Heppner



Gazette.

TWENTIETH YEAR

HEPPNER, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOV. 12 1903.

NO. 964

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HEPPNER, ORE.

Work Can Begin When Right of Way is Secured.

MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Long Sought Open River is Now in Sight -- The Cost will be \$4,125,000.

Washington, Nov. 6.-The special board of engineers, which, for months, has been considering various plans for overcoming the obstructions in the Columbia River between The Dalles and the Harts' project as estimated in 1900, Celilo, has finally devised a continuous canal project which can be constructed the execution of the Harts' plan would for \$4,125,000. The new plan, which is now cost. The board states that its a radical modification of the Harts' plan is not only less costly than the project, was approved by the Secretary project of 1900, but it is the least exof War today, after it had been enindorsed by the Chief of Engineers, improving the Columbia River between and the much-sought open river is at the big eddy and Celilo Falls. The last in sight.

gratified to find that the board has suc- improvement of the Three-Mile Rapids, ceeded in devising an improvement that by the removal of obstructions in the is not only cheaper but better than the channels. For this portion of the work, Harts plan. Last July, when the board \$152,448 is set aside. held its first meeting the opinion preural channels and depressions through the rocks, to plan a continuous canal on the south bank of the Columbia, from the big eddy to a point just above the head of Celilo Falls, which can be con structed for a little more than half the cost that was anticipated.

The fact that the new canal can be built for less than the Harts' project makes it unnecessary to have further Congressional action before work is commenced. Just as soon as the desired right of way is obtained, constructson will be begun with funds now available

The approved plans which were large ly prepared by Major Langfitt, after consultation with the board, calls for a canal 81/2 miles long, 65 feet wide at the bottom, and with a uniform depth of eight feet. At intervals of one mile along the canal there will be construct ed a series of basins of such size as wil permit the passage of ships going in opposite directions. There will be four locks, one at the upper entrance to the canal, with a lift of 17 feet, intended to pass boats between the capal and the river until the limit of navigation i reached. Another lock, which will be situated just below the head of Five-Mile rapids, will have a lift of 11 feet, while at the lower entrance is to be a tandem or double lock with a total lift of 69 feet at times of extreme low water, each lock to have a lift of 3412 feet. All locks are to be 40 feet wide, and of sufficient length to pass boats 250 feet long

and drawing seven feet of water. Where the canal is cut out of solid rock, it will not be lined. Where it passes through sand and gravel it wil, be lined with solid walls of masonry the bottom throughout to be heavily concreted. The board admits that the average Summer high water of the Columbia will partly overflow the canal, but it is believed the canal will suffer less from floods than any other form of improvement that might be undertaken.

The route selected is such as to insure steady work at all ordinary stages of the river. The board admits the rapid drifting of sand during the season of heavy winds, if not controlled, will b

serious obstacle to the maintenance of the canal, but two large openings, closed by steel gates, are provided on the river side of the canal wall, which will permit sluicing of the canal to remove the sand and river sediment that may collect from time to time. There are only 850 acres of sand dunes be tween the railroad and the river, and and the engineers belive it possible, by constant irrigation-using the waters of the canal-to convert this barren tract into a field of growing grasses, bushes and trees, which will break the force of the wind, and prevent further drifting of the sand.

While the stated cost of the continuous canal is greater than the cost of the baard states it is really less than pensive and safest way of satisfactorily board, however, adopts that part of the War Department officials are highly Harts' project which provides for the

The board's estimate of \$4,000,000 is vailed among its members that a con- based on the assumption that sufficient tinuous canal could not be built for less funds will be provided for at the bethan \$8,000,000, but by studying a num- ginning of the work, in order that the ber of possible routes, the board has economy resulting from the use of an been able, by taking advantage of nat- adequate plant may be realized. While the estimate provides \$100,000 for damages and for the purchase of right-ofway, it is the opinion of the board tha no work should be begun un il such ight-of-w y and release from all dam iges have bee secured by the United

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General Gillespie and the Secretary of War concur in all the conclusions of the board, and it was today ordered that 'The work proceed under the modified project recommended by the board, subject to the condition that no work shall be begun until the right-of way and release from damages shall have been conveyed to the United States free of cost."

This latter provision makes it incumbent upon the state or private interests to procure and turn over to the Government title to any lands in addition to those now owned, that may be needed for the right-of-way.

The Government will not expend more money for land, nor will it undertake condemnation proceedings. But as soon as the right-of way is secured, and assurance is given that the Government shall not be liable for damages on account of the construction work, construction will proceed with the funds already available.

HAS LITTLE RIGHT OF WAY. Government Will Have to Secure

Nearly All of It.

Major Langfitt said last night that practically all of the right of way will have to be secured, inasmuch as the Government owns little or none of the land through which the canal will be built. At a number of places the canal will encroach on O. R. & N. property, but not enough to require moving the company's

"I don't think we shall have any difficulty in getting right of way," said Major Langfitt. "The O. R. & N. doubtless will make way for the canal, for the Government has power to acquire by condemnation."

Many of the plans and estimates outfined in the foregoing dispatch as having been adopted by the board were proposed by the local engineers. The estimate of cost was made by Major Langfitt and t is engineers.

A section of the dam on Silver creek, near Salem, belonging to the Salem Light and Power Company, was washed out Friday morning, seriously damaging the new work in progress there.

Thirty-two thousand dollars in cash prizes are offered the National Horse Show Association, which holds an exhibit at Madison Square garden November 1.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Heppner Building and Loan Association, on Saturday at 2 p. m., November 14, 1903, at the First National Bank of Heppner, for the purpose of transacting such business as

> E. R SWINBURNE, Sec. ED. ROOD, Pres. GEO. CONSER, Treas.

Dated October 14, 1903.

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