

WATER GREAT AREA

Malheur Butte Ditch to Be Completed This Year.

WEISER MEN TAKE CONTROL

System of Reservoirs Which Will Store Water for 35,000 Acres Near Vale—Homes for Thousands on Rich Allalfa Land.

ONTARIO, Or., July 7.—(Special.)—The Malheur Butte irrigation ditch, which was in process of construction last fall, owing to certain conditions was not completed as expected, and the work suspended for a time. A deal has just been consummated between the Artesian Springs Water & Land Company, which formerly owned the reservoirs and the ditch, and a number of substantial business men of Weiser, Idaho, by which the latter are to have a controlling interest in the ditch and reservoirs. The consideration is \$45,000, and a percentage of water right to 3000 acres of land under the ditch.

About 70 per cent of the work on the ditches has been completed and the work remaining to be done will begin in the coming August, and will be rapidly pushed to completion, and the opinion is confidently expressed that by next Spring it will be in use. The estimated cost of what remains to be done is \$100,000.

The Malheur Butte ditch, when complete, will be 23 miles in length, extending from near Vale to Dead Ox Flat and covering all the territory on the west side of the Malheur River from Vale to and including Dead Ox Flat. This ditch will connect by means of Willow Creek and another ditch above Vale 15 miles in length with three large reservoirs which will supply water during the entire season in which water is needed. These three reservoirs, which contain about 8000 acres each, have irrigation duty of 35,000 acres when completed. They are more than half completed, and sufficient water is stored this season to cover all the land in cultivation under the ditches. The land under the ditches is some of the finest in the State of Oregon, and it is stated by those who should know that 17,000 acres on Dead Ox Flat cannot be excelled anywhere. All of this land is owned by private individuals, and the greater part is open to those who wish to purchase homes. The price ranges from \$10 to \$25 an acre. About half to three fourths of the area known as Lower Willow Creek, and is contiguous to Vale, the other half, or Dead Ox Flat, lies below Ontario across the Malheur River, and is easily accessible from Ontario by a good road.

When the bridge across the Malheur is built, as ordered by the County Court, it will be accessible at all times of the year.

ALBANY CALLS FOR A CHANGE.

People Can Only Reach Southern Pacific Trains at Risk of Life.

ALBANY, Or., July 7.—(Special.)—Citizens of Albany are strongly opposed to the arrangements at the Albany depot and trainyards, and the Alco Club will renew its efforts to bring about a change. Some time ago a committee called upon Manager Koehler, of the Southern Pacific properties in Oregon, and pointed out to him the inconvenience and danger of this arrangement which has become a nuisance in the city must cross the yards. When it is considered that Albany is one of the principal shipping points of the Valley, the inconvenience and danger of this arrangement may be easily seen. Freight trains are continually switching and making up in the yards, and hardly a day passes without a number of people being compelled to wait in the hot sun or rain waiting for an opportunity to run the gauntlet of moving freight cars in order to reach the passenger trains and pay their fare to the destination of their company. Within the last few months there have been a number of narrow escapes from serious injury to those making the hazardous trip to the improvement of the city is only a question of time until some one will be fatally injured or maimed for life because of the lack of a safe and proper arrangement of the Southern Pacific properties here.

People desiring to travel on the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad trains have to risk their lives in crossing the Southern Pacific tracks. It is in view of this that the Southern Pacific Company see fit to move its depot to the town side of the train yards. The Corvallis & Eastern Company will join in making the new building a union depot, and the new building is the safe and sensible arrangement, and one that is very much needed in Albany.

The Southern Pacific owns property for a location in the town of Albany, and the present depot, and the time has come when the transportation should by all means be effected. Nothing else will make the Albany depot safe for the traveling public, and nothing else will show a due appreciation of the immense amount of business that is annually transacted at the Albany depot.

TRI-STATE ENCAMPMENT.

Regulars and Militia Waiting for Orders from Washington.

SALEM, Or., July 7.—(Special.)—The State Military Board held the regular quarterly business meeting in Adjutant-General C. U. Gantenben's office yesterday afternoon, at which Colonel James Jackson, Surgeon-General, A. B. Gillie, Colonel E. C. Spencer and Adjutant-General C. U. Gantenben were present.

The question of encampment was discussed at length, but it was decided that no action could be taken until definite information shall be received from General Funston, the commander of the Department of the Columbia. General Funston telegraphed the War Department about two weeks ago, requesting authority to mobilize the troops of the Department of the Columbia, and the National Guard of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. As yet, no reply has been received.

The encampment, if held, will be at American Lake, ten miles from Tacoma, from September 15 to 30, inclusive, and as soon as General Funston is advised of the intention of the War Department, immediate notice will be given to the members of the National Guard, as it is thought important that they be officially notified as soon as possible in order that those who have business connections may have plenty of time to make arrangements to go.

In fixing the dates for the encampment the Adjutant-General of the three states were asked to express a preference for the date. Adjutant-General Gantenben recommended the second and third weeks of August as the most convenient time

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