

ANOTHER PROTEST AGAINST EXTENSION

(Special Correspondence.)

Stanfield, Ore., Dec. 4.—Saturday evening at a meeting at Butter creek four miles south of Hermiston, of farmers of this vicinity who own land on the proposed reservoir site of the western extension of the Umatilla project, protested against the carrying on of the extension and the construction of the reservoir. The meeting was called to order by J. T. Hinkle, C. H. Gardner was elected chairman, F. J. Cheney, secretary, and J. T. Hinkle, assistant secretary. The sentiment expressed at the meeting was very strong against the western extension and there was a unanimity of feeling that every farmer on the proposed reservoir site should protest against the retarding of improvements and the damper on progress generally that has resulted from the long drawn out preliminary work and the delayed reports thereon, the whole matter having been indefinitely held in abeyance. In comparing the merits of the so-called western extension and the John Day project, some very interesting figures were brought out. One prominent farmer had a report of John H. Lewis, state engineer, showing that in 1905 the flow of the Umatilla river was 219,500 acre feet, while in the same year the flow of the John Day river was 255,000 acre feet, or nearly four times as much as that of the Umatilla. There is practically no irrigation from the waters of the John Day at the present time, while it appears from the quantity used by the Umatilla project during 1911 that when this entire project is opened up there will be very little Umatilla river water for any irrigation aside from that which has already been appropriated. At the rate that water has been turned onto the 4000 acres of land that has been irrigated under the Umatilla project this year, it would require 400,000 acre feet to supply this project alone, to say nothing of the water that rightfully belongs to the private projects along the Umatilla river, many of which are composed of farmers who were irrigating their lands years before even the Umatilla project was first thought of, and their rights must be respected as well as those of the Indians.

It was also stated in the meeting by farmers who are experienced irrigators that it requires an average of 40 inches of water to sustain plant life in these lands and that evaporation and seepage will consume equally as much more and, to substantiate this, the fact was referred to that the experiment station at Hermiston used six feet of water this year. In view of this fact the farmers are protesting against the efforts of the U. S. reclamation service to cut down the allowance of water to 2 1/2 acre feet and attempts have also been made to induce the settlers along McKay and Birch creek to use this 2 1/2 acre feet in the late spring and early summer, thus allowing the "surplus" to flow

down the Umatilla to the government reservoir. J. T. Hinkle and Pete Sheridan were selected as a committee to draft resolutions and to send copies to President Taft, the Secretary of the Interior, and to the public press, such resolutions to include the request that the government shall formally and permanently abandon the western extension to the Umatilla project. The committee was also instructed to make suitable reply to the communication of J. N. Teal that appeared in the Portland Oregonian Dec. 1.

R. N. Beavert is building a residence on Glendenning street.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Griggs arrived from Lebanon, Ore., Friday and are the guests of Mrs. Muncie.

Dr. and Mrs. Alex Reid were Echo visitors on Thanksgiving day, where they dined with friends.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church will serve a public chicken dinner tomorrow noon in the C. E. Webster building on Main street.

J. B. Laughlin of Hermiston was transacting business in Stanfield Wednesday.

R. A. Leonard went to Spokane Wednesday to spend Thanksgiving.

C. K. Huff and family, formerly of Salem, have moved into the Clyde Stuart cottage.

T. J. Dunlop of Pendleton was a Stanfield visitor Wednesday looking after his interests here. Mr. Dunlop was a pioneer investor in town property in Stanfield.

Harry Cummings, the Heppner nurseryman, was transacting business in Stanfield Friday.

E. P. Marshall of Pendleton, was a Stanfield visitor Friday.

At a special school election Saturday afternoon, a seven mill tax was voted for the coming year.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. George of Echo, were Stanfield visitors yesterday.

STANFIELD R. R. BUSINESS GROWS

(Special Correspondence.)

Stanfield, Ore., Dec. 4.—The last day of the month closed the heaviest volume of business transacted through the Stanfield station of the O-W. R. & N. Co. since the station was established. A variety of incoming and outgoing freight has been handled here, consisting chiefly of alfalfa hay, grain and live stock from this point, while the receipts have been principally sheep, cattle building material, etc.

News has been received here that Dr. G. E. Watts of Portland has purchased the partially constructed two story concrete building at the corner of One avenue and Main street, known as the George building. Contractor H. E. Allen expects to come here from Portland shortly to complete the building for the new owner. This will when finished consist of a commodious store room on the main floor and a half above and will be a credit to the city.

