

APPROVE PROJECTS

Hitchcock Will Reverse Himself on Irrigation.

TO THE BENEFIT OF NORTHWEST

Had Taken Bad Advice—Walcott Removes Objections to Umatilla, Okanogan and Sunnyside.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Secretary Hitchcock is preparing to reverse himself and approve the Umatilla irrigation project in Eastern Oregon, as well as one or more projects in Washington. This, at least, is the inference to be drawn from an authorized statement made at his office today to the effect that action on the Umatilla projects would be taken some time next week which would be satisfactory to the people of Oregon, and that similar action was to be looked for on one or more Washington projects. It is not known at this time what Washington projects will be approved, further than that the choice will lie among the Tieton, Okanogan and Sunnyside schemes, all of which have been favorably recommended by the Reclamation service.

This announcement from the secretary's office was made after a conference between Mr. Hitchcock and Director Walcott, of the Geological survey, who is the intermediary between the secretary and the Reclamation service. This afternoon Mr. Walcott returned to the secretary all papers bearing on the Umatilla, Okanogan and Tieton projects and, in addition to the original recommendations, submitted unanswerable arguments showing that all these projects are not only feasible and desirable, but that there is no feature about them to which objection can be legitimately raised.

In point of fact, Mr. Hitchcock, shortly after taking adverse action on the Umatilla, Tieton and Okanogan projects, saw that he had acted on bad advice, and realized that his position would become untenable. He saw that he had made a blunder which would have to be rectified, and he has cautiously been feeling his way back to solid ground. He is not yet ready to make the final leap, but is preparing for it and, when he does, Oregon and Washington will benefit. Incidentally it might be mentioned that the men who gave the secretary bad counsel have heard from it, and have been warned to display more intelligence and common sense in future.

ONLY AMERICANS AS CONSULS:

Root Will Not Appoint Foreigners if He Can Help It.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Not a single foreigner has been appointed to the American consular service abroad since Secretary Root assumed office. He feels that it is his duty to "put none but Americans on guard." Aside from the fact that a foreigner naturally might be expected to take less interest than an American in the development of our trade abroad, it is felt that in time of political stress, wherein relations might become strained, no such test should be placed upon the loyalty of a foreign consular agent to his native country as would be imposed by requiring him to do his full duty to the country which merely employed him.

So, although a number of vacancies have occurred in these posts since Secretary Root assumed office, he has held consistently to the policy above laid down, and where it has not been possible to find Americans to fill the vacancies, the offices have been allowed to remain vacant. Of course, the vacancies cannot continue indefinitely, but the secretary hopes that, with the pressure of the business world behind it, congress will yield to his appeal for more liberal compensation for these small posts, so as to enable him to send out American officials.

Ballot Reform in New York.

New York, Nov. 18.—At a conference yesterday between representatives of organizations interested in ballot reform, a resolution was adopted declaring that ballot reform in New York should proceed on the lines of the Australian ballot as in use in Massachusetts. As the representative of the Corrupt Practices association, D. Cady Herrick asked the support of the conference for a bill which his organization intends to present to the legislature and which he said would be drawn so as to do away with election corruption.

Peasants Sack an Estate.

Kursk, Russia, Nov. 18.—Agrarian disorders are increasing. The estate of Prince Kassaline Rostofsky, in the Novosokol district, has been sacked by peasants, who attacked and wounded the prince and princess. Several buildings were burned and cattle and horses driven off. The police commissary has sent an urgent appeal to the government for regular troops to aid the Cossacks, who are powerless to cope with the disorders.

Plan International Parliament.

Paris, Nov. 18.—Representatives of the parliaments of the principal nations will assemble here November 18 to consider the American appeal for a permanent international parliament and a general arbitration treaty, as presented at the Brussels parliamentary congress by Congressman Richard Bartholdt, of Missouri, who represented the United States at the congress.

CASTRO REFUSES TO PAY MORE

Keeps Back Second Installment on Plumley Award.

