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Music by  
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**BRING IN YOUR PONY VOTES**  
In order to avoid confusion as to standing of contestants in our big Pony Contest, we would like to have all votes cast as soon as possible.  
Standings of each boy and girl in the contest, are now displayed at our store.  
**Tallman & Co.**

**Two Old Maids**  
Anna—What do you think Mr. Ek-lund charged me for sewing on a pair o' soles on my shoes?  
Clara—Don't know and don't care Anna, he only charged me 65c and did fine work too—yes, but I don't like him.  
Anna—Well, well, you evidently do or you wouldn't care.  
Men's soles sewed on for 30c.  
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**THE SECRET OF THE HILLS.**  
Keen is the air and calm; the the black frost chills Earth to the bone, and winter twilight dies Slow in a west of smouldering pageantries.  
The heaven in tense still expectant thrills.  
Aloof and silent brood the ancient hills,  
Their age-long taciturnity defines  
The fruitless questioning of curious eyes  
But our unsated craving never stills.  
Man's sense is clouded; vainly he aspires  
Their mighty hidden secret to behold,  
Not till his eager spirit he can mold  
To their unquestioning stillness shall he feel  
Their broad tranquility his soul enfold,  
Their whisper soothe his restless heart's desires.  
—Pall Mall Gazette.

"WORSE AND WORSE."

Developments in the Fisher-Burgess episode made things "worse and worse" for the Anti-Extension brigade. Secretary Fisher's letter to Burgess was written January 12. The reply sent by G. L. Hurd, secretary of the Infringement association, was sent from Stanfield January 25, almost two weeks later.

Why was Secretary Fisher not given the courtesy of a prompt answer to his missive Why did Hurd wait until the East Oregonian exposed the deal? Mr. Fisher is a member of the president's cabinet and the head of a great federal department. He wrote and made a pointed inquiry upon a very important subject. He was entitled to an answer and a prompt answer from Mr. Burgess.  
Has Burgess been so busy writing "Sturgis ditch" letters to farmers in hopes of bamboozling them and turning them against the West Extension that he had no time to write a letter of explanation to Secretary Fisher? It seems safe to assume he has not written Secretary Fisher because the tenor of Hurd's letter indicates it is the one and only answer that has been sent to the "call down" letter.

Affairs look bad for Burgess and for the other "higher-ups" in the anti-extension fight. They went far astray when they took the name of the Umatilla River Waterusers' association and used that name to fight the wishes and the interests of the members of that organization, to-wit, the settlers of the Umatilla project.

They made a great mistake when they did not thoroughly correct their fault when they were warned about it early in December by the editor of the East Oregonian. They should have recalled the false letter to President Taft.

A mistake was made when a prompt reply was not sent to Secretary Fisher. A mistake was made when G. L. Hurd put forth, in his letter to Secretary Fisher, the argument that they had a right to use the name Umatilla County Waterusers' Association, with the slogan on their letterhead that they represent waterusers of the Umatilla river and its tributaries. That argument is nothing more nor less than a declaration that if they cannot openly steal the name of the Umatilla River Waterusers' association they will be as crooked as possible by appropriating as much of the name as they can without actually breaking the law.

It was flagrant work and it has been

badly bungled. The anti-extension coterie has much to live down.

**WHERE THERE'S SOME HOPE.**

Most everybody would like to see the Sturgis project carried out. The East Oregonian would work hard in behalf of that scheme or any other good scheme to water land near Pendleton, provided there was hope of success.

But the meeting here Saturday was not called to aid the Sturgis project. It was called in hopes of flimflaming farmers and getting them to fight the West Extension. As matters now stand it would do the farmers no earthly good to kill off the extension even if they could do so. They would not be entitled to a drop of water they are not entitled to now.

Should the government abandon the extension and relinquish its water filling the farmers would not get the water. It would go to Dr. Andrew C. Smith and Dr. H. W. Coe who have a secondary filing that becomes effective if the government abandons the field.

Pendleton's best hope for securing irrigation seems to lie in the possible establishment of the reservation water rights and the irrigation of the reservation. If the Indian rights are established, and from a standpoint of justice they should be established, we will get an irrigated district right at our door.

The gentlemen who are so intensely interested in irrigation near Pendleton should join with the East Oregonian in its fight for the Indians. They should talk to John McCourt and try to convince him that he should not only offer to defend Indians when they use water themselves but that he should also defend the use of water on rented land.

