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Small Change

## Tennie Claflin Crusading

The Increase in Suicides

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| AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. <br> T 15 REPORTED that the Malheur irrigation project may be defeated by the refusal of the Wil- lamette Valley \& Cascades Mountains Wagon Road company to accept the government's proposition and pay its due proportion of the cost of the necessary reservoirs, ditches, etc., amounting, it is stated, to about $\$ 30$ an acre. <br> This would mean a large contribution by this corporation, but when it is certain that lands now worth- less would by irrigation become worth from $\$ 75$ to $\$ 200$ an acre, the reason of this company's refusal is not clear. It perhaps thinks the work will be done anyway, and it will come in for its big share of the benefits, while the small land holders will pay all of the cost. <br> This is the usual and expected course of such a concern as the W. V. \& C. M. Wagon Road company. Having grafted the government out of an immense area of land, much of it very valuable, it is quite in line with its nature to refuse to expend anything to help improve and build up the country, even though it will itself be the chief beneficiary, so long as there is the least chance that other people, co-operating with the government, will do the work. <br> This corporation is in a poor position to make such <br> 2 refusal, with even a surface show of grace. It secured <br> a vast tract of the people's land, alternate sections in a <br> wide strip clear from the Willamette valley to the east- <br> ern state line, in consideration of which it was to build <br> got the land; the department and the courts have held <br> that it was entitled to the land; but the road-well, per- <br> haps that will be built some time by the state convicts. |
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