Paris, Nov. 17.—The foreign office is advised that President Castro yesterday refused to pay the second installment of the Plumley arbitration award. The arbitration covered damages sustained by French citizens in Venezuela during the revolutionary periods prior to 1903.

Judge Frank Plumley, of Northfield, Vermont, was president of the arbitration committee, which met at Northfield last year. The judgment was in favor of France, which was awarded about \$650,000, and President Castro paid the first instalment of the award three months ago. The second payment was due yesterday, but was not paid.

Apparently the Venezuelan President's failure to pay the instalment was on the ground that diplomatic relations between France and Venezuela are interrupted. The officials here decline to admit that this justified President Castro in not paying the instalment. The incident is considered to be a further provocation.

CZAR HELPS PEASANTS.

Remits Millions Due on Lands and Makes Purchase Easy.

London, Nov. 17.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to Reuter's Telegram agency says that an imperial manifesto granting land concessions to the peasants was issued this morning. By its terms the land redemption tax payments from January 14, 1906, will be reduced by one-half, and from January 14, 1907, the payments will be totally abolished.

At the same time the capital of the Peasant bank is increased and the bank is granted additional loan privileges with the object of facilitating to the utmost the purchase of lands by peasants.

It is estimated that the amount of taxation thus lifted from the peasants by the manifesto will aggregate \$40,000,000, while the extension of the field of operations of the Peasants' bank will enable vast tracts of crown and private lands gradually to become the property of the peasants.

PRETENDER LEADS PEASANTS.

Army of 50,000 Supports Usurper's Claim to Czardom.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—A false emperor has suddenly made his appearance near Penza, and already his followers number 50,000. This is the startling report received this afternoon in a dispatch from Simbirsk. Penza is in the heart of the vast region extending westward from the Volga, where agrarian uprisings on a large scale have occurred, and if the report turns out to be true that the pretender to the throne has placed himself at the head of the peasantry, the government will soon face, besides other troubles, a formidable agrarian rebellion. It required a year to suppress the famous rebellion led by Pugatichoff, who impersonated the dethroned and murdered Peter III in the time of Catherine II. That uprising was started in the same region on the banks of the Volga.

STORM CLOUD IN AFRICA.

Germany Protests Against an Anglo-French Agreement in Liberia.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The State department has learned that Germany has protested to Great Britain and France against the conclusion of certain negotiations now on foot between those two governments and the government of Liberia. Liberia wished to borrow some money and is willing to hypothecate certain territory as security. Germany sees in this proposition a threat of undue expansion of British and French influence in that quarter of Africa. The State department has not yet called upon so far to take any action in this matter, and in fact regards the communication merely as information.

Anarchy at Vladivostok.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—The latest reports from Vladivostok indicate that the rioting has not yet been suppressed. Both sailors and fortress artillerymen participated in the outbreak. The commandant lost his head, the situation got beyond control, and energetic measures were not taken until a large part of the city had been destroyed. The population is still seeking refuge on the vessels in the harbor. According to one report from Vladivostok, 300 rioters, mostly sailors and artillerymen, were killed or wounded.

Battleship Idaho Not Ready.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The Navy department has not been advised by the Cramp Shipbuilding company that any date has been set for launching the battleship Idaho, although Senator Heyburn has been informed that it will take place December 9. The Idaho is only 40 per cent completed. It is unusual to launch ships in that early stage, and it seems improbable that the launching would be fixed for a date so near without notifying the Navy department.

Standard Oil's Big Dividend.

New York, Nov. 17.—The Standard Oil company has declared a quarterly dividend of \$10 a share. The previous dividend was \$6 a share and the dividend at this time last year was \$7 a share. Today's declaration brings the total dividends for the year to \$40 a share. Last year it was \$36.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

PORTRAGE ROAD WILL PAY.

Low Water in River Has Interfered With Its Traffic.

Salem—"That the Portage railway will be self sustaining when regular traffic has been established, there is no doubt," said Superintendent L. S. Cook, of the Celilo Portage railway, when in Salem to attend a meeting of the Portage commission. "For various reasons we have not been getting the business we should have had at the start, but present difficulties will be removed and avoided in the future."

