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The Last of a Long Wail--A Feeling of Satisfaction
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The Pilot Butte Development Co. has given up its ambition to make the Crook county desert blossom as the rose. The company has long had that tired feeling for which Hood's Sarsaparilla is a specific and its retirement from its task is not a great shock to any one. The Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company, a new corporation, has bought the irrigation grant of the Pilot Butte Development Company, consisting of some 84,000 acres, the water rights owned by the Oregon Irrigation Company, of which C. C. Hutchinson was the leading spirit, and has selected sufficient other desert land to make a land tract of 210,000 acres. The company is capitalized at \$2,500,000, and they made a showing to the state land board that their financial condition was above question. Backers of the company say that they will irrigate one-tenth of the whole tract within four months. This is the best news that has been announced to our people for some time. The Pilot Butte Development Company received \$70,000 for its interest in its Carey act grant. The company probably sold out because it needed the money. It has never been in shape to comply with its contract and ever since the contract has been signed the grant has been for sale. The people of this county regarded the venture as a scheme to work the government and everything that could be done here to prevent speculation in these lands was done, and there is little doubt that the activities of the company's enemies have done much to keep the company from making a profitable deal at public expense. Counting in expenses of the company there is very little velvet in the \$70,000 received. The tract was also taken to help the company sell its townsite and this it did not do. It still owns the townsite and will be ready one day to let that also go to the highest bidder. A. M. Drake, the president of the P. B. D. Company, has won the enmity of every person worth considering in the Deschutes country. He has time and time again raised the passions of his neighbors to a pitch that threatened personal violence. To say that he is the best hated man in Crook county is putting the matter in its mildest form. The people of Prineville also were greatly rejoiced that Drake's connection with the county is drawing to a defeated close. Conversations all about town were roasts on the P. B. D. Company's president. The plat of the Bend

townsite is not on record. As we have said before, the title to the most important part of it is subject to the claims of several infant heirs and is, to that extent, undesirable. That the townsite will prove any more profitable than the Carey grant seems exceedingly doubtful since the sale of the grant will deprive the company of all power in the vicinity and it will be at the mercy of other larger interests. The few friends which Drake has will be forced to take cover or go out of business and the big sham irrigation company will entail considerable hardship on the people who foolishly shouted for it. Moral: Don't lend yourself to anyone.

Plans of the New Irrigation Company.

The Deschutes Irrigation and Power Company will not lose any time in getting to work. They contemplate rushing the ditch and flume work started by the P. B. D. Company to completion and at the same time they will begin work on the large flume which is to take water from the river in the vicinity of Deschutes Lumber Company's mill. A dam will be constructed across the river at the place chosen for an intake and the water will thus be raised to a height sufficient to save cutting through the rimrock along the river. The company will soon build and run a general merchandise store in Lytle and will also construct a hotel at that point. It is said that Mr. Johnson will be ready to get to work within a couple of weeks. The new flume and ditch is designed to irrigate a most desirable tract of land lying some 20 miles north of Deschutes which was not a part of the segregation of the P. B. D. Company and could not be reached by the small flume.

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Will Cure Defects.

It will be good news to the many persons who filed and made proof in the land district where the land was situated that Congressman Williamson and the rest of the Oregon delegation will take up the matter in congress and will cure

the defects in the filing and proofs so that the timber claimants will not be put to any further trouble on account of the mistake. Every session of congress a great many bills are left unconsidered as it takes a great deal of energy to force a bill to the front and have it passed, but we believe that the Oregon delegation will soon have the matter in shape.

Out of 33 counties in the state, Crook stands sixth in percentage of increase in taxable property, the amount of such property being over 29 per cent greater in 1903 than in 1902. With the advent of settlers who will come to the irrigated sections in the coming year the increase will be greater still.