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LANE WANTS LIGHTING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Mayor Declares Cost Would Not Exceed \$300,000—Answers President Josselyn On His Excessive Taxation Argument—People Also Have Interests.

Mayor Lane has issued another letter to the people in regard to city lighting and points out that the city is paying too much for its lights. Mayor Lane advocates a municipal distribution system and calls attention to the contention of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company that municipal ownership of electric lighting plants is a failure by referring to Detroit, Nashville and other cities conducting their own lighting plants.

Whether the city cares to acquire the power and install a generating plant or not, necessity will compel it to at least own its distribution system within the city's limits. Such a system can be installed for not to exceed \$300,000, perhaps for less, and the city can do no better or more useful thing than to make preparation to install such a system as soon as possible.

"Discouraging reports of the failure of municipally owned lighting plants operating from the company which has the only supply of light at this time, are to be expected. If you will look over such of them, however, as have been published, you will find no report from successfully conducted municipal plants and there are a number, notable among which are Detroit, Alameda, California; Seattle, Weiser, Idaho; and so far as it has installed them, St. Louis, Missouri, also Nashville, Tennessee, which has been quoted by Mr. Josselyn as among those cities which have failed in municipal ownership of public utilities.

"The claim that the people are unfit to conduct their own business affairs, and must leave such matters entirely in the hands of other persons, presumably those who are now engaged in furnishing the sort of service which the city is getting for the price it is paying, is an insult to their intelligence in any way that one can see.

"To the announcement of the sole prospective bidder for public lighting contracts, as one of the largest taxpayers, protesting against any municipally owned attempt to escape from the present condition of affairs, it may be traced that the people are too much for their lighting. Also that they pay a larger percentage of the cost of the same in proportion to the value of their holdings than does this or any other private corporation engaged in supplying public utilities, and until such time as such concerns bear their just share of these expenditures the interest of the people, by right, is first to be considered.

"I have no wish to do injustice to the rights of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company. It is entitled to all which belongs to it, but to nothing more. The people of the city too have their interests, and they reach out into the homes of many persons. Their interests are as important to them and just as sacred and worthy of equal consideration and respect as are these others. The bulk of such expenditures are borne by them, and their rights may not, in justice and decency, be usurped or juggled by any one. And in so far and just so far as it lies with the fastening of such a 'stranglehold' as this upon them. Respectfully,

"HARRY LANE, Mayor."

Recital Next Tuesday. Active interest is being manifested in the lecture-recital, "Echoes From Dixie Land," by Sylvia Williams McGuire, a popular impersonator and reader of negro dialect, which will be given on next Tuesday evening at the White Temple. Mrs. McGuire has won high place in the entertainment field, her work being in a class by itself and stamped with an individuality peculiar to her own. In her "Echoes From Dixie Land" she carries her audience back to the sunny south before the war when the charm of plantation life was still in vogue and the old-time darkey, with his quaint characteristics are familiar to all.

Mrs. McGuire will be assisted on Tuesday evening by Misses well-known soloists, Waldemar Lind and J. Clair Smith.

WASHTUCNA VALLEY UNDER IRRIGATION

One of the Big New Projects Now Being Developed.

Eastern Washington and Oregon, the country tributary to the Columbia river and the Portland market, is now making tremendous strides in the development of its arid lands through the instrumentality of supplying water to these lands by irrigation. History teaches us that irrigation farming tends to wonderful developments and to great wealth. It means the subdividing of the large farms and valleys into 5 and 10-acre tracts and the settling upon each of these tracts with families, and a competence and even riches to these settlers. It means that high quality of old system, one man farmed a section of land in wheat or as a stock ranch, 50 or more families, under irrigation, will derive a large income.

One of the new projects that is now being developed is in the Washtucna valley, adjoining the great Palouse wheat country in Whitman county, Washington. The great Palouse country in Washington, located in our sister state, is really a tributary to the Portland market. The Palouse wheat fields have become famous for their wonderful productivity in wheat per acre for the time and labor expended. The counties of Whitman, Franklin and Adams produced nearly 20,000,000 bushels of wheat during the year 1907, which gave the farmers of these counties a total of some \$15,000,000. This country has in recent years also shown a wonderful activity in the culture of fruits. Wherever water can be supplied through irrigation, orchards were established and a high quality of apple and pear was produced. The Washtucna valley, on the Palouse river, is the only large district in the Palouse country capable of development under irrigation and the development of this valley is now being accomplished by the Palouse Irrigation & Power company, a Washington corporation. The prediction is made that the Washtucna valley, in the Palouse country, under irrigation, will become as famous as the Palouse wheat, and the two will continue hand in hand in furnishing large quantities of wheat and fruit to the Portland and Seattle markets.

