

PALOUSE PROJECT

WASHINGTON IRRIGATION SCHEME SEEMS ASSURED.

Settlers Are Signing Necessary Affidavits to Justify the Government in Going Ahead With Plan — Walla Walla and Franklin Counties Both Help the Project—Land Will Cost \$65 Per Acre When Irrigated.

"Prospects of securing favorable action on the construction of the Palouse river irrigation project are brighter than at any time since the consulting engineers made their last report," said C. Eugene Bortle, secretary of the northwest section of the National Irrigation association to the Spokesman-Review.

"Three kinds of affidavits are being signed and sworn to before a notary public throughout the various irrigated districts of the state and among the people who have holdings under the proposed Palouse project. The latter testifies to the fact that the man who owns lands under this project is willing to pay \$65 an acre for the irrigation of his lands by the government, providing it is necessary to pay this amount, or even \$100 per acre if this sum will be required. "Another affidavit is being signed by a man who owns lands now irrigated, showing the revenues that they are producing each year, amount of labor employed, number of acres in fruits, vegetables, grains, etc. "In glancing over some of the signed affidavits that are now coming in it is interesting to note that some of the lands under irrigation in this state are producing revenues to their owners amounting to as high as \$550 an acre, and very few lands are producing less than \$50 an acre.

"When these affidavits are all in they will be sent to the secretary of the interior to show relative land values in the countries contiguous to the Palouse project, and with the many favorable conditions that exist in the country embraced in the Palouse project will show that the lands will stand as security for an expenditure by the government of even \$100 an acre.

Walla Walla Club Helps.

"The Commercial club of Walla Walla has taken the matter up in co-operation with the National Irrigation association and with the men that are represented on the irrigation committee of that organization, we feel that we are on the right track toward securing favorable action in the construction of this project.

"Last week the Walla Walla Commercial club called a meeting in the parlors of the Hotel Daeres and adopted resolutions instructing the irrigation committee to assist in the work of securing data showing land values in this state and to aid in enlisting members to the association to meet the expense of carrying on this work. "There is perhaps no one man in the state that is any more interested in seeing this project through than Senator Ankeny, who is the chairman of the irrigation committee of the Walla Walla Commercial club.

Franklin County Assists.

"The Franklin county chamber of commerce has recognized and is working with the association in endeavoring to secure prompt and favorable action by the reclamation service and secretary of the interior in the construction of the Palouse irrigation project.

"Although the Okanogan project is still under investigation, the National Irrigation association has retained its interests in its power, and we are doing all in our power to have the government take favorable action in its final report, as we believe that whatever the price may be for the construction of the Okanogan project the government can well afford to carry that through to completion at the same time with the Palouse project."

AUSTRALIAN DIVORCES.

Average is Large, But Still Lower Than the United States.

American Consul Godling of Newcastle, New South Wales, sends the following report to the department of commerce and labor on the subject of Australian divorces:

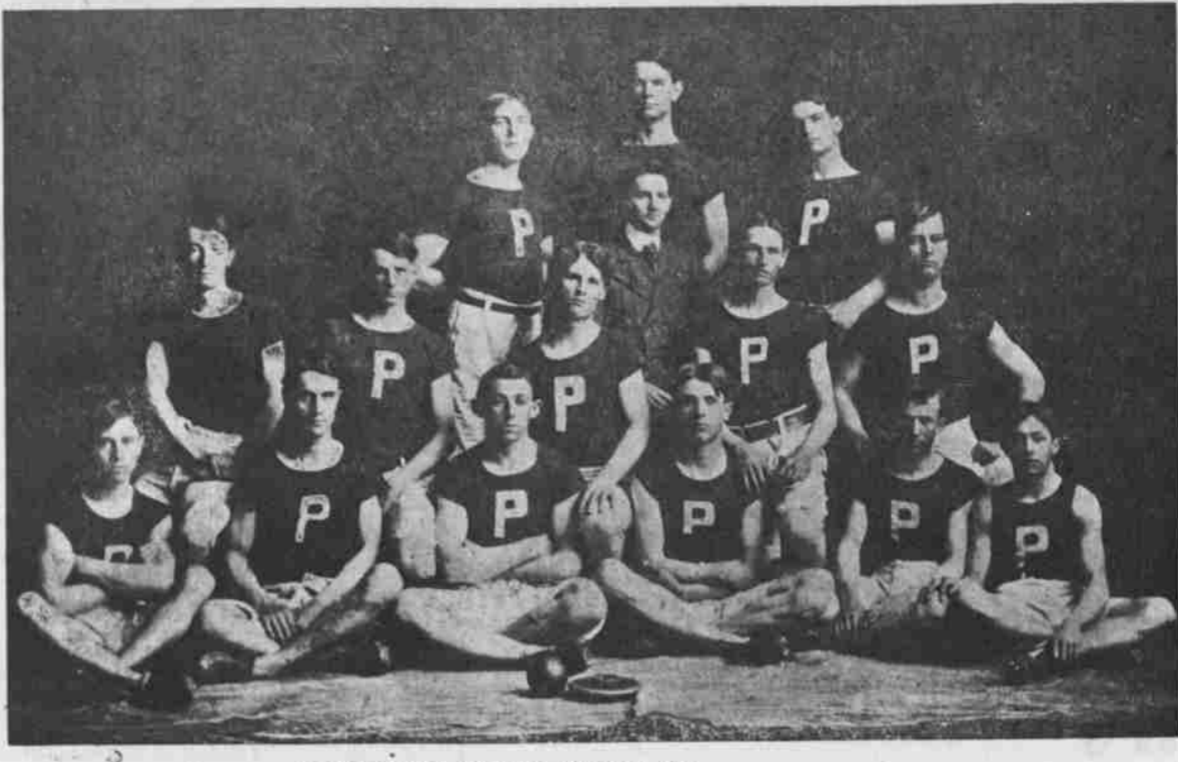
Divorces in the Australian states are more numerous than in most of the countries of the world, though the average is far below that reached in the United States. The number is particularly large in Victoria and New South Wales, where the facilities for procuring divorce are greater than they are in the other states. Since the passing of the Shiels act of 1890, which made desertion for three years a ground for divorce in Victoria, divorces have averaged over 100 per annum, the greatest number being 131 in 1902, and the lowest, 85.

