

# NEED WATER ONLY

## Harney and Malheur Counties Cry for Irrigation.

### GOVERNMENT AID QUITE LIKELY

#### Corps of Engineers Now at Work Ascertaining the Practicability of Establishing Vast Storage Reservoir at Head of River.

Judge William Miller, District Attorney for the Ninth Judicial District of Oregon, is here from Ontario, and is registered at the Imperial. He has been a resident for the past 12 years in Gastrea Oregon, and expresses an unlimited amount of confidence in the resources of the southeastern portion of the State.

In an interview yesterday he stated that the prospects are good for the Government aid in solving the irrigation problem in Harney and Malheur counties. For the past two weeks a corps of engineers in charge of Engineer Newcomb, has been operating at the head of the Malheur River to determine the practicability of establishing a vast storage reservoir system to hold the high waters of spring in check for use in the summer.

"According to preliminary surveys that have been made by competent engineers," said Mr. Miller, "it is evident that the head waters of the Malheur River can be drained into Silver Valley in Harney County. This valley is about 18 miles long and will average about five miles in width. It is so level that a moderate dam at its lower end will make a lake of its entire area.

"In the dry season the early spring water which could be stored in it would be serviceable in irrigating the large amount of land bordering the lower end of Silver Valley, and passing later through these lands it would be collected in Malheur Lake and pass from that into the south fork of the Malheur River for use in the fertile valleys through which it passes.

"Mr. Whitster, one of the engineers who made the preliminary survey, says that the project is entirely practical. The Government there now arrive at the same conclusion it is probable that the thing will materialize at no distant time, and if it does it will benefit that portion of the State more than any other unfamiliar with the conditions there can realize."

The Judge said further that it would be practical to form a series of reservoirs through the Malheur Canyon, but as the expense would be great they could only be made by national aid. An excellent site for one of these is at the Harper ranch, which extends for nearly seven miles along the Malheur River. When the snow melts in the early spring an enormous amount of water flows away from the higher mountains, and if but a part of this could be retained till summer a vast amount of land now overgrown with sagebrush could be utilized.

Bordering the lower Malheur are thousands of acres of rich soil that is uncultivated, but which could be made to produce from six to ten tons of alfalfa annually if it could be irrigated twice or three times during the season. This soil is formed largely from decomposed lava enriched by volcanic matter, and combines all the chemical elements necessary to plant life.

Mr. Miller estimates that 40 acres of that land now watered by the Malheur River could be made to produce such a good living for any family. There is an abundance of this land yet unclaimed. On the uplands and table lands of the Malheur River, Billy Creek, Willow Creek, Gwyther, Billy and Snake Rivers are miles and miles of it awaiting the life-giving element of water and the hand of man to convert it into landscapes of beautiful homes.

The desert appearance of this land often misleads the stranger into the conviction that it is of but little value. But the localities where irrigation is carried on give an undeniable evidence of what it may produce. Fruits and vegetables raised on the Malheur River have on several occasions won the first prizes at State fairs, though the profits on hay are generally so much greater than on other products that but little exportation of the latter has yet been made.

Malheur and Harney Counties are almost identical in their interests. Each has exceptionally good agricultural and stock raising resources, though the development of the former industry in each is yet in its infancy. In earlier times the large cattle companies, such as the Fox & Miller Company, had unlimited access to the range, but of late years settlers have been crowding them to the wall. There is a gradual change taking place, and advanced civilization is succeeding frontier life.

With the decline of the cowboy period the rest of the State is beginning to realize that Southwestern Oregon has other resources distinct and separate from that of cattle-raising. And even now there are but few who really know what a promising country it is.

"Ah," said Mr. Miller, nodding his head emphatically, "that country is an empire of hidden wealth. What it needs is advertising to bring in the men of industry. It needs, too, as I have said, to have the irrigation capacity enlarged and it needs a railroad to bring it and its products in direct contact with the outside world. It will take time to accomplish all this, but the wealth is there awaiting to be captured by the people who are willing to seek it."

"It is one great disadvantage has been the lack of transportation facilities. There has yet been no use of producing anything beyond that which is needed for local consumption, with the exception of livestock, for it could not be disposed of. Of course, there is a little portion of Malheur County that is touched by the Oregon Short Line and this gives, as it were, a sort of an outlet, but not until the road now partly constructed up the Malheur River is completed and in operation, will that part of Oregon be fully appreciated by the rest of the State.

To the class of people now occupying that locality, Mr. Miller had many compliments to make. He explained how the unselfish hospitality of many ranchers shown during the last winter. The hay in some places gave out long before the grass was high enough in the Spring to support the cattle. As a result, hay went up to a very high figure. It could scarcely be obtained for \$15 per ton in the stack. He told of several instances where men who had plenty of hay in excess of what they would need did not charge their fellow-cattlemen the price that the hay demanded, but allowed them to borrow it with the understanding that it should be returned next season without any additional amount of interest. Some even went so far as to part with so much as to leave themselves in danger of running short.

