

Fairbanks on Irrigation

Sacramento, Sept. 4.—Vice-President Fairbanks' speech at the Irrigation Congress was one of the absorbing addresses. It was in part as follows:

"The suggestion that the government should participate in the work of irrigation awakened some opposition among those who had given little thought to it and who failed to realize its tremendous possibilities. I look upon no incident of my public service with more satisfaction than the support which I gave to the reclamation act upon the statute books. The measure now speaks for itself. Its critics have become its supporters, and the marvel of it all is that its virtues were not earlier foreseen and such a measure sooner enacted. The work of development under it may sometimes seem to be slow. The results, however, are sure. Those who are familiar with what has been done by the government will agree that much progress has been made and that the faithful execution of the law will result in bringing under a high state of cultivation many millions of acres of land which are now unproductive.

"The effect of irrigation in this western country can be appreciated only by those who are familiar with it from personal observation. The change made in the conversion of an arid waste into fruitful fields seems almost incredible. There is no more radical transformation to be found anywhere than in the parched valleys and plains which have been irrigated and which prior thereto produced nothing but sage brush. The most unproductive land has become the most fertile. From the worst, it takes rank as the best. It is hard to find anywhere more apparently unproductive land than that which is occupied by sage brush, and no more bountiful harvests are gathered than those which this same forbidding land produces when touched by the vitalizing influence of irrigation. There are promising fields today where there was no sign of habitation before we entered upon the present reclamation policy, and what is being done is but prophetic of what we shall accomplish if we faithfully adhere to the policy upon which we have entered and carry it out to the limits of its possibilities.

"We have long since passed the experimental stage and it only remains to push the work wherever feasible with the utmost vigor. The reclamation of every ten or twenty acres of land means the creation of a homestead which will comfortably support a family of industrious, intelligent and patriotic American citizens.

"The development of irrigation by the national government must have a profound and far-reaching influence upon the general subject of irrigation throughout the country. It will tend powerfully to the extension of irrigation throughout the country into portions of the country which have hitherto relied largely upon rainfall in the cultivation and growing of crops. There is no more important subject for the consideration of farmers in many of the humid and semi-humid regions than that of so-called supplemental irrigation. We must prepare more and more for the increased demand upon our food supply which comes with the multiplying millions of our population. Therefore, the development of the subject of irrigation is of interest, not only to the farmers of these great western regions but to the farmers and consumers everywhere.

"We do a substantial and permanent service to our country by enlarging the area unto which men and women may come from the congested centers and find occupation for their energies and homes for their heads. Let a man own a piece of ground which he may cultivate; put him into partnership with nature and it will intensify his love of country and make him a more stable, conservative and patriotic citizen. Increase the home builders and the home owners of the republic and you augment its real abiding strength.

The development of the reclamation service in this western country means the increase of migration hither of many desirable citizens. It means that in good time many immigrants who otherwise would settle upon the Atlantic seaboard will come here and avail themselves of the opportunities which are to be found in this vast region where nature's bounties afford an ample and inviting field. It is in our economic and our national interest that more of them should come into the Pacific states and aid you in the great work of building up your agriculture and your trade and in creating here a splendid, progressive civilization.

"One of the most promising things in the extension of irrigation is the development of the beet sugar industry. This is a subject of no more local importance. We are sending abroad more than one hundred millions of dollars a year for sugar. This enormous sum goes to the en-

richment of sugar producers in foreign countries. This is an unwise policy and should not be continued forever. This tremendous annual drain should be stopped. By pursuing a rational course, we can produce from our own soil and refine in our own factories all of the sugar needed for our use. It is readily to be seen that the cultivation of sugar beets in the arid and semi-arid regions will be a source of unending and expanding wealth in the future. To fail to utilize to the utmost our opportunities to develop this great industry and retain within our own borders all or nearly all of the enormous sum of one hundred million dollars annually, now sent abroad, would seem to be the part of inexpressible folly.

