

**THE BEND BULLETIN**  
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1914



**TO THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS.**

Among the matters that you are to consider will be the North Canal proposition of the Central Oregon Irrigation Company, and we ask you to take the slight trouble to inform yourselves accurately on the subject. That you may do so with least inconvenience we have collected and present to you herewith statements covering it from all sides. Once possessed of a full acquaintance with the facts we believe that you will recognize the importance of action in the matter and the great benefits that will flow therefrom to present settlers on the company's projects, to a large section of Central Oregon and to the state itself.

The company has three projects, two unfinished and one almost untouched. It offers to sell the latter and with the funds obtained to complete the former two. It admits its inability to complete them otherwise. To more than 1300 people their completion means a rest from the worry that has beset them for years, from the fear that the work may be postponed too long. When you meet they will be waiting anxiously to know what message you will send them.

A plan has been proposed by Governor West for the solution of the difficulties in the present situation. It is the only plan yet proposed and it has received the approval of the settlers on the projects and of the commercial clubs in the neighboring towns. Will you give it the weight of your endorsement that other bodies that have yet to act upon it will realize the sentiment behind it? Your favorable answer to this question is the message for which the settlers are waiting.

That private development of arid lands under the Carey act has come to an end in Oregon seems certain. The unsuccessful career of the companies that have undertaken this work forbids further promotion and attempted reclamation. Even though a company should appear feeling itself strong enough to carry through a new enterprise of this nature, past experience would lead the state to decline its part of the undertaking without which it could not be begun.

But there remain the projects begun and still incomplete where settlers have taken up lands and are waiting for the reclamation to be done. In every one the name of the state of Oregon has had an influence in causing the settler to make entry. He has felt that the state of Oregon has entered upon a contract with the United States to reclaim the land on which he has settled and he rightfully looks to Oregon to see that the contract is performed or to perform it herself.

The incapacity of the Carey act companies leaves but one course open to the state. It must enter upon the unfinished work and finish it for the benefit of the settlers. It must perform its contract with the United States and satisfy its moral obligation to those who have bought water rights.

Will you give your influence to the end that the state may redeem its legal and moral obligations?

The passage of the constitutional amendment permitting bonding for reclamation work is the first step to take.

What the state can do is shown in the work of the Tumalo Project. There was a Carey act company that left its work undone and its settlers in need. A former Irrigation Congress, meeting as you will meet, recognized their claims on the state and the state's obligation. The action of that congress in behalf of those settlers was a potent influence in persuading the Legislature to act. As a result the state took over the work and is pushing it to completion. That is the precedent for similar action in the North Canal matter. Will you recognize it?

We regret to learn of the burning of the farmers' warehouse at Redmond. Its destruction means losses to many tillers of the soil who are thereby hard hit.

We don't have a radium mine in Bend but are exporting eggs. Who can beat that for prosperity nowadays?

"The Future of the Republican Party," by William H. Taft. "Hark from the tomb a mournful sound."

Boss Murphy is now more opposed to the recall than ever; Tammany realizes its advantages.

**NORTH CANAL OFFER**

PLAN PROPOSED TO FINANCE IRRIGATION WORK STATED (Continued from Page 1)

they should not be constructed in a like manner by the federal government, or through state and federal co-operation.

Many who oppose reclamation by the state, and insist upon reclamation by the government alone, are prompted by the belief that we then become the beneficiaries of a federal donation. They seem to lose sight of the fact that no matter by what agency—the federal government, the state or private corporation—the money is advanced, it must be repaid by the settlers; if the state makes the advance, it must be repaid, and so must the private corporation for its advances. The argument advanced, that if such work is undertaken by the state it will throw undue burdens upon the taxpayers, is well founded. Should the \$450,000 now being used for the construction of the Tumalo Project be released when the project is completed, and together with a like sum allotted by the federal government placed in a revolving fund, all feasible Carey act projects in this state could be taken in hand and completed, one after another, without the appropriation of another dollar. Even the said \$450,000 would in due time be returned to the state treasurer with 6 per cent interest and added profits.

**C. O. I. Co.'s Proposal.**  
The Central Oregon Irrigation Co. segregations cover approximately 215,000 acres in the neighborhood of Bend and Redmond, on the west side of the Deschutes. Something over 150,000 acres of the said segregations are irrigable. One of the units known as the Benham Falls project, containing about 74,000 acres has not as yet been touched, and to prevent confusion will be eliminated from the discussion. This deduction will leave approximately 141,000 acres, 90,000 of which are probably irrigable. Of the said 141,000 gross acres, about 80,000 are to be served by what is known as the company's Central Oregon and Pilot Butte canals. The other 61,000 acres are to be served by what is known as the North Canal system.

