

NO STATE AID TO IRRIGATION

MEASURE WILL NOW
BE ABANDONED

Brewer Says Support Fails to "Come From Quarters That Had Been Counted on For Assistance"—Proposed Law Found Faulty.

The Oregonian
Oregon voters will not have the opportunity next November of passing on a proposed constitutional amendment providing for state aid to irrigation and drainage projects.

J. W. Brewer, president of the Oregon Irrigation Congress, which initiated the movement for the proposed amendment, said yesterday that the plan will be dropped for the present owing to the lack of support from some quarters that had been counted on for assistance.

The educational campaign in the direction of state aid will be continued, however, and it is probable that the amendment will be submitted at the general election two years hence.

At its session last December the irrigation congress authorized a conference to draft amendments providing for state aid to irrigation and drainage projects and for a system of rural credits for the state.

This conference met at Salem on March 9. It was composed of 40 delegates representing 26 different organizations.

County Guaranty Proposed.
The conference committee on rural credits was composed of C. E. Spence, master of the State Grange; J. D. Brown, president of the Farmers' Union; and T. H. Bernard, president of the Oregon Federation of Labor. They have completed their labors and the petitions for a rural credit measure are now being circulated.

The committee on irrigation-drainage, composed of J. B. Kerr, C. C. Chapman and A. R. Thompson, has made its report. Two amendments are proposed, the first providing for the state purchase of bonds and other evidences of indebtedness issued by irrigation or drainage districts vested with the power of taxation, provided the interest on such bonds or evidences of indebtedness shall first have been guaranteed by some county or counties. The second amendment authorizes counties to guarantee the interest on such bonds or evidences of indebtedness, the annual liability not to exceed 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of the county.

Valuations are Too Low.
The plan looks good on paper, but will not work out in practice, said President Brewer yesterday. A study of the assessed valuation of those counties in which lie the large areas of semi-arid land and the cost of construction of the proposed projects, shows conclusively that the plan outlined will not prove satisfactory. Figures from six of the Eastern Oregon counties show that only one of the number has sufficient assessed valuation to guarantee the interest at 1 per cent on the projects now proposed.

"If these counties had sufficient assessed valuation to guarantee the interest on bonds as outlined in the amendment proposed, there would be no need for a state guarantee, as bonds would sell readily and at reasonable rates with the country back of them."

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With Five Year Extension Morson Can Complete Project.
(Crescent News.)

With another five year extension for Morson to complete the project he started 15 years ago, it would seem that his company could complete the work. The state of Oregon has been extremely lenient with him and the present administration is more than generous. Dietary taboos and venting personal spite is not manifest by the present administration and it is evident that if Morson intends to ever complete the project he will have the hearty co-operation of the state officials. The project is a big one and time and money needed to complete it. We are certain that had the state officials in the past shown the willingness to assist Morson that the present administration is doing, the work would have been further advanced, if not completed.

The completion of the project means much to both Crescent and

La Pine. Where today there is nothing but buckeye forest there will be homes and people engaged in diversified farming which will call for enterprise, better schools and larger churches; in fact, everything that needs to make little cities. Those who had faith in Morson and invested their money in the land will be saved a loss of part of it if not all of their investment, and while progress to the west has been staggering, now, it is no source in the amount of homesite to see the work held up by ridiculous or short sighted state or government officials.

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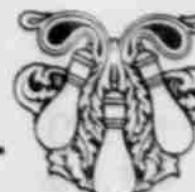
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