"Low water has made it impossible for the boats on the upper river to take on wheat at some places to bring it down to Celilo. For example, at Quentin there was 12,000 sacks of wheat piled up on the shore, but the water was so low the boats could not get near enough to load. Some 150,000 sacks of grain along the Upper Columbia have been shipped out by rail, when under normal conditions of water, it would have come down by boat and the portage road.

"I cannot give exact figures at present concerning the expenditure and income, because we have not made settlements with transportation companies when the charges are collected by one line and the amount apportioned. In round numbers I should say that it costs us \$800 a month to operate the road and our income is about \$600 a month. If we were getting all the traffic that is available and naturally tributary to the portage road, we would have an income of \$1,200 a month and an expense of perhaps \$1,000. We have handled 10,000 to 15,000 sacks of wheat this month, whereas we would have handled much more if the boats could have reached it."

WANT WATER FOR CANAL.

Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company Files on Water Rights.

Salem—The Deschutes Irrigation & Power company has made two water filings to secure new sources of water supply for its extensive irrigation system near Bend. The present source of supply is about two miles above the town of Bend, but it is understood that the land upon which the headgate is located is owned or controlled by A. M. Drake.

The Deschutes company has now made a filing for 1,000 cubic feet of water per second about three miles further up the stream. The filing is for the purpose of securing water for the Central Oregon canal. The other filing is for 1,500 cubic inches per second at a point about 10 miles above Bend, at Beham falls. The filing is for the purpose of securing water for the Benham falls canal, which will extend eastward and northward a distance of 30 to 40 miles, bringing the water to Prineville and irrigating large areas of land north of the canal.

The Portland Irrigation company, represented by Edwin Mays, of Portland, has filed on 15,000 inches of water in Chewaucan creek, Lake county, the point of diversion being in section 34, township 33 south, range 18 east.

Fruit Drier Closes Down.

Freewater—J. P. McMinn, proprietor of the large fruit drier north of Freewater, has closed for the season, after a very short run, owing to the scarcity of prunes and the active demand and high price paid for the green fruit, 75,000 pounds being the output this year as compared with 200,000 pounds last year. Heretofore he has shipped his prunes east, disposing of the same in the large cities at prices from 3 to 3½ cents a pound. He has sold half of this year's output at 6 cents a pound to Pendleton and Walla Walla merchants.

Sandlake May Talk.

Cloverdale—The Cloverdale Telephone company this week completed ten miles of new telephone line to Sandlake. The company has also lately completed its line to Dolph. This gives Tillamook City telephone connection with every voting precinct in the south part of the county. There is hardly a farm house from Tillamook to Slab creek that has not telephone connection, and it is hoped next year will see the system extended to the valley by way of Willamina. The system now embraces over 60 miles of wire.

Work on Coquille Bar.

Bandon—Work on the north jetty at Coquille bar is now fairly under way, and will be completed probably within a year. This is part of the improvements along the Coquille river, for which the government recently appropriated \$55,000. The jetty will be extended 555 feet seaward. Contractors Wakefield & Jacobsen, of Portland, have the task in hand, and extensive work had to be done before the actual work of building the extension was started.

Winter Irrigation a Success.

Milton—W. T. Shaw, the well known Hudson bay rancher, was in the city recently and reports that irrigation on the line of the Hudson Bay ditch is increasing. This ditch uses the surplus water of the Walla Walla river, and as a result it can only irrigate when the ordinary irrigation season ends.

Car Shortage Felt.

Freewater—Owing to the scarcity of cars on this division the Peacock and Eagle mills are working at a great disadvantage on account of storage capacity being blocked with millstuffs ready to ship. Manager J. H. Hall advises he has 20 cars of flour and feed ready to move and can get but one car a day.

NEED NOT VACCINATE.

Children Cannot Be Forced to Take Precautionary Measures.

Salem—In answer to an inquiry from State Health Officer Robert C. Yenney, of Portland, Attorney General Crawford has rendered a decision holding that the State Board of Health has no authority to require that children shall be vaccinated before gaining admission to the public schools.