Perhaps three-fourths of the work necessary to complete the project to be served by the Central Oregon and Pilot Butte canals has been completed, and about three-fourths of the lands have been sold. While practically no lands have been sold under the proposed North Canal unit, the company claims it has spent in the neighborhood of \$300,000 in the construction of a dam and an intake. The works are the first steps toward the construction of the North Canal system.

The company proposes to release the North Canal unit upon being reimbursed for the sums actually expended thereon (not exceeding \$300,000), the money so received or as much thereof as is necessary to be spent under the Central Oregon and Pilot Butte canals. Estimates made by reliable engineers show the cost of completing the North Canal unit to be \$450,000, which together with the \$300,000 asked by the company would mean a total cost of \$750,000. But as this unit contains about 34,000 unsold irrigable acres, the cost of reclaiming the lands would be but about \$22 per acre. There being no engineering difficulties in the way, the project could be completed at a very early date.

The proposition has been presented to the Secretary of the Interior and the Reclamation Service, with a view of securing co-operation, and has found favor in that direction. The government now has men making an investigation of the proposition, and it is quite likely that an offer of co-operation, upon a dollar for dollar

basis, will be made to the state. This would call for an allotment of \$375,000 by the government and \$375,000 by the state.

It has been suggested that when the Tumalo Project is completed and the lands sold, all of which will be done this fall, that the securities be taken over by the state school fund or sold under legislative authority to private investors, thus releasing the Tumalo Reclamation Fund and making it available as a co-operative fund for the completion of the Central Oregon Irrigation Co.'s North Canal unit.

I have given this matter most careful thought and the plan appeals to me as a common sense remedy for a deplorable condition of affairs. Without the cost of a single dollar to the taxpayers of the state, thousands of acres of now desert land can be reclaimed at an early date, and thus not only provide desirable homes for a large number of settlers, but add greatly to the wealth of the state.

**SETTLERS THINK WEST PLAN BEST; HEARTILY ENDORSE IT**

By L. E. Smith.  
(C. O. I. Co. Water Users' Ass'n)  
So far as I can learn, the water users are of one mind concerning the Governor's North Canal plan, as well as the stand the other members of the land board have taken. The Governor's plan, so far as I have heard, is the only one that is feasible. Attorney General Crawford has suddenly exhibited a deep concern for the welfare of the settlers. He has just discovered that the Central Oregon fume is unsafe and that there are big leaks and sink holes in the Pilot Butte canal. His great heart, burdened with the unfortunate water users' troubles, is bursting with affection for the poor people in this segregation. How he hates the C. O. I. Co. He is determined that they shall not receive the \$300,000 for the North Canal unit and have the government, state and settlers to hold the bag. He is determined not to understand the Governor's proposition. He doesn't want to understand it.

It has been suggested that other sections of the state would object to so much of the school money being loaned for the benefit of the people of this part of the state, but why should they? The older sections of Oregon have had the benefit of the school fund for years while, so far as I am able to learn, not a dollar of it has ever been loaned on Central Oregon land.

The state owes it to the people who have bought Carey act land to see that the systems are well built so that their title to the water is gilt edged. The Governor's plan contemplates doing this without any burden upon the taxpayers of the state. His plan is safe and sane. It affords us the relief we need and we can have it if we go after it right.

**INVESTIGATION TO BE MADE BY RECLAMATION SERVICE**  
E. G. Hopson, supervising engineer, writing to The Bulletin from Portland under date of February 6, says:

"In connection with the investigation of the North Canal unit, this office has been instructed by the director of the Reclamation Service to take up the investigation, and we have been making arrangements with the management of the Central Oregon Irrigation Company in connection with the work. It is certain that some little time will be required for an examination of the records of the company, and also for an examination on the ground, which latter will not be possible until the winter season shall have ended so that a thorough and satisfactory inspection can be made."

**REDMOND SUPPORTS PLAN OUTLINED BY GOVERNOR**  
By William G. Phoenix, Redmond.  
The Redmond Commercial Club is supporting the plan advanced by Governor West on his recent visit

(Continued on Page 5)

**One-Half Price Sale**

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