"Closely related to the subject of irrigation is the work of forestry preservation. The two subjects go hand in hand. We have pursued a somewhat reckless policy with regard to the forests of the United States. In some sections of the country, in fact, in almost every section, we have denuded our lands of timber in what now seems to have been almost a wanton fashion. We have thought only of today, having no proper regard for the future. The demand of the country for timber needed to build our railways, construct our cities and homes has been tremendous. We have cut away our forests and paid no attention to the necessity of taking steps for their ultimate restoration. We now see what some of the older countries in their experience have seen, that it is necessary to adhere to a rational, scientific forestry system, not only in the interest of our future forests but in the interest of the important subjects of irrigation and navigation. It is but a truism that if the forests are swept away, the rainfall quickly flows into the streams and is wasted into the sea, whereas if the forests are properly preserved upon the watersheds, the rainfall and melting snows are stored in nature's reservoirs and are gradually fed into the streams for the benefit of both agriculture and navigation.

"We have not fully begun to appreciate the full value of our streams and rivers. We have not fairly begun to appropriate them to the benefit of our agriculture, industry and commerce. The waters which come down from the sides of these mountains may be converted into electrical power and carried hundreds of miles with but little loss to the initial energy and appropriated to lighting and heating cities, operating mines and driving the wheels of industry. We have thousands of miles of rivers which may be made navigable with little expense to the government compared with the benefits flowing from their use in carrying commerce. There are thousands of miles of rivers which are navigable in a degree but which should be deepened and improved so as to meet our growing needs. It is impossible to give too much emphasis to the importance of this subject. Our rivers are the natural highways of commerce and the growing density of our population and the increase of our production make it essential that there should be additional facilities to insure cheap and ready transportation. The capacity of the railways of the country is already taxed to the utmost and the rapid development of traffic makes it necessary that we should largely augment the means of carrying it in the future. Moreover there is no better equalizer of rates than water competition. Water transportation is a perpetual and certain guaranty against monopoly on the part of common carriers.

"We are earnestly carrying forward the construction of the Panama canal, confessedly a work of great importance not only to our commerce but to the commerce of the world. Important as this matter is, it is not more important than the improvement of navigation upon many of our rivers. The improvement of navigation upon them may well go hand in hand with the work upon the great canal. The one is in a very considerable degree the complement of the other. This is a large subject and must be considered in a large way.

"Upon such an occasion as this, I would not venture to obtrude politics; nothing could be more inappropriate. The fact is that we have a surfeit of politics. What we need most is more business and less politics. Unless the business affairs of the people are arrested by unwise policies, unless the seeds of distrust are sown among ourselves, unless commercial unrest is encouraged by doctrinaires, we shall continue to expand our industries and the great west will continue to grow and fulfill her mighty destiny. Can we stand prosperity? We are in the midst of a prosperity the like of which was never before seen. Can we utilize it to our benefit? Can we retain it or will we distrust each other and involve it all in hopeless

confusion? There never was an hour when it was more important that we should be governed by sober judgment. We should sedulously cultivate a tolerant spirit and a spirit of justice towards each other. We should not forget that confidence is the sure foundation of prosperity and progress, and we should have a care that we do not undermine it.

"Our rapidly multiplying industries and increasing population give rise to new questions which tax the wisdom and patriotism of our people. In recent years we have out of the evils which inhere in our commerce between the states, under the sharp and certain condemnation of the written law. We have sought to extirpate them in the interest of fair play. We have proceeded advisedly, not blindly, to destroy the bad and preserve the good. We are bringing to the solution of these and other problems an enlightened judgment and exalted purpose. We are solving them and will continue to solve them according to the principles of justice and in the interest of wholesome trade and commerce. The American people do not go far astray because there is a national conscience which never sleeps, and their conclusions are reached by its un-failing light."

COOS RIVER NOTES.

Mrs. A. J. Sherwood and daughter Miss Emma, of Coquille, are visiting on South Coos River at the home of Mrs. Sherwood's father, Mr. S. C. Rogers.

Mrs. Elmer Russell, of North Bend, is spending a week or two on North Coos River. She is visiting at the home of Mr. Russell's father, J. W. Russell.

Mrs. J. A. Smith, of South Coos River went to Marshfield Tuesday to see a doctor. She is suffering from blood poisoning caused by an injury to her hand.

Mrs. J. D. Magee, of Ten Mile, who, with her family, has been visiting at the home of her father, Mr. W. H. Morgan, has returned home.

J. A. Smith, Frank Rogers, and his daughter, Miss Leah, of Coos River, and Mrs. Prentiss, of Marshfield, are taking a hunting trip on the upper Coquille. They expect to be gone about a week. Look out for big game.

