

THE BEND BULLETIN.

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39.

AID IS PLEDGED STRAHORN LINE

WHOLE SECTION IS READY TO GIVE

Railroad Builder's Trip Through Interior is Marked by Enthusiasm of People—Money, Rights of Way and Terminals Offered Freely.

(The Oregonian.)
KLAMATH FALLS, Nov. 21.—(Special)—Bankers and blacksmiths, cattlemen and homesteaders, pledged support to Robert E. Strahorn, each in his kind, during an eventful four-days' trip through Central Oregon, completed today.

Cash, labor, terminal sites and rights of way were offered, and the railroad builder was assured that the terms he exacted would be complied with.

The strongest men of every community visited accepted the responsibility of undertaking the duties prescribed.

Good Start Declared Made.

"If the promises made to me in Central Oregon are fulfilled, and I have confidence they will be," said Mr. Strahorn, "a good start will have been made towards getting a railroad across that big region. I am gratified by the spirit shown, not only by those who are important financially, but by the people of limited means, all of whom seem to want to have a part in helping to bring the railroad."

Homesteaders in the level Fort Rock country in the north end of Lake county suggested grading about 20 miles. Mr. Strahorn will provide the shovels and scrapers and the homesteaders will furnish the horses and labor. Similar assurances were given by the small farmers in other districts where it is hoped the line will come.

Cash and Land Promised.

Wealthy stockmen having large interests from Silver Lake southwest to Klamath Falls and southeast to Lakeview promised rights of way and heavy cash subscriptions. In spite of the fact that Mr. Strahorn said he was not ready to accept cash subscriptions until after the line is located and all the rights-of-way and terminal sites donated to his company, frequent tenders of financial support were made.

The climax of the trip was at Lakeview, the metropolis and county seat of Lake county. Judge Bernard Daly and William Shirk, the two wealthiest men of the county, and respectively the presidents of the two largest banks in that section of Oregon, came to Paisley to meet Mr. Strahorn and C. C. Chapman, who accompanied him throughout his four days' trip. Both gave tangible assurance of co-operation.

Blacksmith Pledges \$300.

Judge Daly presided at a banquet in Lakeview, where President Shirk, of the First National Bank, volunteered publicly his pledge of financial support and where the spirit of

The City Council will meet on Friday evening to set the tax levy for the coming year and Saturday morning at the Reid school at 10 o'clock there will be a meeting of taxpayers to fix the levy for school district 12. Every taxpayer is urged to be present at each meeting.

the community was exemplified by a blacksmith, insisting that he would join those of more means by paying in \$300 cash as soon as the subscription roll was opened.

At the Lakeview meeting Mr. Strahorn announced completion of surveys for 20 miles and those present undertook responsibility for securing the rights of way and terminal sites and presenting them to Mr. Strahorn subject only to the condition that the railroad be built within three years. The plats and legal forms were delivered to the meeting and a committee was organized to do the work.

Free Sites Demanded.

"Let it be understood clearly that I will not pay 1 cent for rights of way or terminal sites," said Mr. Strahorn. "I do not care how you get them, but they must conform to my specifications and be turned over to me all in shape, without my having to conduct any of the negotiations or be burdened with any expense in connection with obtaining them."

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SETTLERS TO MEET WEDNESDAY COMPANYS ANSWER SARCASTIC

C. O. I. Co. Makes Answer to Complaint Filed with Utilities Commission—Charges are Made.

To prepare for the hearing of its complaint against the C. O. I. Co., the Company water users' association will hold a mass meeting in Bend on Wednesday, December 1. The time of the hearing has not yet been set but, according to a letter from the Utilities Commission, it will be at an early date as possible.

Answer to the complaint was filed by the C. O. I. Co. last week. Denial is made of the jurisdiction of the commission and in various other paragraphs the company's contract with the state for the reclamation of the lands is described. Other paragraphs allege unfair treatment at the hands of the state engineer and the making of false reports which are said to have caused hostile newspaper criticism.

That the company is inclined to treat the case in a sarcastic manner appears in certain paragraphs, number 1 reading: "As to the pretended and alleged purposes and objects of the misguided association above named as plaintiff, this defendant knoweth not and is informed not; but the ostensible purpose and object of said plaintiff as exhibited by its acts and utterances seems to be to raise that particular brand of climate wherewith it shall not be tempered or quenched by all the waters of the Deschutes river without their waste or seepage."