The attorney general quotes from the law creating the board of health, showing that the board has general supervision of the health of the state and power to establish quarantines. The vaccination rule would not be in the nature of a quarantine; hence the board cannot find its authority in that provision.

Neither does Mr. Crawford think the clause giving the board general supervision will authorize them to establish a new qualification for admission to the public schools unless there is apparent danger of an epidemic of smallpox.

AIDS THE CATALOGUE HOUSES.

Baker City Merchants Protest Against Numbering of Rural Boxes.

Baker City—The merchants of Baker City are circulating a petition asking the postmaster general to withdraw his order to the effect that all rural mail boxes must be numbered in consecutive order. In this work they have asked the aid of all the merchants from Boise to Spokane, and petitions have been sent to these towns for circulation.

The merchants allege that the numbering of the mail boxes on the rural free delivery routes would give the catalogue houses in the large cities like New York, Chicago and St. Louis a great advantage, as these big concerns would be enabled to send out their catalogues and other literature to every patron along every rural free delivery route without knowing the names of the parties, as the literature could be addressed to Box 24, or any number, and reach its destination.

Start Free Library.

Baker City—Baker City now has a free public library, the council having ratified the appointment of the library commission as named by Mayor C. A. Johns. A special library tax will be voted on the next June election, and in the meantime Andrew Carnegie will be asked to renew the offer of \$1,000 made about a year ago for the establishment of a library in this city. The present library was instituted by a private library association and conducted for the benefit of the public at a small membership fee.

O. R. & N. Block System.

La Grande—The construction gang at work erecting the block system on the mountain division of the O. R. & N., has almost completed its labors for the winter. The system is installed well along the line between Meacham and Bingham Springs, and when the crew reaches the latter place work will be suspended this season, although it is likely that it will be extended on as far as Umatilla, at least by another year.

Nucleus of Permanent Exhibit.

Ontario—The Malheur county exhibit returned from the fair at Portland is being installed in the office of Don Carlos Boyd. It is to be made the nucleus of a permanent exhibit of the products of the county.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 73c per bushel; blue-stem, 75c; valley, 74@75c; red, 69c. Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$26; gray, \$26 per ton.

Bailey—Feed, \$21.50@22 per ton; brewing, \$22@22.50; rolled, \$22.50@23.50.

Rye—\$1.50@1.60 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$15@16 per ton; valley timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9; grain, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.50 per box; huckleberries, 7c per pound; pears, \$1.25@1.50 per box; grapes, \$1.50@1.75 per box; Concord, 15c per basket; quinces, \$1 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, wax, 10@12 per pound; cabbage, 1@1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; celery, 75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50@60c per dozen; pumpkins, ¾@1c per pound; tomatoes, \$1 per cental; sprouts, 7½c per pound; squash, ¾@1c per pound; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@1 per sack.

Onions—Oregon yellow Danvers, \$1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 75@80c per sack; ordinary, 55@60c; Merced sweet, sacks, \$1.90; crates, \$2.15.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27½c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32½@35c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 11@12c per pound; young roosters, 9@10c; spring, 11@12c; dressed chickens, 12@14c; turkeys, live, 17½@18c; geese, live, 8@10c; ducks, 14@15c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 9@11c; olds, 7½@10c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 19@21c; lower grades down to 15c, according to shrinkage; valley, 25@27c per pound; mohair, choice, 30c.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound; cows, 8@4c; country steers, 4@4½c.

Veal—Dressed, 8@7½c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 7@7½c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7½@8c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@7½c per pound.

IRRIGATION MUDDLE.

Oregon and Washington Suffer From "Too Many Cooks."

Washington, Nov. 15.—"The Malheur irrigation project in Eastern Oregon is reeking with graft," said a high official of the Interior department today, "and until this graft has been eliminated the government will not adopt and build the project which the Reclamation service has prepared. The government does not propose to be held up."

This statement was made by an official very close to Secretary Hitchcock,