Mrs. John Ferguson, lately of North Bend, spent last week visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Johnson, of South Coos River. Mrs. Ferguson has gone to Roseburg where they expect to make their home in the future.

E. L. Bessey, of South Coos River, expects to install a milking machine in his dairy within a few days.

SIUSLAW SALMON PACK WAS SMALL

W. L. Fisk, who came in from Acme yesterday, says the salmon pack on the Siuslaw is very light this season. About 15 boats are out catching for the Kyle cold storage plant. They average but seven to ten fish to the boat each night, whereas the usual catch is 40 to 50 fish.

The Hurd cannery has not yet begun work, but it is expected to do so soon as the Chinese employed at Columbia River canneries are released by closing of the season there. In a couple of weeks the run of small salmon will be on, and then Kyle & Co. will also start their cannery.—Eugene Register.

NORTH BEND MAN HAS ANKLE BROKEN BY FALL

F. E. Monroe, manager of the Bayside Paint Co., of North Bend, met with a painful accident Tuesday evening. In stepping off the porch at his residence an object turned under his right foot, with the result that he suffered two broken ankle bones. Dr. Bartell reduced the fracture and the patient is doing well now on four legs.

CITY DADS WILL TALK BUSINESS THIS EVENING

The city council meets tonight to transact the business that can be turned off in one evening's session. There is an ordinance in preparation to establish a fire limit, and this will likely receive consideration this evening. There are also other matters for the council's attention and the meeting is likely to prove interesting.

HINDU WORKMEN ARE MOBBED IN BELLINGHAM

Bellingham, Sept. 4.—Over five hundred men and boys tonight raided the Hindu colony in this city and after severely beating the inhabitants, drove them to the tide flats and warned them to leave the city. In some instances the Hindus were dragged from their beds, and others who were working at the mills were driven from their work to the edge of the city.

JUDGE UPTON FINES JONES AND WILKINS

Merton Jones and D. Wilkins were before Recorder Upton yesterday to answer to charges of fighting. The fracas happened on a recent night and Wilkins was laid up several days as a result. Jones was fined \$25 and costs and Wilkins was charged \$10 and costs.

FLANAGAN BOY IS GREATLY IMPROVED

Master Procter Flanagan, who was so badly burned last Sunday by alcohol flames, is improving fast at the Marshfield general hospital, and the uncertainty about his eyes is past. The little fellow can see and this fact gives his parents great relief. His progress has been favorable and rapid and the friends of the family will be pleased to learn as much.

—Labor Day Post Cards at Lockhart-Parson's Drug Co.

PARTY OF FOUR WILL LEAVE THIS MORNING

George A. Baines, George Goodrum, Charles Jensen and Ray Golden will leave today for an extended hunting trip in the vicinity of Elk Peak, in the eastern part of the county. They have laid in a supply of provisions that will last them for two weeks and have pack horses for the trip. They are leaving with great expectations, and promised their friends they will bring home plenty of venison to supply a neighborhood.

—Bayside Paints and Imperial Varnishes. No better made. None made better. Pounds or tons. Pints or barrels. Bayside Paint Co., North Bend.

Strikes in Europe.

Antwerp, Sept. 3.—The violence of the looked-out dock laborers and their sympathizers increased today in great proportion when at least a dozen persons, including strike breakers and members of crews of steamers were attacked and badly wounded. The police charged repeatedly, firing their revolvers at the rioters who dispersed only to gather again. Troops are ordered to mobilize tomorrow and gatherings of more than five persons are forbidden.

—Dr. J. G. Gobie, the well known optician, of Medford, Ore., will visit all Coos Bay towns during Sept. For dates see this paper later.

Had Other Man's Wife.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 4.—Fire Chief B. H. Miller, of Franklin, Ohio, shot and instantly killed J. H. Little, who recently eloped with Miller's wife and who returned to Franklin last night for trial. Miller entered the police station, going directly to Little's cell and fired two bullets in his breast. Miller is now a raving maniac.

Composer Dead.

Bergen, Sept. 4.—Edward Hagerup, the great composer, died here today. He was about to take passage on a steamer yesterday when he was seized with illness and died today in a hospital.

Help For Canneries.

Forty-six Chinamen and Japs arrived on the Breakwater. Some of them are bound for Bandon where they will help in the Timmons cannery, while the remainder go to the Siuslaw to aid the Kyle packing house.

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