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Pendleton High School Track Team, '05.

in 1895. The total for the period 1891-1902 was 1256, and the average per 10,000 marriages for the period 1896-1902 was 125.4.

In countries where divorce laws are in force this record is only surpassed by those of Germany, 165; France, 180; Roumania, 204; Switzerland, 432, and the United States, 612, divorces for every 10,000 marriages.

Mr. Coghlan, the government statistician, has divided the time since 1890 in two periods, and the average number of divorces in Victoria has increased from 119.6 in the first period, 1891-1895, to 125.4 in the second, 1896-1902. In 1903 there were 119 divorces and 7605 marriages, giving an average per 10,000 marriages of 158.5 for the 12 months, but a comparison founded on one yearly period is not altogether fair. It may, on the whole, be concluded that divorces in Victoria remain at a fairly constant level, which though high, shows no sign of any extraordinary increase beyond the proportional one to be expected with the increase of population.

In New South Wales the figures are much higher than they are in Victoria. An act similar to the Victorian measure came into force in New South Wales in 1892, and the number of divorces decrees at once showed an increase—an almost alarming increase. In the quinquennial period 1891-1896 the number of divorces granted in New South Wales was no fewer than 1087 against 212 for the period immediately preceding it. This total gives an average of 272.3 divorces per 10,000 marriages, which is much more than double the average in Victoria during the same years, and is exceeded only by those for Switzerland and the United States. In the period 1896-1902 the number of divorces granted in New South Wales was 1475, an average of 288.4 per 10,000 marriages, the third greatest among all countries where divorces are in force.

In the other states of the Commonwealth the averages are comparatively low, being 41 for West Australia and Tasmania, 50 for Queensland, and 29 for South Australia. New Zealand, on the other hand, had 316.6 divorces per 10,000 marriages during the six years from 1896 to 1902. The figures for other countries per 10,000 marriages, are as follows: Canada, 4; United Kingdom, 11; Norway, 16; Austria, 43; Greece, 50; Belgium, 81; Sweden, 87; Cape Colony, 98, and the Netherlands, 103.—F. W. Godling, consul, Newcastle, New South Wales.

REJECTED ROCKEFELLER.

Woman Who Turned Down Oil Magnate Now in Poor House.

An isolated world is the county hospital; it has its nobility and its cannibals, says the Los Angeles Dispatch. The unique personage as well as the most select in the diversified community is Miss Mary Barbeaux. Today she received and scorned the third summons to go east to claim \$650,000 recently left her by the will of her uncle.

Fifty years ago Miss Barbeaux, then just out of Vassar college, did something just as remarkable as her refusal of the inheritance. While the aged woman herself will not discuss the interesting bit of history, it is more than gossip that Miss Barbeaux rejected the suit of John D. Rockefeller, now the richest man in the world.

When it is known that the woman who now passes the hours of sunlight in a rocker on the glass covered porch of the women's ward of the county hospital was an intimate friend of President Garfield, the thought that she rejected an opportunity to become mistress of the greatest fortune that was ever accumulated, perhaps, will not seem startling.

Miss Barbeaux has arrived at that age when she admits that memory regarding the date of her birth is a superfluous. Forgetting gallantry for a moment, her age is hazarded at 70. Her hair is snow white, her face alive with intellectuality. She has the air of an aristocrat; the brow of a poetess. She is a graduate of Vassar college and was instructor in the higher branches of learning in some of the best colleges of New York state for years.