**HE CANNOT HURT HIM.**

If Colonel William Henry Watterson thinks his opposition to Woodrow Wilson will be at all dangerous he has one more think coming. The democratic hosts to which Watterson could appeal in the days of his prime are now beyond this "vale of tears." They are "on high" and will cast no votes at the coming election.

The new democracy is turning away from such men as Watterson and Harvey. The new democracy, like insurgency in the republican party, wants leaders who will stand for principles, not for traditions.  
The fewer houbornes Woodrow Wil-

son has in the camp the better it will be for the New Jersey man.

Now that the supreme court has declared that counties cannot sell bonds for road purposes until the legislature first passes an enabling act Governor West's good roads proclamation is timely. People should talk things over and get together upon a good roads plan so that something can be accomplished, either under the initiative or through the legislature.

"Jack the Grabber" should congratulate himself that someone did not take a shot at him while he was upon his rampage Friday night.

The investigating board is now upon the job.

**THE BURGESS TRICK.**

(Portland Journal.)

Nobody knows to what lengths inner-circle opponents have gone in their efforts to defeat the west extension of the Umatilla project. That a few leaders have played a cunning game to beat the project is manifest from the scheme employed by State Senator Burgess of Umatilla county. He sent to President Taft a letter protesting against the extension in the name of "The Umatilla River Water Users' association," and signed himself as president of the organization. He is not only president of the association, but "The Umatilla River Water Users' association" is strongly in favor of the west extension. The discovery of the Burgess trick, and Secretary Fisher's caustic letter to Senator Burgess, were recently detailed in the Journal.

There are honest opponents of the west extension, and they naturally condemn the Burgess trick. But there are unquestionably higher-ups in the ranks of the opposition who had a hand in it, and who have doubtless worked other schemes that may never come to light. It is beginning to be easy to understand why Oregon has not received a fair share of reclamation funds and why extension of desired projects has been mysteriously held up.

Senator Burgess is a holdover member of the Oregon senate. Unless he can give a better reason than seems possible for the artifice that called out the rebuke from Secretary Fisher, he should resign.

Meantime, there are thousands and thousands of people who want a piece of land on which to make a home and a living. There are thousands and thousands of people all over the country who are out of employment and in a desperate struggle for survival. Ten per cent of the school pupils of the United States do not get enough to eat, and in consequence are pallid-faced, under-sized and slowly trudging toward untimely graves.

Every citizen of this republic ought to be aiding instead of opposing, the

reclaiming of barren lands by the government as a means of supplying homes to the needy and food to the underfed.

**QUESTIONS FOR BEN SELLING.**

Echo, Ore., Jan. 27, 1912.  
Editor East Oregonian:

I note the advent of Hon. Ben Selling of Portland into the senatorial race. Mr. Selling's record as state senator in Oregon is very good and in comparison with others his record is quite commendable. In his announcement to the public he makes mention of matters of issues almost purely local. His long residence in Oregon, business affairs and his record as a state senator. Also a few matters pertaining to our present senator, Jonathan Bourne.

The foregoing is all very well and is practically known by the voters of Oregon. But if Mr. Selling is an aspirant for the U. S. Senate, how would it do for him to make public his views on national affairs, and also give pledges that if elected what he would endeavor to accomplish. For instance, every voter in the state wants to know where he will stand on the Panama canal when completed. If the transcontinental railroad lines by the assistance of Wall street have the way blocked up so that no capital can be had for the building and using of ships from the Atlantic to the Pacific, would he stand for the government building and running of ships that the west may not lose the benefit of the canal, or would he be obedient to the Penrose-Crane crowd.

Also, where does he stand on the parcels post. Is he in favor of turning the retail business of the west to a few mail order houses or does he propose to stand by local retail merchants?

The woolen manufacturers of western Oregon and the wool growers of eastern Oregon, want to know where he stands on Schedule K. Also don't he think the inter state commerce commission should be operated on for appendicitis, and have its appendix, the commerce court, removed that the commission may not be impeded in its work for the people?

Also, where does he stand on the present naval policy of voting millions for battleships, dreadnaughts and such like and our western irrigation projects being held up for want of funds.

Also, what are his views on Alaska? Is he in favor of the government so conserving the resources of that country so as to benefit all the people instead of turning it over to buccaneers like the Guggenheims to monopolize and to extort from every man who lives in or does business in Alaska and would he vote for the government to build railroads and steamships and mine the coal if private capitalists can not be found to do it unless it has a license to hold up the consuming public.

Oregon now has two United States senators who slipped in there on local issues only. One of them has been found with the Aldrich-Penrose crowd on all national issues. The other one has not been heard from

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