At the last council meeting it was voted to construct a gravel walk along Main street to the new school building. Work will be started on this right away and it will provide a much-needed improvement.

Four rooms in the new Reeves high school building have been finished so that when school opens Monday morning the pupils and teachers will commence work therein. An additional primary teacher will be employed making a staff of five, including the principal.

Wednesday evening M. C. Baragar departed on an eastern trip, planning to be gone a month or more.

Deep-seated coughs that resist ordinary remedies require both external and internal treatment. If you buy a dollar bottle of BALLARD'S HOREHOUND SYRUP you get the two remedies you need for the price of one. There is a HERRICK'S RED PEPPER PORE'S PLASTER for the Chest, free with each bottle. Sold by A. C. Koeppen & Bros.

JOHN DAY PROJECT WOULD COST \$22,000,000 (Continued from page one.)

great part of what would otherwise be waste flood waters.

Needless Fears Expressed.

"It is no part of the intention of the reclamation service to deprive present users of their rights or of their water supply, nor has the service the legal power to act in any such arbitrary way even if it so desired. A large part of the protests that have recently appeared in the press have been from certain of the ranchers living along the Umatilla river or its tributaries, who fear that the United States is proposing to take away from them their water supply and use it on other lands. Such a fear is foolish in the extreme and need not be considered by any person familiar with the intention and practice of the United States with regard to the beneficial use of water.

"Other objections have recently appeared that have been inspired apparently by owners of lands within the proposed reservoir site, who have apparently feared that their homes and farms will be taken from them in order that the reservoir can be built and the lands flooded. It has been alleged by persons, apparently entirely ignorant of the situation, that large areas of valuable lands will be flooded and destroyed and that it would be poor business policy to destroy these valuable lands merely for the purpose of reclaiming other lands at another place.

Reservoir Site Not Valuable.

"The situation is briefly this: Somewhat less than 4900 acres of land will be flooded by the proposed reservoir. The greater part of this land is what is generally known as fast or alkali land, much of it is permanently water-logged and covered with a thick deposit of white and black alkali, being entirely unfit for cultivation as that term generally implies. Other large portions of the reservoir site consist of uncultivated, sandy, sagebrush lands that have no water supply nor any possibility of ever being cultivated or irrigated and that are practically worthless except for pasture. The remaining portion of the site contains several hundred acres of good farming land which it will be necessary to destroy.

"It does not require very much consideration by an intelligent person to decide whether it is good policy to flood a few hundred acres of good land and other areas of practically worthless land, the whole not being more than 4900 acres, in order to reclaim and permit the cultivation of between 50,000 and 60,000 acres of land, most of it highly attractive and desirable. Even if the entire bed of the proposed reservoir were made up of first class land well cultivated and farmed, the issue would still be the same, and no intelligent person would hesitate as to what answer should be given. The point is, whether the 4900 acres should not be sacrificed in order that the 50,000 or 60,000 acres should be made available for homes and farms. In any event the land owners may be assured the United States will liberally pay them for any portion that may be required.

John Day Not New Scheme.

"There has recently appeared in the press another contention, that it would be better for the government to give up its plan of using the Umatilla river as a source of supply and use water from the John Day river instead. This idea has been sprung by several parties as if it were an entirely new and original one and deserving of serious consideration. It is implied in the articles that the United States has overlooked an important and fundamental feature of the proposition and that it would be cheaper and better to get at once to the John Day river and obtain a cheap and copious supply there instead of carrying out the plans now being considered.

"The reclamation service has during the last five years given this matter more consideration than, probably to any other problem in Oregon. The idea of taking water from the John Day has appeared so attractive that the engineers have been trying to work out some scheme whereby some part or all of it might be used. Various surveying parties have gone over the ground, have examined all of the canyons and reservoir sites hoping to find some possible way whereby the scheme might be rendered practicable.

Difficult and Expensive to Construct.

"The situation is, however, that the John Day river, flowing as it does at the bottom of a deep canyon hundreds and sometimes thousands of feet below the level of the adjacent country, and frequently in a ragged box canyon, is not available for use except at an enormous cost. Several dams ranging in height up to 270 feet and a great canal 72 miles in length, much of it consisting of tunnels through solid ledge, would have to be built before any of the John Day water could be placed on the land. The engineers' estimates show that the cost of watering 200,000 acres under the John Day river would be nearly \$22,000,000, or upwards of \$108 per acre.

