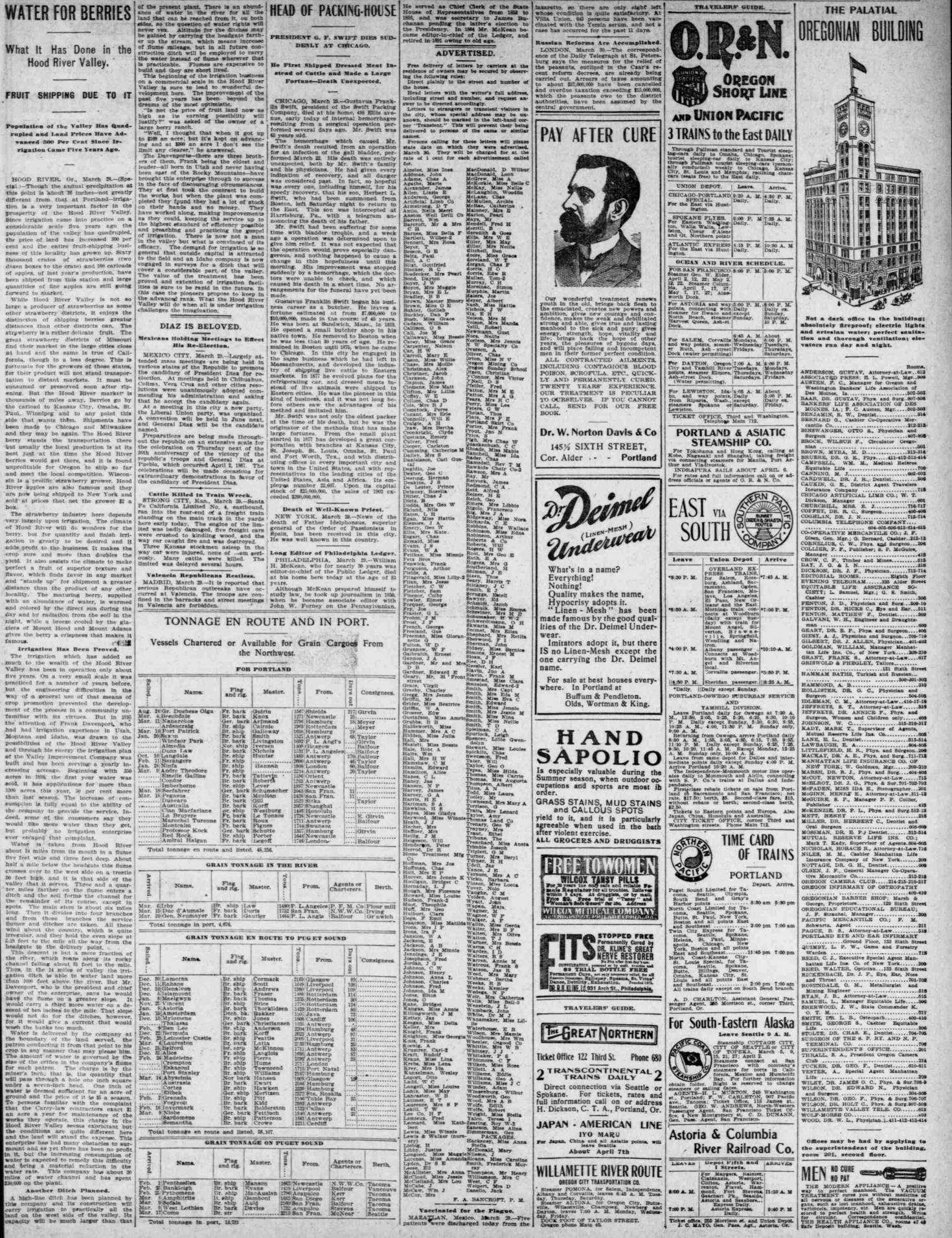
THE MORNING OREGONIAN, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1903.