The Palouse Irrigation & Power company is a Washington corporation, capitalized at \$200,000, which controls the waters of the Palouse river, which are the same waters that were contemplated by the government for the Greater Palouse project and the irrigation of some 30,000 acres of land extending down to Pasco on the Columbia river. This corporation owns about 9,000 acres of land in and adjacent to the Washtucna valley in Whitman, Franklin and Adams counties. About 2,500 acres of this land are irritable and will come under the irrigation system. The total amount of land to be irrigated in the Washtucna valley will be between 8,000 and 9,000 acres. This property is practically in the heart of the world-famous Palouse wheat district, which carries a heavy and tremendous wheat shipment that is handled yearly through the Portland market. Soil that will produce by dry farming such a high quality of wheat will undoubtedly produce under irrigation excellent fruit. This has indeed been proved by the orchards that have been irrigated by small individual ditches in different parts of the valley. It is the upland that produces the wheat and other grain, and the valley, when irrigated, that will make this locality equally famous with its apples, pears and other fruits.

This undertaking is in its infancy, but those who are handling the project are both capable and aggressive, and this present year will see great changes in the Washtucna valley. Already the company has constructed four miles of main canal, built to carry 80 cubic feet of water per second of time, and has its dams and headgates constructed on the Palouse river about three miles above Hooper in Whitman county. The dam built during this past winter is of solid concrete masonry, anchored to bedrock 20 feet below the river. A 70-foot waste tunnel constructed through solid rock, makes the control of the water of the river positive at all times. At the present time the company is busy finishing up construction work on the main lateral which has the system below Hooper to supply water to some 100 acres, part of which has been planted in vine orchards. This lateral will be completed and the water will be carried onto this property by

gravity flow during the early part of May of this year. The main system from below Hooper crosses the Palouse river on a bridge in a continuous stave pipe line 8 1/2 feet in diameter, 2,000 feet long to the other side of the valley, and from thence the system will be constructed to run down the valley and cover the balance of the land. It is the intention of the company to complete the system down to Washtucna and have about 2,500 acres under irrigation for next year.

The undertaking of the Palouse Irrigation & Power company, in addition to developing the irrigation project, involves the laying out and building up of the townsite of Palouse Falls. The locality of this site is just across the river from Palouse Orchards and is ideal for a progressive, thriving town. Six miles below this townsite is the wonderful waterfall of the same name on the Palouse river, and it is part of the plan of the company to develop electric power from the water of the falls for milling and other manufacturing industries. There are unlimited possibilities along this line for this locality. The immense quantities of wheat raised in the Palouse district will alone assure the success on the start of such an undertaking, to say nothing of the business that packing-houses, canneries and creameries will give. That the Washtucna valley will rapidly reach a high stage of development is a certainty. The work of the Palouse Irrigation & Power company alone would assure this, but when, in conjunction with their efforts, two more railroads undertake to traverse the valley, there

can be no question of the ultimate outcome as to settlement and prosperity.

The personnel of the company consists of the following board of directors: H. C. Peters, president, Seattle, Washington, owner of Cascade orchards in the Wenatchee valley; B. L. Gates, vice-president, Seattle, Washington, jeweler; H. Marsh, secretary, Hooper, Washington; John E. Ryan, attorney at law, Seattle, Washington; J. D. Butler, secretary and manager, Parker-Bell Lumber company, Seattle, Washington; Earl Pooler, president C. H. Nichols Lumber company, Seattle, Washington; C. T. Booth of Washtucna, Washington, is the superintendent of construction on the ground; W. R. Prowell, engineer of Wenatchee, Washington, is the engineer in charge; Hanford & Blackwell of Seattle, Washington, consulting engineers; R. H. Smithwick, civil engineer of Spokane, Washington, is in charge of platting and laying out of the different tracts and the townsite; Arthur Small of Seattle, Washington, formerly of California, advertising and office manager at the home office in Seattle. These, together with some 25 active agents, constitute the working force of the company.

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TAFT ADVOCATES NEWLAND'S PLAN

Bill for Expenditure of Fifty Millions for Waterways Meets Approval.

(Hearst News by Longest Leased Wire.)

Washington, April 18.—Secretary Taft today submitted a report to the senate endorsing the main features of the bill introduced by Senator Newlands for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the improvement of inland waterways of the country. This plan has been endorsed heartily in meetings throughout the country. It was drafted by Senator Newlands during the large inland waterway conference held here in December last. The fact that the secretary has approved the main features of his bill leads Senator Newlands to believe that an appropriation will be made by congress for the appointment of a permanent inland waterways commission for the creation of a waterway

fund, and for the improvement of the waterways. It was referred to the senate committee on commerce sometime ago.

Secretary Taft says the bill provides a comprehensive plan for the development of the waterways, the cooperation of forestry, irrigation, swamp land, reclamation, utilization of water power and clarification of streams in connection with and the cooperation of states and municipalities with the national government in the work.

He bases his report upon the power of the constitution to regulate interstate commerce and states that the people of the nation should engage in the consideration of these questions, especially on the navigability of the stream or the possibilities of making them navigable.

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EASTER RUG SALE advertisement featuring a rabbit and a woman, listing various rug types and prices.

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