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IS THERE OIL IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY? A TEST WELL BEING SUNK

It Is Going Down Near St. Paul, Below Salem -- Is Oregon to Be the Newest Oil State? Will Marion County Develop an Oil Field -- Some Reputable Oil Men Say Yes.

There may be more than "three story farming" in the Salem district, and that soon. Three story farming means different things in different countries and sections. In the coal states it means the coal under the land, the grain and garden crops on the land, and the fruit crops above the land. In Japan it means actually three story crops on and above the land; the two upper stories being on frames that the patient farmers shift from time to time to get the benefit of the sunlight.

ing on the different levels--six story farming. And now the farmers down St. Paul way are hoping for and confidently expecting seven story farming; or rather six stories and a basement. They are looking for oil.

Now Boring for the Oil Ask John T. Rea, the driller in charge of the rotary now making a hole on the Pelland farm, two and a half miles this side of St. Paul, Marion county.

When questioned last Sunday, Mr. Rea stated that, barring accidents, another week's drilling would bring the bit deep enough to set casing to shut out the water and as soon as casing was set and the cement dry, a couple of days more drilling would bring him to the depth where there should be oil.

Mr. Rea ought to know; he has been down there before. In an affidavit sworn to by Mr. Rea he states that, some years ago, he drilled a test well with a vacuum rotary drill, a drill of which he is the inventor, and that at a depth of 878 feet he struck oil in what he considers commercial quantities. As Mr. Rea has given a life time to oil development and oil well drilling, being among the first to bring in oil in Oklahoma, California, Mexico and elsewhere, one is justified in thinking that Mr. Rea would know oil when he saw it coming out of the ground; also that it was oil he brought to the top in his test hole drilled within eight feet of where the present operations are going on.

No Stock Offered for Sale This oil operation is remarkable in one respect; no stock has been offered for sale; the present group of men behind the prospecting have so far financed the development with their own means.

Operating as the Willamette Valley Oil and Gas company, this group of men, who are mostly oil operators from California, Texas, Wyoming and Montana, have quietly procured oil leases on a royalty basis from owners of nearly 12,000 acres of land between St. Paul and Fairfield, in Marion county, after having had the lands thoroughly gone over by geologists.

Recently a complete drilling outfit of the rotary type was assembled on a spot within a couple of hundred feet of the direct road from Salem to St. Paul, the place where Mr. Rea drilled his first test hole, and a derrick erected, and operations commenced.

Outfit From California The drilling outfit was shipped here from California complete, together with a carload of 12-inch casing.

When everything was ready to commence operations, a water well was first drilled to furnish water for the pumps of the rotary, and upon completion of this the oil well was spudded in with a 12-inch hole.

The log of the well shows that in reaching their present depth of about 630 feet, good indications have been found. At 200 feet a flow of natural gas was encountered, at 310 feet and later at 409 feet two small sands saturated with oil were penetrated but no stops for testing were made, as nothing really worth while is expected before 878 feet.

The Geology of It. C. L. St. Clair, in charge of the field work, is widely known in Portland. He located there 16 years ago. During the World war he served the United States government in examining oil fields in Borneo and Sumatra. Previous to that time Mr. St. Clair was active in oil developments in Colorado, Oklahoma and California.

About 10 years ago, while testing flows of gas in the Willamette valley, he discovered oil sand croppings on the banks of the Willamette river about four miles from where borings are now going on to bring in a real oil well, he believes. Mr. St. Clair brought the Eagle coal boat to Portland from San Francisco about a year ago as a nucleus of the new Oregon Naval Militia.

Mr. St. Clair has thoroughly examined the properties of the Willamette Valley Oil & Gas company and has delivered a geological report on these properties.

In strongly condensed form, this report states, that a series of basalt dykes are running east and west clear across the Willamette valley. The lands examined are between Dykes No. 1 and No. 2. This naturally causes a trapped condition and would make it impossible for petroleum to migrate from this trap. The structural condition of these lands is a series of anticlinal domes about eight miles in length, and two miles in width. This structure was undoubtedly caused by the dyke and mountain uplift. There is every evidence of this structure being unbroken, and should contain petroleum, as the sediment laid down in the Willamette valley dates back to miocene time of the Cenozoic era, this measure being the top strata and the stratigraphic column should exist down to the jurassic period of the mesozoic time. Concluding this to be true and all of the geological measures being laid down between these periods, there should be an abundance of oil where the proper structural conditions exist that would contain oil. As in these geologic measures fully one-half of the entire production of petroleum of the United States is produced, there is no reason why this property does not bid fair to become another one of America's oil fields.

