

STATE IRRIGATION BOND PLAN OPPOSED

Treasurer Kay Says Issue Is Linked to "Popular Rural Credits" Wrongfully.

FALLACIES POINTED OUT

Union of Diverse Purposes in One Bill to Prevent Defeat of Favorable Proposal Is Assailed.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Opposition to linking together in one measure the proposal to bond the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits purposes, was voiced here today by Thomas B. Kay, State Treasurer, who issued a formal statement of his views on the three subjects.

The State Treasurer declares that those interested in irrigation and drainage have taken advantage of the popular demand for some system of rural credits to link the three subjects for consideration by the coming conference to be held in Salem, March 9.

Treasurer Kay declares that the people of Oregon in the recent election defeated a proposed constitutional amendment to bond the state for irrigation purposes, and contends that the present popular demand for rural credits is coupled with the irrigation and drainage plans for the purpose of carrying the latter issue to a successful conclusion.

"There is a popular demand for some system of rural credits and the people interested in irrigation have taken advantage of this," says the Treasurer, "and propose to amend the constitution, which will link together the bonding of the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, thinking the latter issues will carry the former through."

Relief in Rural Credits Assailed. The State Treasurer asserts his belief in rural credits, but declares that there is no demand now for the state bonding itself for irrigation purposes.

Concerning the plan for an initiative bill to amend the state constitution whereby the state would issue bonds to promote the three proposals, Mr. Kay calls attention to the constitutional provision limiting every act to "one subject and matters properly connected therewith." He points out that irrigation, drainage and rural credits could not be properly included in a single measure.

"I believe in some system of rural credits and think I am entitled to the privilege of voting for that measure without having to vote for bonding the state for irrigation, and drainage, which I am not in favor of at this time," he concludes.

Statement Quoted in Full. Mr. Kay's statement in full is as follows: In answer to many requests for an expression as to the proposed initiative bill to amend the constitution, which will provide for the bonding of the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, I have to say that I am opposed to the proposed measure for several reasons.

The proposition to initiate this amendment first came from the irrigation Congress which met in Portland in December, and therefore, came from people particularly interested in reclaiming lands. A similar measure, which came from the same source, was put before the voters in 1908, which provided for bonding the state for irrigation and road building; the latter being the more popular project, and the amendment did not carry in a single county in the state, it being defeated by 125,000 against.

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Action Declared Unwarranted. Now, in my opinion, there is absolutely no demand at this time for the state bonding itself for irrigation purposes, inasmuch as there are now in the market thousands of acres of reclaimed lands ready for settlement, for which there is absolutely no sale. In proof of this, I have to say that three years ago the state appropriated \$450,000 to reclaim 22,500 acres of land, known as the Deseret project, and that the amount of this amount owned by settlers on the ground who had vested water rights, together with parties who had contracts in the old Columbia Southern Company, which the state permitted the renewal of, they receiving credit for same on new contracts for the amount paid the Columbia Southern Company.

This leaves 15,500 acres of land reclaimed by the state for sale, of which there have been sold less than 1000 acres, although there has been on the market for nearly two years. This land is favorably located and considered the best in the Desert Land Board is unable to find purchasers for it. There are more than 1500 acres of patented lands, or listed or patented lands in the Central Oregon Irrigation Company for sale. And still further, of the 15,000 acres of reclaimed lands in the Government reclamation project in Umatilla County there are about 5000 acres actually being cultivated; the rest on the hands of speculators or the title remaining with the Government. There are likewise thousands of acres of vacant lands for sale in the hands of private companies and everyone who is familiar with these matters knows that there is absolutely no demand for these lands.

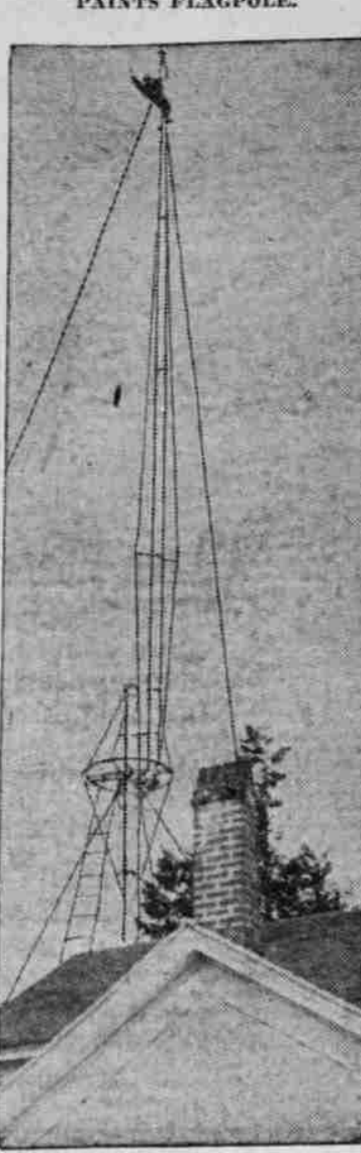
Plan Viewed as Loan Attempt. This being the case, then what legitimate demand is there for bonding the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits?

