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VAWTER CRAWFORD, Editor and Proprietor

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THURSDAY, December 21, 1911

IS NOT KNOWN.

Week before last this paper made the statement that the Stanfield and Pilot Rock people, in their advocacy of the "John Day project" as a substitute for the west extension of the Umatilla project, were not sincere; that they were asking to have a scheme promoted that is not on the program of the reclamation service. In this connection, the following letter is pertinent. It comes direct from the director of the U. S. Reclamation Service and can be taken as authoritative.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 14, 1911.

"Hon. C. C. Patterson,
Heppner, Oregon;

Dear Sir:—
"Your letter of December 5 has been received with copy of letter of November 29, to the Stanfield Commercial Club. I wish to thank you for sending this to me.

"The surveys made during 1911 for the west extension of the Umatilla project, have not yet been received in this office, but they are expected almost daily. Upon receipt, they will be given careful examination and review by a board of engineers, and recommendation made to the Secretary with reference to future action.

"I am not quite clear as to what you mean by the so-called John Day project. Nothing of this kind has ever been adopted nor even seriously considered, so far as I can recall, and the information available is exceedingly meager.

"Very truly yours,
"F. H. NEWELL,
Director."

There is apparently nothing to the "John Day project" at all, so far as the government is concerned, and to talk it at this time is simply to prejudice the minds of the people against a project that is feasible, that is on the program of the Reclamation Service to be completed, and which is within our grasp. Morrow county wants the Umatilla project completed and is lined up there to stay.

This talk of John Day project, rights of Umatilla water users and a lot of other stuff that is thrown in for good measure of hot air, is all buncombe and is made on behalf of selfish interests. It deserves to fail, and it will.

JUDGE LOWELL'S REPLY.

Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., recently directed a letter to Judge S. A. Lowell, of Pendleton, who is opposing him for the senatorial nomination at the coming primaries. The Judge had invited the Senator to a joint discussion of issues before the people and in his reply Mr. Bourne took occasion to say that Mr. Lowell was not sincere in his political stand; that he had denounced the assembly of 1910 but supported the assembly candidate; that further he was not a supporter of the "Oregon system," and some other things; and Jonathan further made great claims for his own work as a senator and what he had accomplished for Oregon, and the good committee appointments he has attained in his five years as a senator from this state.

In replying to this letter, Judge Lowell says:

"I received a copy of the letter on the day it was published in a Portland paper. It is about what could be expected from the man, and is a mass of buncombe and pretense. Where, pray, are the local benefits which the state has secured from his five years' senatorial incumbency? We, in the great interior, interested in the subjects of forestry, administration of the national reserves, public lands, mining and irrigation, have searched in vain. His record is more than a blank. It is one of neglect. Where is the impress of his statesmanship in western Oregon? Our harbors still await development, and soon the Panama canal will open and commerce demand them. What appropriations the state has received are those which come to each state as a matter of course, and would have come had Washington never known Mr. Bourne.

"He has attained his committee assignments not through merit, but through the accident of death, retirement and defeat of many of the important figures in the senatorial body.

"Again there are thousands of new

voters in the state, some who have come from other states and others who have reached their majority in recent years, who are entitled to know the facts regarding Mr. Bourne's connection with the legislative hold-up of 1897. The older residents are familiar with it, and few of them are likely to endorse it. When a man seeks public office his public career should be analyzed and discussed that the electorate may vote intelligently. Mr. Bourne's letter ignores the subject, but some of his friends and political beneficiaries, notably Frank Davy, receiver of the Burns land office, are criticizing me for calling attention to that episode in the Bourne history, asserting that others were equally responsible. Perhaps that may be true, but those others are not now candidates. When they are we will catechise them. Mr. Bourne is now on the stand."

Irrigon, Umatilla and Heppner were in the fight for the extension and Hermiston is proud of the company. Those communities will stay in the fight to the end and will be of good service for a great work.—Hermiston Herald.

There is no reason on earth why a labor organization should resort to violence. It is fanatics or spies who advocate it every time. They are in all organizations attempting to do anything for the advancement of humanity.—Labor Press.

It is not so much a matter of politics as it is of selecting the best men Oregon has and sending them to the house and senate in Washington. No state in the union is so badly in need of representation in that body right now as Oregon.—Eugene Register.

The repeal of the ordinance requiring peddlers of meat and farm produce to pay a license, as proposed by the council of Heppner town, is a good thing and meets with the hearty indorsement of this paper. We believe in an open market for such things and to shut out the farmer and rancher by imposing upon him a license fee that is prohibitive, is not right. To repeal this ordinance is a good move in the right direction.

Fred Wilson of Athena is a brainy young man, and will make himself heard to a good advantage in the forth-coming congressional campaign. To native shrewdness and ability that have carried him forward in his professional and business affairs, he unites a laudable ambition to make the most of himself. Being a lawyer, he turns to politics as naturally as a cat to yellow cream, and he is enabled to bring to bear upon the public problems of the day, the power of a well-trained and well-balanced mind. Moreover, he possesses a happy and pleasing facility of platform expression.—Weston Leader.

The Pendleton commercial club took a decisive stand in favor of the West Extension, but the people—some of them—of Stanfield and Pilot Rock die hard, figuratively speaking. They are now taking up the fight, principally to seek revenge, and resorting to skulduggery. According to the East Oregonian, they are trying to disrupt the commercial club and discredit the action of that body taken at its meeting on last Wednesday evening. This is usually the result when people place selfish interests above those for the general good. The above localities have some great patriots, and the results they desire would be defeated by their own actions.

The west extension of the Umatilla project is worth working for. It is feasible. Every engineer who has examined it has so reported. Just as sure as the government abandons it, private interests will take it up. Who wants to see a \$4,000,000 private project if it is possible to get Uncle Sam to do it? In the first clash opponents to the extension have been put to rout and the chief has lost many of his supporters. No doubt every further effort possible will be made to continue the fight. Hermiston and every person in Oregon having the best interests of the state as a whole at heart want to be ready at any minute to combat every move made by the few agitators who are back of the opposition.—Hermiston Herald.

An article in last week's Times from the pen of J. T. Knappenberg, of Ione, touching upon the controversy as to what the disease is that has killed so many hogs in the county, contains one suggestion that interests the taxpayers of Morrow county, and that is the proposition of a deputy veterinarian. This has been before the county court in a small way for its consideration, and the plan is to pay a deputy of this sort \$400 per year, the said deputy to divide time between this county and one or two other counties adjoining. In other words, create a job for an-

other fellow and put him on the pay roll of the county, adding further expense to the taxpayers. The experience of our people so far with the work of the veterinarians and deputy veterinarians in this county, should put every citizen of the county against this proposition good and strong. It is not needed; the county health officer has done the actual work, is now doing it, and will continue to do it, and this deputy veterinarian would only add to the burdens we already have. He is about as much use in this county as a fifth wheel to a wagon.

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