A portion of number 2 is as follows: This defendant "admits that said lands are dependent upon water from the Central Oregon canal, except the gentle rains from heaven which fall infrequently upon the just and unjust in that locality."

SEEK RELEASE OF BENHAM UNIT

PETITION TO GO TO LAND BOARD

Commercial Club Wants Lands That Have Been Tied Up Opened for Homestead Entry—C. O. I. Co. Asks That Time Be Extended.

What disposition shall be made of the lands embraced in the Benham falls segregation is a question which has created unusual interest since The Bulletin first reported the termination of the state's contract with the United States covering these lands a few weeks ago.

That the lands should be thrown open to entry is the general feeling held by the people of Bend and by settlers on the C. O. I. Co. project in the vicinity. The company prefers that the contract be renewed for at least five years more.

Brought before the Commercial Club at its meeting last Saturday by A. O. Walker, of Alfalfa, discussion of the club's action was the principal business to be transacted. It was finally voted that the club send resolutions to the Desert Land Board and to the Department of the Interior protesting against any extension of time on the contract and urging that the lands be opened to entry. The club also voted to ask the co-operation of other commercial bodies in this section to get the desired action.

Land Long Tied Up.

The contract between the state and the United States and the one between the state and the predecessor of the C. O. I. Co., to which that company has succeeded, for the reclamation of the Benham Falls segregation, expired on October 17, after the lands had been tied up for 10 years. In that time nothing was done toward their reclamation beyond the preparation of engineering data. The C. O. I. Co. is now unable to proceed with the reclamation.

Last week, however, the company requested the Desert Land Board to ask the Government to grant a five years extension of the state's contract with the Government, the matter being before the Desert Land Board at this time because of the receipt from the Commissioner of the General Land Office of a notification that the Government would give the board 30 days' time in which to show cause why the contract should not be cancelled.

Project Undesirable Now.

Reporting on the project last year United States reclamation engineers, working under the co-operative survey appropriation, advised that it is not desirable at the present time, but would, doubtless prove to be when the other units in this section have been developed.

A new phase in the situation respecting these lands has recently developed.

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COLT AND MILLS SEE BIG FUTURE

GROWTH OF BEND PROPHESIED

Prominent Portland Men, Here in Strahorn Party, Impressed by Local Development and Spirit of People—Interviews Given to

In interviews given by A. L. Mills and C. C. Colt to a representative of The Bulletin on Wednesday both spoke with pleasure of the present growth of Bend and its prospects for the future. "The construction of the Strahorn system," said Mr. Mills, "will make Bend a big distributing center," while Mr. Colt's prediction was that within a few years Bend will be one of the important cities of the state.

Mr. Mills said:

Formerly it was the theory that the country must be developed before the railroads would build, but today it is generally recognized that no country can properly develop without railroad facilities. It is evident today that no one of the transcontinental lines will build into Central Oregon. The treatment they have received from the general public through state and interstate commerce commissions has been such that they have been unable to float securities for additional extension and construction except when the demand has been imperative. Such demand does not exist in Central Oregon, great as the possibilities are of this part of the state.

It, therefore, becomes necessary for us to take to heart the motto adopted on the old territorial seal, "Aeolis volat proprius." "She flies with her own wings." This means that the people themselves must construct a people's railroad to connect the different parts of the state and bring Central Oregon into quick communication with the outside world.

If each and every man in Central Oregon will give something of the best that is in him in support of Mr. Strahorn's proposed railroad I confidently believe that it will be built and the dream of Central Oregon will be fulfilled; to-wit, an increased population that is justified by the resources of the country the road will traverse.

Portland is interested as it is and must be in every development of the territory that is tributary to the Oregon metropolis.

How great the support will be from Portland remains to be seen but I believe that it should be something more tangible than resolutions of commercial organizations and newspaper editorials.

What I have seen of Central Oregon, and more than that, what I have heard from reliable sources, leads me to believe that it is a country easily capable of supporting a million people and it is not a dream of an enthusiast to state that when the lines of roads proposed by Mr. Strahorn

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There will be a mass meeting of the C. O. I. Co. water users at the Commercial Club rooms next Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the hearing before the Utilities Commission. All members are urged to be present.

TUMALO DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE PLANS SEASON OF ACTIVE WORK

To Improve Both Bend and Redmond Roads and Take Measures to Exterminate Jackrabbits.

Active co-operation in work for the improvement of roads and for the extermination of jack rabbits is promised by the Tumalo Development League.