rupled and Land Prices Have Advanced 300 Per Cent Since Irrigation Came Five Years Ago.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 28 .- (Specisl.)-Though the annual precipitation at this point is about 26 inches-not greatly different from that at Portland-Irrigation is a very important factor in the prosperity of the Hood River Valley. Since irrigation came into practice on a considerable scale five years ago the population of the valley has quadrupled, price of land has increased 300 per cent and the entire fruit-shipping busi tess of this locality has grown up. Sixty thousand crntes of strawberries (two degen boxes to the crate) and 100 carloads of apples, of last year's production, have been shipped from this station and large uantities of fine apples are still going forward to market.

large a producer of strawberries as some other strawberry districts, it enjoys the distinction of shipping berries greater listances than other districts can. The strawberry is a rather delicate fruit. The great strawberry districts of Missouri ind their market in the large cities close at hand and the same is true of Calland they may be again. The Hood River berry stands the transportation there but usually the local production is at its best just at the time the Hood River berries would get there, and it is found unprofitable for Oregon to ship so far and meet the local competition. Wisconsin is a prolific strawberry grower. Hood River apples are also famous and they being shipped to New York and

sold at prices that net the grower \$2 a The strawberry industry here depends

of Hond River will do wonders for the berry, but for quantity and finish irrion is greatly to be desired and it adds profit to the business. It makes the crop sure and more than doubles the yield. It also assists the climate to make perfect a fruit of superior texture and flavor, which finds favor in any market

and "stands up" for shipment a greater distance than the product of any other locality. The maturing berry, supplied with an abundance of water, is warmed and colored by the direct sun during the day and by radiation from the soil in the night, while a breeze cooled by the glaclers of Mount Hood and Mount Adams gives the berry a crispness that makes it Inmous.

Irrigation Has Been Proved. The irrigation which has added so nuch to the wealth of the Hood River Valley has been in operation only about five years. On a very small scale it was practiced for a number of years before. but the engineering difficulties in the way of a general use of that means of crop promotion prevented the development of the pro-

the attention of Frank Davenport, who had had irrigation experience in Utah, Montana and Idaho, was drawn to the possibilities of the Hood River Valley and through his energy the irrigation plan of the Valley Improvement Company was built and has been serving a yearly increasing acreage. Beginning with 250 acres in 1858, the first year water was sold, it has applications for more than 1330 acres this year, 50 per cent more than last season. The increase of consumption is fully equal to the ability of company to provide the service. Indeed, some of the consumers say they would like more water than they get. but probably no irrigation enterprise ever escaped that complaint. Water is taken from Hood River

about 14 miles from its mouth in a flume five feet wide and three feet deep. About half a mile below the headgate this flume crosses over to the west side on a trestle feet high, and it is that alde of the

owner of the enterprise, says he would have the flume on a greater slope. It would carry a third more water on a de-scent of ten luches to the mile. That slope would not do for the ditches, however

would not do for the ditches, however, for it would give a current that would wash the banks too much. Water is delivered by the company at the boundary of the land served, the patron conducting it from that point to his crop in any manner that may please him. The amount of water is governed by the size of the orthce in the company's finne for each patron. The charge is be the for such patron. The charge is by the miner's inch, that is, the quantity that will pass through a hole one inch square under a seven-luch head. One inch of water is deemed sufficient for an acre of water is deemed sufficient for an acre of ground and the price of it is K a season. To persons familiar with the complaint that the Carey-law contractors exact E an acre a year for maintenance of the works they operate, this charge in the Hood River Valley seems exbraitant but the conditions are quite different here and the land will stand the expense. This enterprise has had many obstacles to sur-mount and as yet there has been no profit in it, but the increasing consumption of water is expected to remedy this difficulty and bring a material reduction in the water rate. This company has about 20 miles of water channel and has apent miles of water channel and has apent \$38,000 on the plant.

Another Ditch Planned.

A high-line ditch has been planned by the company and fix construction will sarry irrightion to practically all the and on the west side of the value, its capacity will be much larger than that COTTY

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