"More than this, it is plain that the greater part of this enormous sum would have to be spent before a single acre of the land could be irrigated, or, to put it in other words, it would be necessary to build the complicated and costly system of reservoirs, dams, tunnels, canals and siphons before any water could be obtained on the irrigable land. This would mean that no cultivation or reclamation could in any event occur for seven or eight years, which would be the least time in which such extensive work could be completed.

"By using the waste waters of the Umatilla river the engineers' preliminary estimates of cost have shown that the cost of the works will not exceed about \$76 per acre as compared with \$108 per acre under the John Day river. Moreover by using the Umatilla water it would be possible to complete the works step by step, bringing each year a few thousand acres under cultivation, so that by the time the irrigation works are completed the entire area will be largely under cultivation and settlement. It appears that by modern expenditures of from \$400,000 to \$500,000 per annum the Umatilla scheme can be carried out whereas, of course, brings it within the realm of practicability. The John Day scheme, on the other hand, is not, today, a feasible or practical proposition in any sense, and those who are advocating its consideration at this juncture either do so in complete ignorance of the facts or are wilfully endeavoring to deceive the public.

Scheme for the Future.

"The reclamation service has not overlooked the John Day proposition in its proposed general scheme of development of this part of the country. It has fully realized that so expensive and enormous a project as this cannot be considered today, but that in 15, 20 or 30 years' time conditions may have so changed and land may have so greatly increased in value that it may then appear desirable and practicable for adoption, and, moreover, at that time it may be possible that funds may be available for its prosecution. The service has, therefore, made provision in its present plans for the possible future utilization of John Day water in the manner shown on the plan herewith. On this plan are shown the location of the reservoir proposed to be built on the Umatilla river and the lands which may be watered by it. Immediately south of these lands appears the area that can at a future date be watered by the John Day.

Should Water 250,000 Acres.

"The lands under the west extension of the Umatilla project will include from 50,000 to 60,000 acres. The lands that can be watered under the John Day river will include about 200,000 acres, so that in years to come there will probably be a total area of irrigated lands between the Umatilla river and Willow creek of upwards of 250,000 acres.

"It will be seen that the lands to be watered by the Umatilla river are the lower lands lying next to the Colum-

bia river. If, therefore, the John Day water be used for these lands the Umatilla flood water which now runs to waste could never be beneficially used, and, moreover, the settlers on these lands would have to pay for their water \$108 per acre instead of \$76 per acre, as will be the case by using the Umatilla water.

"It appears unnecessary to pursue this discussion any further. I trust that I have made the broad facts of the situation plain."

Extension May Lose Funds.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Senator Borah will introduce a bill for the government to advance \$15,000,000 more to irrigation projects, in the form of certificates of indebtedness, like those issued last year. The proposal will be actuated by a desire to provide money for those projects suffering for early completion. He thinks it will tend to relieve some situations now rather embarrassing, where the work cannot be prosecuted under the existing conditions.

If such a bill passes there would seem to be absolutely no reason why the west extension of the Umatilla project should not have abundant funds for its completion, were it not for protests now coming against the extension, from Stanfield and Pendleton. In face of this division among the people of that county, the benefits arising from the additional \$15,000,000 would go for naught.

Additional protests have arrived, causing added surprise, and a letter has been written to prominent citizens of eastern Oregon asking for an explanation. An immense amount of work has been expended on the task



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of getting the Interior department in a frame of mind to adjust this funds so as to provide for its extension to Umatilla project and it had seemed likely the project would go through. Protests by the Stanfield Commercial club advising the irrigation of lands under the extension from John Day, and from others who bitterly oppose using the waters of the Umatilla river for the additional lands proposed to be reclaimed, have caused a stir.

James Johns, Head Protestant, Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—James Johns of Pendleton sends another protest against the extension of the Umatilla project, saying that 360 water users will organize formally to oppose the project. It is becoming apparent that the division among the water users probably will prevent the government appropriating money for the extension. Up to this time these protests began to come from the Stanfield Commercial association, the prospects were bright for getting the money. Similar division among the settlers operated disastrously in the cases of the Klamath and Malheur projects.

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