Senator, it is agreed that A. G. Foster will contribute the assistance of himself and friends to Mr. Wilson's election. (Signed) A. G. FOSTER.  
Witness, James Wickham.

All this brings to mind one of the most interesting chapters in the political history of the State of Washington. It is (Concluded on Second Page.)

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