

INFORMAL STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT MAN REFLECTED BY REPORT

Umatilla Irrigation Project
Has Been Given Careful
Examination.

LITTLE LAND WORTHLESS

J. W. Brewer, Farm Land Manager of
the State Board of Immigration,
Submits Statements in Detail.

That 50 per cent of the Umatilla project consists of lands suitable for irrigation and but 30 per cent worthless was reported yesterday by J. W. Brewer, farm land manager of the state board of immigration, who made a thorough reconnaissance of the project in company with Professor W. J. Powers, irrigation expert of Oregon Agricultural college.

The report reflects the informal statement by so-called experts of the department of agriculture at Washington declaring the project worthless and 50 per cent unsuitable for irrigation.

Acceptance of the latter report by the interior department would have prevented carrying on the west extension of the Umatilla project. In transmitting the report to President Thomas C. Burke of the state immigration commission, C. C. Chapman, state immigration agent, expressed this conclusion:

"That the state of Oregon, the immigration commission, the Oregon development league, the Oregon conservation commission and our commercial allies are entirely justified in supporting the movement for construction of the west extension is apparent from careful study of this report, and the other facts of the entire case. That it is a duty of the state of Oregon for all of these public bodies to insist upon early completion of the west extension is also apparent."

Attached to the report is the record of the experience of 125 settlers. Lack of experience has been a deterrent to the success of many, 66 of 77 who replied to the question as to whether they had had previous experience, saying they had not. The Sandy Hill district north of Hermiston also presents a problem, says Mr. Brewer, which may be solved in the growing of fruit trees. His general conclusion is:

"After covering the ground very thoroughly, talking with the farmers, inspecting the various farms and methods employed and taking into consideration the general climatic, soil and marketing conditions, the conclusion is reached that there is good reason for encouragement and that most of the project will ultimately prove successful."

The Umatilla project is located in the northwestern part of Umatilla county and embraces approximately 16,000 acres of irrigable land. The average elevation above sea level is 470 feet; the average annual rainfall about 8 inches. Government statistics show the last killing frost was to have been April 7, and the first of autumn to be October 28. The original plan for water was \$60 an acre in 10 annual installments, but time extensions have increased this to \$8 a acre of water, while \$1.30 is the annual maintenance charge. In 1913, 13,000 acres of land were entitled to water, 9000 acres included in tracts receiving some water, and 5000 acres were actually watered. As to the quality and character of the soils on the project, Mr. Brewer reports:

Fruit Trees do Well.
On the eastern side of the project a strip of land composed of a fine sandy loam or fine sand, and is producing good crops of alfalfa and fruit trees show an excellent wood growth, especially where the land is well fertilized and kept in the proper manner. Most of the particular area is underlain with a less porous strata or is within 20 feet of the surface and does not dry out as rapidly as the land on the higher elevations. A very small part of this area is situated close to the close proximity to the water table, a subject to waterlogging and requires considerable working and drainage to make it very desirable.

On the northern part of the project the lands are underlain with a basalt rock from the surface to six feet below. Nearly all of this area is sub-irrigated to some extent and more or less water logged, but drainage is possible by means of a ditch and the depth of the soil is 12 inches or more, is producing good crops.

Some Drainage Needed.
In the western extremity of the project, lying between Umatilla Butte and the river, are from 300 to 400 acres of land from two to six feet in depth that is composed of fine sand and is of rather better texture than the other soils on the project. It has been best to drain this district to drain the land to some extent, in order to keep it from water logging. This drainage is very simple, however, and there is no danger of sand being blown in fact, the danger from alkali in the whole project will be very small, unless perhaps in a limited area in the plat which is north of the town of Hermiston and the dangers here can be greatly reduced by systematic drainage.