A Possible Oil Boom If such a condition is possible, it there really is a chance to bring oil in in Marion county. It is worth while to watch this development closely, for what it will mean to this whole section. Oil close to Salem would undoubtedly benefit everybody here to an extent that only those who have seen a new field brought in can realize.

Visitors Are Welcome As drilling will be going on regularly for the next week, and as visitors are welcomed at the well, it will be interesting for those who wish to learn by personal investigation how the well is coming, to drive out there. The round trip from Salem, with a brief stop at the well, can be made in an hour and a half.

What is Ralph Williams to Salem? He is the owner of a 140-acre farm adjoining Salem--the Eola farm; and this farm turns to Salem and vicinity \$28,000 to \$30,000 annually, and not one cent of this to "Orientals," but to service men and many families, to business houses and all classes of people who need work and money.

Where Fithian pays out one dollar for labor, Williams pays out hundreds.

And now as to the real issue--national committeeman--who can do the most for Oregon? One who is at the top of the ladder or one who is at the bottom and would have a mighty hard climb to get up a few rounds?

RALPH WILLIAMS HELPS THIS CITY

He Pays Out Large Sums of Money Annually to the People Here

Gold is coming into the country at the rate of a million dollars a month. Are you getting your share?

THE KIND OF CAMPAIGN MOST NEEDED BY SALEM AND THE SALEM DISTRICT

It is a Campaign for More Red and Black Raspberries, Sour and Royal Ann Cherries, Pears and Gooseberries, to Fill the "Lines" of the Fruit Industry for This Section--Should be Hammered Home All the Time.

Talking about campaigns--everybody's doing it--the most important campaign that can be waged, the most important for Salem and the Salem district, in respect to the great and growing fruit industry in all its branches, is a long and strong campaign for more sour and Royal Ann cherries, more red and black raspberries, more pears, and more gooseberries for this year is considerable; but it is not enough.

All these other tree and bush fruits are needed in larger supply, in order to give the markets a well balanced ration; to fill the "lines" of the great and growing fruit industry of this district; to be able to furnish the canneries with the fruits that are in demand--and the fresh fruit and other fruit markets, too. Every fruit grower should help. Every one who can should put out some of these wanted fruits, or more of them.

Gooseberries in Two Weeks In about two weeks gooseberries will begin to come to the Salem markets--and then the 1922 marketing season for fruits will be off for a long and swift race, to last till the rains of next winter close the picking operations in winter pears and apples.

The prospects look good. There is going to be a big cherry crop, and the prices are going to be satisfactory to the growers. The

same may be predicted confidently for all the fruits of the Salem district. Hon. Sam Brown, the loganberry and evergreen blackberry king, whose farm is at Gervais, says there was never before such a fine prospect for evergreens. The vines are going to be loaded. As every one knows, the crop of loganberries on the old vines will not be large; not as large as last year. But the total tonnage of last year will likely be about made up with the acreage of new vines.

All kinds of Rumors With two new canneries already being built in Salem, there are all sorts of rumors and plans for still more, and for other fruit conserving and manufacturing, and for the many other concerns that must naturally follow. The new cold storage plant has just been opened.

So in this land of diversity and country of opportunity there is necessity for all forces to pull together--from the man on the land to the one who makes it possible to market at profitable prices the things that the man on the land can produce.

In other words, there is needed a long and strong pull and a pull all together; a campaign for cooperation all along down the line. It will mean a Gibraltar prosperity for this city and this district--with steady growth throughout many years.

A THIRD OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY NEEDS WORK OF DRAINAGE ENGINEERS

The Oregon State Drainage Association to Commence the Annual Field Meeting for 1922 at Salem, and to Make a Tour of the Valley Counties, and a General Invitation Is Given to All Who Are Interested to Join in the Meeting.

The question of the drainage of wet type lands in the Willamette valley is of great and growing importance, and it should have more general attention than it has heretofore had.

