

THE BEND BULLETIN.

VOL. V

BEND, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1907.

NO. 27

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NO GRAFT INVOLVED

Deschutes Company Free from Such a Charge.

SO THINK LOCAL PEOPLE

Malicious Story Will Be Proven False—Lien Granted Company for Reclamation Is Not Excessive.

The latest sensation to be sprung upon this section is a charge of graft lodged against the Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company and appearing in a long article in Sunday's Oregonian. The main statement in this article is that "perhaps" the recent increase of the company's lien against the land (raised to an average of \$25 per acre) is too high and allows so great a profit to the company that there will be "millions in it." Under the original contract the lien was placed at \$10 an acre.

The article also states that an "investigation" has been ordered by the government, implying throughout that a gigantic steal is about to be unearthed. It is the common opinion of people in this section—men on the ground and acquainted with the segregation and knowing what effort and expense it requires to reclaim it—that the charge of graft is pure bluncheon, a malicious story that will hurt not only the company but the entire section by throwing cold water, so to speak, on its development.

Let us see what the statement of an "investigation" amounts to. A year and a half ago the company made application through the state to the government for the issuance of patent to the state of Oregon for some 40,000 acres that had been reclaimed. Settlers were clamoring for deeds and the company desired to furnish them. At that time the company asked the government officials to make an investigation if they so desired, offering to conduct them over the company's works. Nothing was done, however. About nine months ago this request was again made by the company. Again, during the past month an invitation was extended to Secretary Garfield to make a personal investigation of the segregation while on his Western trip. He refused on the plea of lack of time. As far as an investigation is concerned the officials of the company fear it not at all and have been asking for it for a year and a half.

As to the statement that there would be a bouncing big profit at \$10 an acre, the company states positively that at that figure it was a money losing proposition and if it had not secured an increase of lien, would have been unable to complete the undertaking. The company cites the fact that land under the cheapest government project is \$26 an acre and ranges up to \$60. And work on most of the government's projects has been shut down for lack of funds, due to the fact that increase in cost of labor and material had exceeded all expectations and had left the service without sufficient funds. Over against that you find the Deschutes company working on an average of \$25 per acre.

For several reasons the cost of reclaiming this country is expensive work. It is a broken, rolling country. That necessitates long winding canals, more expensive to construct than those in a comparatively level country free from rock. Besides making unusually expensive construction work the broken nature of the land leaves less land to sell and requires longer canals and laterals to water it. Many other features have made this work expensive, not the least of which have been numerous sink holes in the canals, due to caverns in the lava rock, and costing much to overcome. These unforeseen quan-

ties, taken all together, have greatly increased the cost of reclamation above the first figures, a condition of affairs that has confronted practically every irrigation project of which there is any record.

Another expensive feature is the distance of this section from a railroad, nearly 100 miles. It has thus been next to impossible to procure any material except that obtainable here. Structural steel, cement, etc. could not be brought in, for the cost of transporting it would have been prohibitive. Keeping this fact in view the company maintains that its flumes, canals and entire works are as good as could be expected, a statement in which local people concur.

Other expenses that could not at first be definitely determined have been attorney's fees, cost of litigation, cost of right-of-way, etc., etc. These have all added to the general expenses and have put the cost of reclamation far in excess of \$10 an acre.

The Deschutes Irrigation & Power Company is composed of several hundred stockholders. They have put in their money expecting to get a reasonable profit. And they should. Such a profit should include at least 6 per cent on the money invested and a fair return for the energy and effort required to carry through successfully so large and important an undertaking, an enterprise that will make productive fields out of barren wastes and pleasant homes where once only sagebrush and junipers grew. A reasonable profit could not be had on \$10 an acre.

Mr. Jesse I. Stearns, one of the principal stockholders of the company, stated to The Bulletin that the company had undertaken the work of reclamation in good faith and that the charge of graft was absurd. Everyone who moves onto the land is satisfied and has no fault to find, and Mr. Stearns cited the fact that a suit had never been brought against the company by any settler.

