

TEEL PROJECT TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Canadian Company Will Do Work on Percentage Basis, Accepting Pay in Bonds.

COST IS PUT AT \$900,000

Umatilla County Land Held in Small Tracts and Total Expense With Water Will Not Exceed \$700,000—Ground Declared Fine.

Actual construction work on the Teel irrigation project in Umatilla County, the financing of which was completed last week, will begin within the next 60 days.

Settlers will have water available early in the Spring of 1918. The land and water together will cost no more than \$70 an acre, says Asa B. Thomson, one of the directors of the project, who was in Portland yesterday to complete the contracts with the H. J. Kaiser Construction Company, a Victoria, B. C. concern, which has undertaken to dispose of the bonds and to do the construction work.

The Teel project was formed by O. D. Teel as early as nine years ago. Together with Mr. Thomson and other Umatilla County persons, he has persistently worked to perfect arrangements that now permit of actual development work.

When the district bonding law was passed the project was organized into a district, with Mr. Teel as president and J. Frank Spring as secretary. These men, with Mr. Thomson, form the board of directors, Joseph T. Hinkle, of Hermiston, is attorney for the district.

\$1,200,000 to Be Maximum.

Under terms of the contract recently closed with the Kaiser corporation, an aggregate of \$1,200,000 of 20-year 6 per cent bonds will be issued, but it is believed that \$900,000 will be sufficient to do the work.

The district comprises approximately 20,000 acres, thus fixing the price of the water at \$45 an acre.

The amortization plan offered to landholders provides for annual interest payments at the rate of 6 per cent for the first 10 years. At the end of the 11th year 5 per cent of the principal, in addition to the interest, must be paid. The annual payments of principal will increase 1 per cent each year. This schedule will liquidate the debt at the end of 20 years.

Under the district bonding plan the bonds are made a direct tax against the property. Both interest and principal are charged on the tax roll and become a lien against the property when payments are defaulted.

The bondholders are satisfied by the County Treasurer in substantially the same manner that improvement bonds are paid in a municipality.

Tracts Mostly Small.

Mr. Thomson said last night that every land owner in the district embraced in the new project has agreed to the terms of the proposed development. Nearly all the land is held in small tracts. Only two pieces are larger than 320 acres. One such is held by the Northern Pacific Railway and consists of 1200 acres; the other by E. N. Stanfield and consists of about 2000 acres. Both these owners have arranged to sell the land at prevailing market prices as soon as the development is started. The present value of the land, without water, is estimated at \$25 an acre; the land with water will cost no more than \$70 on this estimate.

The Teel district has been pronounced by many authorities as one of the most attractive irrigation projects in the state.

It lies in the triangle formed by the junction of the Umatilla River and Butter Creek, about 18 miles south of the Columbia River. It has a frontage of about 12 miles on Butter Creek and its northernmost point is about two miles distant from the southern end of the Government project at Hermiston. One corner of the district approaches within half a mile of the town of Echo, which will be the principal trading center for settlers on the tract.

Land Declared Good.

The land is said to be suitable for all kinds of agricultural purposes—livestock, dairying, fruits and vegetables, grain and general farm crops.

Water under this enterprise will be diverted from Camas Creek, 16 miles away. A ditch, 14 miles in length and a tunnel two miles in length will be built. The principal work will be on the tunnel. This, it is estimated, can be completed in 18 months after operations are started. Meanwhile work on the main ditch and on the levee will be under way. A dam and a reservoir will be built at the diversion point in Camas Creek.

The Kaiser Construction Company, it is understood, has agreed to do the work at the engineers' estimated cost, plus 15 per cent for engineering, supervision and sale of the bonds. They will accept their payment in bonds, but it is understood that they already have arranged to dispose of them through a syndicate of responsible Canadian investors.

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MOVING PICTURE NEWS



Thomas Dixon, Jr., Author of "The Clansman," On Which "The Birth of a Nation" is Based.

TODAY'S FILM FEATURES. Columbia—"Civilization's Child." Peoples—"David Garrick." Majestic—"The Eternal Sapho." Biograph—"The Spider." Sunset—"His Masterpiece."