In regard to the old county-seat fight between Vale and Ontario, Mr. Miller said that the tendency was to drop it. The people were realizing that they could accomplish more by working for a common interest than dividing on local issues. For several years the two towns have been contending for the seat of the county government, and at times the issue gave rise to much bitterness. The matter has been brought before the Legislature on different occasions, and each side has spent mere money on the matter than it deserved. Now, however, the outlook for an agreeable settlement is promising, and the more conservative citizens of each place are looking forward to mutually working for the good of the county.

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The two women were arrested Wednesday night on a complaint from a man who said that he had been robbed by them. Detective Joe Day declared that they were noted pickpockets, and that he knew their pedigrees from A to Z. The one who gave her name to the police as Manning he declares was none other than the celebrated Amelia Moran, known from coast to coast as a clever pickpocket, and the other, Lizzie Wyman, of almost equal fame.

As is the custom in the Police Department, the official photographer was summoned, and the women were taken into a room to have their photographs taken. When they saw the game they offered a strong resistance. Detective Day was making an effort to hold one of the women while the photographer made the exposure, but she would not submit. With a frantic yell she began to beat and scratch until the detective had about all that he could do.

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Judge Hoque was asked to hear the case, and continued it, fixing a bail of \$30 each for the appearance of the two women.

"The whole thing is an outrage," said Mr. Hume, after he had talked to his clients. "I think that we have just cause for damages, and shall file a suit for \$10,000, provided my clients do not change their minds about prosecuting the case. The officers who were present deny the charges made and say that the women were not struck or kicked, and that they were not handled roughly."

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# DRUNK AND JEALOUS.

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Mrs. Miller resisted the charge, and by the way of showing his displeasure the enraged man broke up all the furniture in the house. He then seized his repeating shotgun and announced that he was going out to get Clinton Haight, whom he believed had been paying attentions to his wife. An officer was quickly summoned, and the jealous Benedict was placed under arrest. The charge made against him was "drunk and disorderly."

According to the testimony of Miller at the station, he has been suspicious of his wife for some time.

"Young Haight has been at our house nearly every evening for several weeks," said he last night. "Only the other day I told him that he must never come on my premises again. Yesterday I was working in the shop and some one telephoned to me that he and my wife had gone to Vancouver together. I thought it was a good chance to catch them, and started at once to see if the report was true. I found them together on the road to Vancouver, and I don't see why I should be arrested. I simply was trying to protect my family, and every man has a right to do that."

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"He is a hard drinker," said the policeman, "and when he gets drunk he is very quarrelsome. When I arrived at the house today I found that he had broken up a large amount of the furniture."

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# GIRLS WIN DIPLOMAS.

## Commencement Exercises Held at St. Helen's Hall.

The fragrance of June roses and the presence of hosts of girls in dainty light gowns made the commencement exercises of St. Helen's Hall seem of quite the ideal order. The graduates of the class of 1903 are Miss Elizabeth Stuart, who completed the academic course, and Miss Mary E. Bays and Miss Augusta Humphrey, from the kindergarten training class.

Bishop R. W. Morris presented the diplomas and the certificates. Miss Pearl Grimes with a beautiful long-sleeved gown, the gift of Miss Eleanor Tabetts, principal of the school. The honor was conferred upon Miss Grimes after her classmates had voted her to be most obedient and courteous girl in the school.

After the religious service, conducted by the bishop, the commencement exercises were begun by a Spring song by the chorus.

Right Rev. Frederick Keator, bishop of Olympia, then addressed the graduates and the school and gave much earnest and valuable advice as to the way to lead a happy and successful life. He urged the importance of self-control and spoke in a cheering way of the strength there always is in Christian hope.

Miss Bellus played a charming nocturne by Field, and Miss Lily Banfield, one of St. Helen's Hall's most popular sopranos, sang "The Flower Girl" (Beethoven), "Lobstrum" by Liszt, was a delightful piano solo by Miss Sloss. Miss de Evolvele sang "When Cella Sings," a charming soprano solo by Moore.

Bishop Morris presented the diplomas in the cordial and gracious manner characteristic of all his speeches of this kind, and his address was received with deep attention. The bishop praised the girls for their obedience to their teachers and for their high scholarship.

"You can take no better text," he said, "than obedience and courtesy. The life and blessings God gives you are to teach you this—that you are to be obedient through all the duties and responsibilities of life."

Miss Ethel Webb sang Dudley Buck's "When the Heart is Young," winning much applause. The programme ended with an overture, "Rosamunde" (Schubert), played by Misses Grimes, Bellus, Sloss and Tanner. A great many roses and carnations were presented to the graduates and the singers, and between the numbers of the programme the two small us