Already members of the club have done voluntary work on the road between Bend and Tumalo, having spent several days dragging the section between the cinders and the grade, and greatly improving the portion leading to Tumalo from the bridge. Plans are now being made to obtain the co-operation of the Bend and Redmond commercial clubs in making further improvements.

The Redmond Commercial Club has promised to put the road to Cline Falls in good shape and the Tumalo people will care for the 11 miles from their town to the falls. The Bend road will be cindered. Delegates from the Tumalo club will be present at the Bend Commercial Club meeting on Saturday, and at the Redmond club meeting on Monday, to explain their plans and obtain assistance.

Estimates having convinced the Tumalo people that rabbits have destroyed 300 tons of hay in the past season they plan a united effort for extermination of the pest. For the work a new plan is proposed whereby poison pens will be built at different points on the project, thereby eliminating the danger of damage to stock. In each locality where the pens are placed some responsible man will be appointed to give his personal attention to the work, making daily visits to the pens.

The association will also co-operate with County Agriculturist Lovett and R. A. Ward, of the U. S. Biological survey, in the rabbit work.

THE PORTLAND DELEGATION.

The Portland delegation in attendance at the Strahorn meetings on Wednesday included A. L. Mills, president of the First National Bank; C. C. Colt, president of the Union Meat Co.; C. C. Chapman, of the Oregon Voter; J. W. Brewer, of the Chamber of Commerce and Phil Metchan, Jr. They arrived Wednesday morning in a private car accompanied by W. C. Wilkes, of the S. P. & S. and F. W. Robinson, of the O. W. R. & N. Mr. Chapman accompanied Mr. Strahorn on his trip into the interior, leaving Thursday morning, the rest of the party returning to Portland.

BROTHER THOUGHT DEAD.

After a separation of 42 years Thomas J. Tweet and his brother Torkel Tweet, who was believed to have been slain by Indians, while he was crossing the plains in the early seventies, were reunited in Bend last Wednesday morning. Torkel Tweet is engaged in mining at Liberty, Washington, and had spent several years in the Klondike. The meeting was brought about by a friend of the family who happened recently to be visiting in Liberty.

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PLEDGES GIVEN AT BIG MEETING

SUPPORT FOR STRAHORN ASSURED

Enthusiastic Delegates From Every Section of Central Oregon Meet to Reorganize Development League—New Officers are Elected.

At the biggest and most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Bend the Central Oregon Development League was reorganized last Wednesday and aid and support for the Strahorn railroad project promised by speakers from Portland and from every portion of Central Oregon.

Resides Mr. Strahorn and A. L. Mills and C. C. Colt, of the Portland committee, there were present representatives from every town from Culver to Burns and Lakeview. Snow on the roads between Fort Klamath and Crescent prevented the attendance of the Klamath delegation.

Began with a meeting in the afternoon in the Dream Theatre the proceedings of the day ended at a banquet given in the evening by the Bend Commercial Club, in the Emblem Club hall donated for the occasion. Messrs. Strahorn, Colt, Mills, Thompson and Chapman spoke at both meetings. In the evening, in addition, most of the interior towns to be touched by the new lines were heard from.

Of the speeches, aside from that made by Mr. Strahorn, those made by A. L. Mills and C. C. Colt, aroused the greatest applause. While careful to say that they could not speak for the city of Portland their individual promises of support, and especially Mr. Mills' assertion of his desire to get into the game, and his pledge of his heart, his hand and his pocket, were received as meaning the success of the project so far as the Portland end was concerned.

Mr. Strahorn's Speech.

Introduced by Toastmaster E. M. Lara early in the evening Mr. Strahorn was received with great applause. Before proceeding to his prepared speech he told something of his work in other sections, of the sort of road he intended to build and of the support he expected. A reference to November as an anniversary month with him and therefore as a satisfactory time in which to start the new project, was a theme seized by later speakers to the amusement of the audience.

Mr. Strahorn's prepared speech

concluded as follows: "Having now satisfied myself that the construction costs can be kept within the original estimates, and on various other hitherto unsettled matters, I am today finally ready to say that I will cast my lot with you on this great undertaking. But I urge you in your enthusiasm not to overlook the very serious sides of the venture. Don't for a moment forget the conditions I have named from the beginning.

Must Develop Resources.

"First, immediate, aggressive and continuous effort of all of you and your communities to work out this irrigation, drainage, sub-division and

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W. L. COBB, Pres. D. E. HUNTER, Vice-Pres
THOS. COBB, Cashier

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