The area known as the Sandy Ridge, extending northeast from Umatilla Butte and the off-shoots from this ridge is mainly coarse sand with a coarse black loam subsoil. The organic content and available fertility of this particular district is undoubtedly very low, and requires frequent irrigations to keep water enough in the soil to maintain the necessary plant food solution. The coarse texture and the loose character of this soil and the high winds in the district, the soil is subject to blowing and drying out. The exceedingly large quantity of water required to produce a satisfactory growth of plants like alfalfa, clover or vetch tends to leech out the plant humus, and hinders building up the supply of organic matter.

Topography Rough.
The topography in this part of the district is very rough and makes leveling and irrigation laborious and expensive. Surrounding this sandy ridge is an area of slightly finer texture and with probably a little more organic matter than is contained in that of the ridge. The soil is of a medium texture and is ordinarily these spots are practically level and where the areas are large enough to farm are above the average of this body in productivity. Especially is this the condition in the eastern part of the project covering from 500 to 1000 acres in sections 20, 21 and 22, township 3-23, and in section 2, township 3-23, where the land is greatly enriched by sediment overflow or alluvial deposit from Cold Springs cañon. The entire acreage under the pres-

Architect Selected for New Postoffice

Louis T. Hobart of San Francisco Is
Winner in Competition With Five
Others; Next Step to Draw Plans

Another step toward actual construction of Portland's proposed million dollar postoffice at Park, Glisan, Broadway and Hoyt streets was taken yesterday when Senator Chamberlain in Washington was informed that the government's supervising architect had selected the plans submitted by Louis T. Hobart of San Francisco.

This means that Hobart will be the architect under whose direction the big four story structure will be built. Hobart had for competitors four other San Francisco architects and one from Portland.

The acceptance of his plans, however, does not mean that the building will be constructed along the lines laid out by him. The submission of plans was in the nature of a test of ability.

According to Postmaster Myers, the next step will be the drawing and acceptance of the actual building plans.

The plans will be drawn by Hobart and will include suggestions and ideas of the supervising architect.

The proposed postoffice building, in addition to housing the postoffice, will be used also for quarters of all federal offices that now occupy rented quarters in private buildings.

Secretary of State Olcott Completes
Work so Far as Names in His Possession Permit.

Salem, Or., Aug. 29.—Secretary of State Olcott today completed the mailing of 230,749 pamphlets containing the 23 proposed constitutional amendments and general measures, with arguments, to be voted on at the November election. The total postage on the pamphlets amounted to \$4514.88, the rate being two cents per package.

Under the law the secretary of state is required to transmit by mail to every voter in the state whose address he may have, one copy of such pamphlet not later than the fifty-fifth day before the regular general election at which such measures are to be voted upon.

The pamphlets have been forwarded to all the registered voters in the different counties whose names and addresses have been furnished to him by the county clerks. Pamphlets will be forwarded to those who register after this date as their names are reported to the secretary of state by the county clerks up to the close of the books of registration, October 15. Prompt registration by all voters who have not yet registered will insure themselves a copy of the measures at an early date.

**Mrs. Mary B. Nichols
Laid to Last Rest**

Funeral Services Held for Widow of
Late Dr. Clarence L. Nichols; Interment in Riverside.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at the residence of Dr. A. S. Nichols, 453 Vista avenue, for Mrs. Mary B. Nichols, widow of the late Dr. Clarence L. Nichols, who died at her home, 453 Vista avenue, Thursday evening, after a long illness.

The Rev. Dr. John H. Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, conducted the services. Interment was in Riverside cemetery.

Dr. H. C. Jeffers, J. Frank Watson, E. C. Meers, Jesse Stearns, Charles C. Smith and George M. Trowbridge served as pall bearers.

ent Umatilla project, including future units, approximates 20,000 acres. Of this, four units have been completed and are now being furnished with water.

In the northwestern part of the project are approximately 8000 acres of alfalfa and fruit trees, which are being sold at present.

To maintain favorable moisture content in these soils, light, frequent irrigations must be applied, and a large head of water should be used in order to get the water over the surface rapidly.

When large quantities of water can be secured, the alfalfa and fruit trees can be secured in a profitable manner.

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