Majestic. THE near-condemned Theda Bara film, "The Eternal Sapho," a modern screen version of the famous old tragic stage stand-by which, in the past, has been the subject of so much discussion, opened its engagement at the Majestic Theater yesterday. Filmdom's famous—or infamous—vampire, with "the most beautifully wicked face in the world," adds to her luster in the portrayal of such fascinating roles in her latest vehicle, for Theda is a convincing Sapho, practicing her wiles with alluring abandon upon such men as meet with her.

Sapho and the life of such as she are not so pleasing on the screen as on the stage. The film, directed the life more closely, and drive home with much force the lesson that such cannot result in anything but unhappiness.

The story follows along the line of that from which it is adapted. A girl of the slums becomes the model-mistress of an artist, and both achieve fame. She becomes attracted to a millionaire she believes to be a bachelor. Discovering his perfidy she visits his home, determined upon venereal exposure, but relents for the sake of the wife and child. Another man, who would marry her, takes the woman to his mother, and the latter recognizes in the wife-to-be a strange woman present at the murder of the husband and their "coming" nearly to the artist, the girl finds him dead, a suicide. Confronted by a remorseless fate, Sapho's mind becomes deranged and she falls dead upon the body of the man she raised to fame and then plunged into the depths.

The stairway scene is reproduced, but a pair of cats and a panting lover give a burlesque touch to the episode.

Pathe News and a Vitagraph comedy, "Jerry's Tea Party," complete the bill.

Columbia. "Civilization's Child," Ince feature screened at the Columbia Theater, is another strong drama in the series produced by the Southern California Triangle studio. A fierce arraignment of modern institutions, including our political system and the heartless formality of the courts, depicting an insidious brutality which does not appear to advantage in contrast to the more primitive inhumanity of the older countries of autocratic governments, permeates the tragic masterpiece.

The story is artistically handled from the Cossack massacres of the Jews in Russia, to the havoc wrought by political bosses in the slums of New York, presents William H. Thompson and Anna Lehr in roles to which they respond in the most satisfying fashion.

The girl is Berna, a child of nature, half-crazed by her first contact with so-called civilization, a Cossack massacre, and her mind forever affected by the ringing of bells on that occasion. Thereafter, when her undeserved suffering is most intense, she is rescued by the American civilization; she forever hears the dread sound of those bells. Coming to America, Berna is the boss intervenes and divorces her from the artist in order that the petted daughter of the politician might have the man she wishes for a husband. Berna goes to jail, but upon release seeks out the boss and kills him.

"His Bread and Butter" is a two-reel Keystone perfectly adapted to receive the tragedy of the five-reeler. Hank Mann, Polly Pearce and Slim Sumnerfield contribute in a comedy commanding more laughs than any Keystone presented in many a week. The old waiter situations are utilized, with many new ones, in a real slapstick scream.

Pickford. If a mother has deserted her baby daughter and her husband to share the fortunes of a profligate count, does she make atonement for her deed by paying the death penalty for a crime committed by that daughter? This is the proposition set forth in "The Spider," a strong Famous Players-Paramount feature starring Pauline Frederick, giving an interpretation of these parts which unquestionably brands her as one of the leading actresses of the screen. Her support, including Frank Leece and Thomas Holding, is excellent, while the settings and photography add to the strength of a story which possesses no element of weakness.

Valerie St. Cyr, a young and beautiful girl, deserts her husband for a count. They live happily until Valerie

conceives the idea of having her portrait painted by Julian, a young artist of strong morals. Julian is in love with Joan, Valerie's daughter, who is a flower girl. Valerie, who becomes Julian's model by pretending poverty, falls in love with him, but the love is not returned. The count fits with Joan, of whose identity Valerie is ignorant. To revenge herself on Julian, Valerie plots to place Joan in the count's power. Joan stabs the count to protect herself and Valerie, learning almost too late that Joan is her daughter, assumes responsibility for the crime as atonement.

"Hold Back," a Musty Suffer comedy up to the usual high standard of mischief in this country having been presented established by the Klein-Watson films, is another strong feature on the bill.

More Dixon Stories in Pictures.