Governor Chamberlain's Version.

Governor Chamberlain treats fairly this charge of graft, insufficient security demanded from the company, and too high a lien placed on the land, in an interview in Tuesday's Oregonian. He said, in part:

"The only possible mistake we may have made was in the amount of the lien we allowed the reclamation company for reclaiming the land. I do not believe there was a mistake there, but if there was, it was the only one.

"We were confronted by a serious situation. Under a contract made several years ago, the reclamation company had begun the construction of a canal system and was to have a lien of \$10 an acre. Part of the system had been completed and the company had made sales to intending settlers aggregating 40,000 acres. The company had taken part payments. Much of the land for the sale of which it had made contracts was 20 miles or more from a ditch. With matters in that condition the company became financially embarrassed and could not proceed with the work. There is no doubt whatever that the first reclamation contract was taken at too low a figure. The irrigation system could not have been completed for the amount specified, \$10 an acre.

Project Could Not Be Given Up.

"The question presented before the state land board was, therefore, whether to raise the lien so that the company could proceed with the work, or let the project be abandoned and the settlers lose what they have already paid. We chose the former course, and in doing so gained a number of advantages.

"The old contract gave the board no control of the sale of land, made no provisions as to the plans and specifications of the canals, and gave the company a perpetual right to charge a toll of \$1 per acre per year for water. The new contract

(Continued on page 4.)

BIG HAY CROP IS CUT

Farmers Are Busy in the Harvest Fields.

FOREST FIRE NEAR TUMALO

Was Caused by Lightning and Did Considerable Damage—Interesting Neighborhood Notes.

REDMOND, Aug. 5.—Haying is in full blast. We might write our complete letter and say that this man is haying; that man is cutting Mr. So and So's grain; John Doe is cutting Richard Roe's grain on shares, and so on, but we refrain. As we said before, haying and harvest are right with us and will continue to be for some time. Yields are generally very good.

T. M. Alcorn, a teacher from Washington, is in the neighborhood looking around and incidentally taking orders for the Underwood stereoscope and views, and is meeting with good success. Personally I have been pleased to meet him as he brought us word from an uncle over the range.

Mr. McCaffery was over to his place in the Sisters country doing some haying.

Dan McCarty is pulling trees for A. W. Morgan.

C. W. Muma is back again from Shaliko. He expects to meet his sister while he is at home this time.

Mrs. Carl Ehret's father accompanied her home from Salem and expresses himself as very much pleased with this country and may invest here.

A. J. Booth was going over some of his old tracks in this neighborhood yesterday.

Charles P. Richardson, sales agent for the D. I. & P. lands from Spokane, is in town and we understand is located here for some time.

Mr. Irwin's mother and brother have arrived and are now at home with him in town.

The Rev. Lilly is making pastoral and social visits in the neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lamb will start for the other side of the mountains on Wednesday or Thursday for a six or eight weeks' visit.

E. C. PARK.

Tumalo Items.

TUMALO, Aug. 6.—A fire is raging about five miles southwest of here which is doing lots of damage to the timber. This fire is supposed to have started from lightning one day last week.

Several thunder showers had been reported.

Most of our farmers are busy haying now and a very good yield is reported.

Chet Grotes and G. J. Mackey of Portland, friends of Arnold Greisel, stopped here Saturday. The boys are out for a time and have two pack horses and are spending the summer in the mountains. From Bend they go south through the mountains to Klamath Falls.

A hack load of men from Washington passed through here today viewing the country.

Jim McCall has resigned his position as mail carrier between here and Gist.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Wimer and family are expecting a visit soon from Mr. and Mrs. William Strong of Hood River. Mrs. Strong is the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wimer, whom they haven't seen for six years. Mr. Strong owns a valuable piece of land at Hood River.