The Oregon State Drainage association, through its secretary, whose office is at Corvallis, has issued the following letter, which should have the widest possible publicity:

Annual Field Tour The officers of the Oregon State Drainage association have decided to hold the annual field meeting, June 1 to 3, the meeting being called for 9 o'clock, Thursday, June 1, at the Marion hotel, Salem. The general plan is to visit the large tile plant at Salem; the drained land and crops growing thereon at Lake Labish; and to witness the operation of a trenching machine near there, returning to Salem for luncheon. The afternoon will be spent going over wet areas in Linn county and eastern Lane county, by way of Lebanon and Brownsville, reaching Eugene for the night. The second day will be spent in Lane, Benton and Polk counties with luncheon at Corvallis where drainage experiment fields will be inspected, reaching McMinnville for the second night. Saturday forenoon is to be spent in Yamhill and Washington counties, including a visit to Wapato Lake pumping plant, and Washington County Drainage District No. 7, disbanding in Forest Grove after lunch.

Map Being Prepared "From the soil maps, and drainage preliminary feasibility surveys, a wet map is being prepared of the valley, and Mr. Lewis H. Jessup, drainage engineer from the U. S. office of rural engineering, will return to the valley May 1, and spend three or four weeks completing preliminary designs for outlet ditches needed for the principal wet areas in the valley. It is planned to have at least a preliminary map produced for use of delegates making the drainage trip early in June. This will show the relation of one drainage unit to another, and will show where it is best to include lands in one general project, or where they may be developed in units. The experiment fields to be visited include white lands and other wet soil types that have been successfully drained, and are producing good crops, and also show the effect of lime and fertilizers upon these heavy drained soils.

General Invitation "You are hereby invited and urged

to be present on this tour. Reserve these dates now, and notify the secretary as to what parties, and any cars that will be going on this trip from your locality. Let's go!

"Your for better drainage," W. L. POWERS, "Secretary Oregon State Drainage Association."

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TAX REDUCTION FIGHT IS CLOSED

The Last Meeting Was at Shaw Tuesday Night, With Many Farmers Present

Before a large audience of farmers Col. E. Hofer on Tuesday evening reviewed the campaign begun last September to secure a material reduction in total tax levies of this state. He said earlier six counties had organized a district convention was called at McMinnville which was taken advantage of by leading Socialists to precipitate a fight for a graduated income tax which was foreign to the purpose of the movement. The special session of the legislature had revealed the fact that the legislative machine had several new forms of taxation in mind, but the new millage tax for the fair, the new gasoline tax, the amusement tax and the three income tax bills were all defeated. The fight of the radical elements had weakened the cause of tax reduction and would, if they controlled the legislature, result in higher taxation. The speaker pleaded with the people to send new into office who would give Oregon a new system of handling state affairs, and cut the overhead at least 25 per cent if they expected to secure new settlers, new investment of capital and compete with other western states that had adopted the Illinois system of department, that system had cut the running expense of every state where it was adopted. The Portland press and the legislative machine were determined to keep the old system fastened around the necks of the people of Oregon, but, like the fight for flat salaries, departmental methods would win out. It would take a two year fight and the people would win no matter who became governor. Three of the candidates had promised if elected to put this system into operation and stop tax expansion--Olcott, Hall and White. The people must get behind the man elected and enable him to put it over.

Three Opinions Handed Down by Supreme Court

Three opinions were handed down by the supreme court yesterday as follows: Rowena Sprague vs. City of Astoria, appellant; appeal from Clatsop county. Motion to vacate order of lower court denied in opinion of Justice Brown. B. J. Howland vs. Fenner Manufacturing company, appellant; appeal from Multnomah county; action to recover commissions alleged to be due for services rendered. Decree of Judge W. N. Gaten reversed and case remanded in opinion by Justice Rand. H. C. Grady and John H. Hall, appellants, vs. I. N. Day; appeal from Multnomah county; suit for accounting. Decree of Judge Robert Tucker modified in opinion by Chief Justice Burnett. Oral actions of the court were: Petition for rehearing overruled in Backus vs. West. Costs on appeal taxed at \$546 in favor of defendant. Motion to dismiss denied with leave to renew at final hearing in Bassett vs. Willford and Jensen vs. Justice court. Motion to dismiss denied in Davis vs. Arnold irrigation district. Costs taxed at \$217.75 in favor of city of Newberg in case of Platt vs. Newberg; and at \$65 in same case in favor of Catherine Platt against city council.

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