Thomas Dixon, once a Baptist minister, author of "The Clansman," on which "The Birth of a Nation" now showing at the Heilig Theater, was based, and one of America's most famous novelists, has gone into motion pictures as director-general of the National Motion Picture Corporation. The National Motion Picture Corporation is one of the newest photoplay companies. The studio is being constructed at Hollywood, a Los Angeles suburb. The National has contracted for all of Dixon's work for the next five years. The company will not compete with other companies in the field. Dixon releases his films through its New York office to booking agencies, which will show them in only \$2 and \$3 houses.

"I'll soon find out whether I am successful as a motion picture director," said Mr. Dixon. "At least if I am not a director I will direct the director."

The "first" play, now being filmed, "The Fall of a Nation," is a sequel to "The Birth of a Nation" and Dixon's latest work. The story first will be run serially and then in book form, simultaneously with the release of the picture. Mr. Dixon is a tremendous worker. He goes into seclusion when he begins his toil and not even his wife dares interrupt him.

"We expect to make 200,000 feet of film in producing 'The Fall of a Nation,'" said Dixon. "The production will cost the cost of 'The Birth of a Nation' film by about 40 per cent.

Triangle-Famous-Lasky? The latest report from Southern California, unconfirmed as yet by all parties concerned, but one which has been floating about for several days, is that Triangle, comprising the New York Motion Picture Corporation, Keystone, Majestic and Reliance, have merged with the Famous Players and Lasky, the chief factors on the Paramount programme.

According to an announcement credited to H. E. Aitken, president of Triangle, one big company, the Triangle, will release the products of all of these companies. Capital involved is estimated at \$25,000,000, the merger to decrease 50 per cent of the middlemen

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Screen Gossip. For more than half a century "David Garrick" has been repeatedly produced on the stage until it has become internationally known as a classic of the drama. In 1854 it was first presented in England with E. A. Sothern in the title character. The success of this comedy in England has more than been duplicated here, its initial appearance in this country having been presented with George C. Boniface at the Kelly & Leon Theater, New York, on March 3, 1872. Among the noted actors who have starred in this play are Lawrence Barrett, Sir Charles Wyndham, both E. A. and E. H. Sothern, Nat Goodwin, Tommaso Salvini and others of equal fame.

E. H. Grants Pass, Or.—Clara Kimball Young may be reached by letter through Clara Kimball Young Film Corporation, 130 West Forty-sixth street, New York City. She is at present with the World Company and does not commence independent work until after July 15.

In order to secure Billie Burke as the star of "Gloria's Romance," the new George Kleine motion-picture novel, it was necessary to arrange for the postponement of her theatrical engagements for the close of the 1916 season and the opening of the 1916-17 season, when she was scheduled to appear in a new Hall Caine play.

The popular movie actresses are now wearing lace curtains on their elbows.

Vancouver Gets Delegate. VANCOUVER, Wash., May 4.—(Special.)—J. M. Langsdorf, of this city, president of the United States National

Bank, was among the 28 delegates chosen by the Democratic state convention to go to the National convention at St. Louis. Though 28 delegates were chosen, each will have but one-half a vote. The delegates from Clark County, attending the state convention at North Yakima, returned here today.

Moeck Tract to Be Logged. KELSO, Wash., May 4.—(Special.)—Harmon Jasperson and M. L. Rogers, of this place, are moving their teams and logging equipment across the Columbia

to Rainier this week to start logging a tract containing about 2,000,000 feet of timber which lies near Rainier. This timber was purchased from George Moeck, of Rainier, and will be logged by team to the Moeck dock at Rainier. Messrs. Jasperson and Rogers were in Portland the first of the week, and purchased two teams and a heavy logging truck, giving them four teams and three logging trucks. They expect to start logging next week.

Italian peat too low in fuel value to be used for heating is being utilized in the manufacture of nitrogen fertilizer.

Saloons and the movies have only one thing in common—they both utilize screens.

Dorothy Rogers, who plays one of the principal roles in a new William Fox feature film, has had her name changed to "Dor" Rogers.

Because spaghetti was served in the Thanksgiving dinner scene all false whiskers were removed in the three-reel masterpiece, "Thorns Amongst the Roses."

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