Ads are out for bids on carrying the mails from here to Gist twice a week until 1910.

New Arrival Is Pleased.

WHITE ROCK DISTRICT, Aug. 5.—I. Alton Thompson, for the past two years superintendent of schools at Flushing, Mich., arrived in the district last week. He owns a forty between the Greenhalgh and the Sherwood ranches which he hopes to make his permanent home. He is highly pleased with the country and with the neighborhood and will send for his wife and three children.

Big Meadows Items.

Haying is in full blast and everyone is in the hay field early and late these fine days.

Mr. Klug's fine new two-story house is

completed and makes a good showing among the pines.

Neil Smith has gone to Rosland to build a two-story house for Frank Bogue.

We hear that the thriving little town of Silver Lake is to have another newspaper. Good luck, say I.

Mrs. Allen is home again from a visit to relatives in the valley.

Mrs. Frank West is entertaining Miss Golda West of Prineville this week.

GREENHORN WRITES.

Mixes Wit and Sarcasm into a Readable Letter.

REDMOND, Aug. 4.—Editor Bend Bulletin: Since we failed to see the usual notes in last issue of The Bulletin from this section, perhaps you will give space enough to indulge a few comments from a Greenhorn.

You see it's this way. Since the D. I. & P. Co. has concluded to desert us and move to Bend, we hardly know where we are AT any more. In the early days when these were different here and hope for a bright future of our country seemed fair, we engaged in many airy visions of the great possibilities of this section of country. But these late developments of conspiracy existing between the powers that be and the city of Bend have sent all these things glimmering and now alas! we have only memories left with perhaps a few realities such as Cline falls and the Redmond well.

Of course we believe you would have been glad to have had them moved over, but since the expense would have overrun the profit and we are sure of them, being permanent fixtures, we will make the most of them. The cataract we can use to generate electricity to do all our work such as plowing, harvesting, bringing up the cows, etc. We would like some fellow to invent a locomotive whistle to put on the cows that would go off about 9 o'clock each evening and if it didn't scare the cows home it would at least let us know where they were located among the junipers.

Then another thing that could be run by electricity that we would like to have is a machine to call the dogs every time a tramp comes on the farm. It might be a good idea to make it so it would say "Sic em, Bull," and "hiss hiss hiss" in a sort of a feminine voice. This might be rather expensive but everybody need not have them. Two or three in a neighborhood would be sufficient. People in Redmond needn't have them at all; they could turn the hose on them.

We might use a railroad some, too, if we had one. Might be you fellows would loan us one of your new lines I have read so much about in The Bulletin. If we can't borrow one there's a fellow over west talks of building one across the Sisters, if he can sell his Langshan roosters, but there is no certainty about that. Don't make any great difference anyway about the railroad. Walking is good in most all directions except towards Bend. It's a little rocky up that way and considerable of wind, too, but the hardest blows are usually about the town and its fishing possibilities. We have some fish in the river here or did have. Maybe they have emigrated to Bend by this time. But the electric generator and the great advantages it will bring, along with the Redmond well, are ours good and plenty. They are part and parcel of this, our own land of inheritance, that neither our own tide can possibly take away. We won't lay down to sleep worth a million dollars and wake up paupers because they skeddaddled and left us.

Now if you fellows want to use any of our electric machinery after we get it started, we might exchange it for one of your railroads. Yours, etc., GREENHORN.

Much Travel to Oregon.

During the past three weeks the travel into Oregon from the East has been as large as at any time during the Lewis & Clark Exposition, and many of the visitors are becoming familiar with the opportunities afforded by the state, a great number of tourists having made stops at five or six points in different parts of the state.

For Sale at a Bargain.

80 acres choice irrigated land, 35 acres in cultivation. All fenced. Just south of Forked Horn Butte, 3 1/2 miles from Redmond. Address W. W. Amburn, 498 Columbia St., Portland Oregon.

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