All this is aside, Miss Barbeaux's chief claim to distinction is the fact that she prefers poverty, poverty almost to humiliation, to the great wealth which would be thrust upon her.

Miss Barbeaux's philosophy is summed up in one of her sentences. "I believe," she said today, as she tucked the letter away in her wrapper, "I believe that every person in the world deserves his condition. I am in the county hospital a subject of charity; I deserve to be. I was an

inmate of the county poorhouse; I deserved to be.

"What have I ever done to earn \$650,000? Nothing. If it were mine by right of conquest, I would glory in it—perhaps. But the good Lord has turned my footsteps into a path that does not lead to \$650,000. Indeed, there have been few pennies in my way for the past several years.

"It has always disputed me when I have read of indigents coming into large fortunes. Why, I have always said that I would have the womanhood to resist any such temptation were it offered me. To take money that doesn't belong to you by the right of achievement—the sweat of your brow—is too much like stealing.

The only word which she will send the lawyers will be that she absolutely refuses to take a cent of the money and relinquishes all claim to it.

Concerning John D. Rockefeller, Miss Barbeaux's comments were brief.

"Yes, I knew him quite well when he was a young man," she said. "I never liked the man though I realized that he would succeed."

"Why didn't you like him, Barbie?" asked the pretty nurse. She always calls her gentle patient "Barbie."

Miss Barbeaux made a wry face. "Really," she said, "he was so stony and—and I could never believe anything he said."

COMING EVENTS.

June 2-3—Eleventh annual pioneers' reunion, Weston.

June 7—Pendleton and Heppner Day at Lewis and Clark fair.

June 21-24—National Good Roads association, Portland.

June 22, 23 and 24—Tournament Northwest Sportsmen's association, Portland.

June 22-23—National Woman's Suffrage Association, Portland.

July 5—Dedication Sacajawea monument, Lee's and Clark fair, Portland.

July 11-14—American Medical Association, Portland.

Comparisons to Think About.

There was a time when tallow candles cost 10 cents each and gave less than one-twentieth of the illumination for a dollar that gas gives.

There was a time, and very recently, when gas, per unit of illumination (candle power), cost the public double what it does now.

There was a time (still more recently) when there was no electricity; light turning night into day.

There was a time when we were satisfied to travel four miles an hour in an omnibus or horse car without light or heat or transfers and pay six to ten cents for what we now get for five cents, with light and heat, and with speed doubled.

There was a time when we thought it was a great thing to be able to telephone to a friend for 15 cents, and yet we are not satisfied.—American Grocer.

Tiger Flesh Popular.

Evidently tiger flesh is a popular article of diet with the Chinamen of the Straits. A young but well grown tiger was shot by a Malay and was brought in to Teluk Anson for the usual government reward of \$25. The skin, which was beautifully smooth and soft, was soon disposed of and the meat was sold in town at 40 cents a catty.—Penang Echo.

NEWS OF MILTON

CALIFORNIAN RETURNS FOR A VISIT TO MILTON.

Twenty-two Miltonites Came to Pendleton—Recent Arrival From Iowa—Mrs. Talbert Is Delegate to State Grand Lodge—Knights of Pythias and Odd Fellows Engage in Springing Match—Young Ladies Have Homesteads in Franklin County.

Milton, May 31.—Alonso Bartlett, a former Miltonite, is here from California for a visit. It has been 12 years since Mr. Bartlett left here, and he has noticed many changes, and is satisfied that Milton is the place for him to live.

Twenty-two from Milton went down to Pendleton Sunday on the excursion to the ball game.

Charles Rundell has arrived from Iowa and will remain here. He is a nephew of Dr. C. W. Thomas.

Mrs. William Talbert will leave tonight for Portland, where she will attend the Rebekah grand lodge and also the exposition.

Dorsey Hill, county clerk of Walla Walla county, was here Sunday visiting his uncle, L. W. Berry.

Yesterday afternoon a baseball game was played on Miller's grounds, by the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias. The errors of the game were very noticeable and afforded a great deal of amusement for the spectators. The score was 32 to 34 in favor of the Knights of Pythias.

The Misses Elsa Rosenweil and Nettie Cannon, of Athena, are guests of Miss Jennie Dykes. The young ladies are on their way to their homesteads in Franklin county, where they will spend the summer.

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WESTBOUND.
No. 1, Portland Special, arrive 8:59 a. m.; depart, 9:10 a. m.
No. 5, Mail & Express, arrive, 11 p. m.; depart 11 p. m.

SPOKANE DIVISION.
No. 7, Pendleton passenger, arrive, 5:35 p. m.
No. 8, Spokane passenger, depart, 9:10 a. m.

WALLA WALLA BRANCH.

No. 41, Mixed train, arrive, 1:40 p. m.
No. 42, Mixed train, depart, 5:50 p. m.

No. 7 connects with No. 2. No. 42 connects with No. 2.

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