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STEEPLEJACK REPAIRS AND PAINTS FLAGPOLE



R. W. Renton. While a large crowd of soldiers and citizens watched his progress, R. W. Renton, a Chicago steeplejack, climbed to the top of the flagpole at Vancouver Barracks Monday afternoon, adjusted the halyard and painted the knob which surmounts the tall staff. The pole is 112 feet high. A few days ago the halyard became disabled. The flag could not be raised. Mr. Renton, who had done some other steeplejack work in and around Portland, was called into service.

He worked the job yesterday. Twice in his ascent of the pole he slipped a few feet. He adjusted the halyard and painted the pole in less than four hours.

reclaiming more? The only demand comes from people or communities who would be benefited by the expenditure of large sums of money in their localities, or, further, from people who would secure positions in connection with carrying on of the work, and it simply amounts to a proposition to borrow money and expend it in order to make good times.

Some claim the reason these lands are not sold is because the terms are not liberal enough. The terms are 10 per cent down and 10 per cent paid each year for nine years, with interest at 8 per cent, and these are what I would consider liberal terms. Again, some allege that these lands can be irrigated for \$15 per acre, which contention is not well founded, as those of the Carey act projects have already been reclaimed on the original estimates.

The Columbia Southern Company originally had a plan to reclaim these lands at a profit for \$14.75 per acre, which was the amount charged for them. This company failed, and the state reclaimed the lands at a cost of nearly \$40 per acre; that being the state lien price for water. The cost of the government project in Umatilla County is \$60 per acre, and this project is favorably located. The value of the land when sold by speculators is added to the lien cost.

Bankers' Attitude Is Cited. I understand this proposition has received considerable encouragement from some large bankers, who stated that in case the state should guarantee the bonds they would sell like "hot cakes." This, no doubt, is true, inasmuch as the banks are teeming over with funds which they are willing to loan at 6 per cent, and at 5 per cent interest, yet under present conditions they are not willing to loan these moneys in the ordinary channels for a much higher rate of interest. At the present time it is hard to secure funds for legitimate business propositions at less than 7 or 8 per cent, and in Eastern Oregon, for less than 10 per cent interest.

I will venture the assertion that none of these bankers would invest a dollar in irrigation bonds at any rate of interest, whereby the state was back of them, and if the state had been back of the Carey act projects in the past it would have had to pay both principal and interest, inasmuch as practically all of them have been failures.

The population of Oregon is less than 500,000, and the area is 95,000 square miles, or 61,000,000 acres of land, which is greater than the combined area of the states of New York and Pennsylvania, with more than 15,000,000 people. There are three acres of tillable land today in the State of Oregon for every acre in cultivation, not counting desert lands, so what demand is there for the state bonding itself and spending large sums to reclaim more lands, with all these tillable lands lying idle and thousands of acres of irrigated lands on the market?

Greater Tax Burden Pointed Out. All subdivisions of the state, such as counties, cities and school districts, can bond themselves, and many of them are now bonded to the limit. Therefore, to provide for state bonds would simply amount to rebonding the same property and adding to the already excessive burden of taxation.

The State of Oregon is one of the few states which has no bonded indebtedness. In case the bond for one purpose it will not be long until it is bonded for many other purposes, and once the bars are thrown down it will be but a few years until we have tens of millions of dollars' worth of state bonds, which will add greatly to our already high taxes and will not be conducive to good results.

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CADET TO BE APPOINTED

REPRESENTATIVE MARTHUR ANNOUNCES EXAMINATION. Parties Interested Are Invited to Make Request for Detailed Information, Rules and Regulations.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 22.—Pursuant to the act of Congress just passed increasing the number of cadets at the United States Naval Academy, Representative McArthur has announced that he would appoint a principal cadet for the examination which will be held in Portland April 18, 1916, and that these appointments will be made after a competitive preliminary examination, which will also be held in Portland in the last week in March.

WIFE ESCAPES KILLING

HUSBAND, CARED FOR DESPITE MENTAL CONDITION, ATTACKS. Woman Thwarts Midnight Assault After Struggle Lasting Hour and Crawls to Neighbor's.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Disregarding the warning of an attending physician that her husband's mental condition was such that he might become violently insane at any time, Mrs. L. L. Brown had him removed several days ago from the hospital to her home, on the river near Eugene. About 12 o'clock last night she was awakened by a hand clutching her throat, to find her husband, who immediately began to rain blows upon her head and body with the footfall from a heating stove.

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Brown, who is about 60 years old, was stricken by paralysis in January. He was removed to a hospital, where he developed a melancholic state of mind. For many years he had been devoted to his wife, who sought to take care of him in his illness. As a result of the affliction Brown had been entirely deprived of the use of his right arm, but last night, his wife declares, he struck her with his right arm, while he clutched her throat with his left.

Found Simple Remedy that Relieved Child

Mild Laxative Compound Corrects Stubborn Case of Constipation.

An important duty that devolves on parents, is the regulation of their children's bowels. Health in later life depends in large measure on early training and a child should be taught from infancy to regular habits. When from any cause the bowel becomes congested with stomach waste a mild laxative should be employed to open up the passage gently and carry off the congested mass. A most effective remedy for this purpose is the combination of simple laxative herbs known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Mrs. W. D. Bulls, of Reed, Okla., used Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin for her baby boy, Harley Buren Bulls, and says "It did him more good than anything we have given him. His bowels are very stubborn about acting, but they act easily every time I give him Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin."



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