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WHEN WE'RE OLDER.

Friends of a day, friends of the world,
Friends of the sun, you are plenty.

Joys we may find, crowns we may bind
So long as we're one and twenty.

Music and jest, life at its best,
Bold grows the heart and bolder.

All this is true, but will these do,
These and no more when we're older?

Bloom of the flower, songs of the hour,
Laughter and mirth, you are plenty.

Griefs we may spurn, scorn their return
So long as we're one and twenty.

Life's at its June, but winter comes soon,
And then when the days grow colder.

We'll want our own, just our very own,
These and no more when we're older.

—L. M. Thornton in Northwest Farmstead.

Louis W. Hill, the son of his father, manifests insufferable gall when he goes about eastern

The Remarkable Oregon charging

Gall of Director Newell or

Louis W. Hill anyone else in the

reclamation service with being responsible for high

prices and lack of development on reclamation projects in Oregon. The

East Oregonian has no interest in the controversy one way or the other. But

as an advocate of justice and fair play this paper presents the slandering of

the reclamation service and its chief by Mr. Hill and his friend Bill Han-

ley. Here are a few cold, plain facts regarding the Umatilla project, the

only government project in eastern Oregon, and they will throw light on

the subject of who has been the friend of the settler and of develop-

ment and who the foe.

The reclamation service, under the

guidance of Director Newell, reclaim-

ed the project land from the desert.

The work was done well and quickly

yet always with a view to perman-

ency. The reservoir is absolutely safe,

the ditches strongly built and there is

ample water. The government charge

for reclamation is based on the ac-

tual cost of the work and is \$60 per

acre. The settlers are given 10

years in which to pay this money and

no interest is charged.

That is the case for the govern-

ment and Director Newell. Many

minor blunders may have been made

and doubtless the reclamation offi-

cialists were open to censure in some

ways. Such was to be expected be-

cause they did new work. But in the

main the government was right. It

did the work and did it speedily and

well. Above all it was unselfish

work.

What did the Hill family do towards

the development of the Umatilla project?

Be it known that the Northern

Pacific owned a large block of land

under the project and next to the

Maxwell company was the largest

land owner there. The Northern Pa-

cific had secured that land from the

government for nothing and had spent

nothing upon it. That land was

worth nothing until after the govern-

ment brought water upon it. Did the

Northern Pacific throw its land open

to settlement at a nominal cost as it

should have done so as to allow set-

tlers to get the benefit of the govern-

ment's generosity? It did not. It

placed its land on the market and sold

it at prices ranging from \$60 to \$100

per acre and charged six per cent in-

terest on deferred payments. Much

of that land is still in the desert state

because the prices asked by the North-

ern Pacific have been too high. The

Northern Pacific which gave the set-

tlers nothing—so to speak—charged

them prices ranging higher than the

government's reclamation charge and

also insisted on interest. In other

words, the Northern Pacific, with

what land it held, capitalized the gov-

ernment's generosity and used it for

its own profit instead of leaving that

benefit for settlers. After stealing the

cream from the milk pail and leaving

the settler skimmed milk Louis W.

Hill now comes forth and tries to libel

the cow.

This is why this paper refers to Mr.

Hill in the language of the opening

sentence of this editorial. If there

has been a villain in the drama of

reclamation in Oregon the villain has

not been Director Newell nor the United

States government. It has been the

private land company and the N. P.

has been the most culpable of them

all because a railroad should work

for the settlement and develop-

ment of the country. It should not

be a land shark.

Just why does Louis W. Hill hold

such animosity towards the reclama-

tion service and its chief? Is it be-

cause the Northern Pacific was al-

lowed to make so much money off its

project lands? If so then Mr. Hill

bites the hand that fed him. But the

East Oregonian suspects the Hill ani-

mosity is due to another reason. It

is more likely due to the fact Director

Newell has frequently censured spec-

ulative values on reclamation projects

and has urged land holders to sell

their holdings at just prices. As to

reclamation director?

So much for the strictly business

side of this matter. Now there is

another feature of the question that

may interest people. It interests this

newspaper. It may be called the hu-

man or the moral side of the subject

and it relates to the question of ser-

vice. This will be discussed because

in many speeches Louis W. Hill has

made statements that tend to make

people believe the reclamation men

have been unfit and have been of no

service to Oregon. Such is not in ac-

cord with the observations of this pa-

per. The East Oregonian has noted

that the reclamation men from the

director down have been clean and

capable men. They have worked

for small salaries and have been in-

terested in thorough work and in

serving the settler. In the

performance of duty many of them en-

dured hardships and dangers and

some of them like Roy Saxton died of

the fever. They have been real ser-

vants of the common good and de-

serve credit.

At the same time this paper has

observed the attitude of the Hills with

reference to land they own and which

was made habitable through the work

of these engineers. It has also ob-

served the land promotion activities

of Louis W. Hill in other portions of

eastern Oregon and has noted the

misinformation he and others have

been giving the people about how the

development of Oregon comes to be

delayed. It is too much to endure

in silence. If the Lord should di-

vide the heroes from the hogs in east-

ern Oregon he would give much praise

to the men of the reclamation ser-

vice and he would have a tight pen

for Louis W. Hill.

Like the veterans of the great war

the pioneers are slowly going and

soon they will be with the world no

longer. While here they are entitled

to honor and to all the enjoyment

they can obtain from their reunions.

A story from London is to the effect

the English are getting tired of Am-

erican wild west scenes in their mo-

tion picture shows. Is that possible?

Pendleton will entertain next with

a great fourth of July celebration.

Boost for the rose exhibit.

What is the difference between an

honest farmer and a thief?

One tills the soil, the other soils the

soil!

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MENTION THE FARMER,

With Such a Disreputable

Character, But the Farmer Shines

in Comparison.

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That We Want

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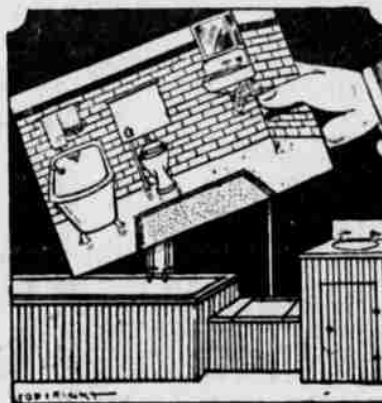
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