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PRESIDENT FAVORS BILL.

WANTS IRRIGATION MEASURE TO BECOME A LAW.

The Belief of Its Friends Is That the Law Necessary Can Be Passed in the Near Future.

A recent dispatch from Washington to the Oregonian says that President Roosevelt is showing a lively interest in the status of the irrigation bill which has passed the senate and has been reported to the house with certain amendments. The president has asked a number of members of congress as to the prospects for the early consideration of the measure and has indicated his earnest desire that the bill should become a law at this session of congress.

A thorough poll of the house is being made by friends of this irrigation measure, and enough is known of the results of this poll to warrant the statement that there is a considerable majority in favor of the bill. Speaker Henderson and the committee on rules have agreed that the bill shall be given full and fair consideration on the floor of the house at this session, and it is thought that it may come up for discussion early in June. The bill as amended by the house committee is satisfactory to the president and to all the irrigation forces, and it is taken for granted that if it passes the house and goes to conference that the senate will accept the house amendments and enact the bill as drawn by the house committee.

The situation in the house in regard to this measure is peculiar and politics are involved to a considerable extent. Unfortunately for the cause of irrigation nearly all the so-called leaders on the republican side, men like Representative Payne, of New York, Grosvenor, Dalzell and Cannon, are opposed to the bill, while the rank and file of the house, both democratic and republican, are in favor of it. Some of the republicans with a keen realization of the great importance of this measure, as it will affect the congressional campaign in many of the western states, believe that their so-called leaders have made a mistake in not pushing the irrigation bill as a distinctly administration and republican measure and enacting it as such. These same men believe that the bill will pass the house in spite of the opposition of some of the republican leaders and that the democrats will then be able to claim credit for the enactment of the law.

President Roosevelt does not consider party lines of any importance in securing what he believes to be much-needed legislation in this direction, and the democrats, aware of the opposition of some of the republicans, are quietly preparing to take the credit which the republicans who favor irrigation think should belong to their own party.

The poll of the house which has been taken to ascertain the position of the different members towards this bill shows that not more than twenty or thirty of the entire democratic side are opposed to it, and that the principal opposition lies with the republican leaders. At the same time strong support for the bill comes from republican sources and with this support is allied the entire approval of the president and his cabinet officers.

It was believed by those interested in securing an irrigation law, which would be entirely a home-makers' bill, that the measure as it passed the senate contained several loopholes through which speculators could have taken advantage of what was intended for the sole benefit of settlers, who would reside upon their claims for five years before expecting to secure title. The changes made by the house irrigation committee in the senate bill are slight in the matter of wording, but extraordinarily important in their effect

upon the meaning and intent of the measure.

The bill as it is now before the house is, in brief, a homestead law made applicable to the arid lands. It simply provides that the United States government should create new rivers, through the building of reservoirs and main line canals, and should so regulate the flow of streams already in existence that their contents would be available for irrigation during a season of drought. Only those are to be permitted to secure land under the newly created water supply who are in truth and in intent home-builders, and appropriations of land are to be restricted to the homestead law modified and securely guarded in its purpose by the operation of this special act. These settlers are not only to reside upon their land, but are to return to the government, in course of time, by a series of deferred payments, the entire cost of creating the supply of water which is to be made available.

There has been a remarkable growth in sentiment in congress in favor of such an irrigation measure. Many members who were utterly indifferent have become interested, and those who have looked into the matter are on the list of those from whom a favorable vote is expected. It is asserted and names are given that if the occasion presents itself a speech in favor of this bill could be secured from some congressman from every state in the union from Maine to California and from Florida to Washington. Some of the New England delegation are its most enthusiastic advocates, taking the broad view that what benefits the country in one part benefits it as a whole. These men realize that New England would not amount to much without the middle states, that the middle states would not have achieved their present greatness without the development of the central states, and that the commerce and industry of the central states is almost entirely dependent upon the new growth and development of the states west of the Mississippi river. The enormous commerce of Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and other western centers and markets comes almost entirely from the business done in the states west of the Missouri whose mines and farms are dependent upon irrigation for labor supply, crops and products.

It is looked upon as inevitable whether congress adopts this policy of reclamation of the arid public lands at this session or not, it is only a question of a short time when it will become a part of the national creed, and thoughtful republicans view with alarm the attitude of some of their leaders towards a policy which they believe within a short time will be accepted as a matter of course in the annual proceedings of congress. It was under a republican administration, after ten years of bitter controversy, that the homestead act became a law and the bill, introduced by Galusha Grow, was signed by President Abraham Lincoln. The speeches made against the homestead act read today with a strange similarity to the arguments made against the present proposed irrigation homestead act, which is the homestead act of 1862 merely modified to suit present conditions in the arid portion of the public land yet to be disposed of.

Dr. H. T. Hoople returned from Portland Thursday, where he accompanied M. N. Fegly last week to perform an operation on him. Dr. Hoople states that the morning the operation was to be performed the gathering in Mr. Fegly's throat broke and the doctors decided not to operate for the present. The case is a peculiar one and it baffles the Portland physicians as well as Dr. Hoople, and Mr. Fegly will remain in the hospital for some time.—Ontario Democrat.

Garden Seeds in great variety at Voegtly & Kenyon's.

A GREAT RUSH FOR LAND

OCCASIONED BY PROSPECT OF COLUMBIA SOUTHERN EXTENSION.

Hundreds of Thousands of Acres Taken in the Past Year in that District by Individual Entrymen.

As an indication of the way people are discounting the extension of the Columbia Southern Railroad up the Deschutes Valley, President Lytle has just obtained a statement from The Dallas land office showing that 196,960 acres of public land have been taken by individuals since the first of last November. There were 1022 homestead entries, covering 163,520 acres, and 209 timber entries, covering 33,440 acres. This does not include land selected by irrigation companies nor timber land that has been scripped. Most of this land lies in Crook County, but a small part of it is in Wasco.

There has also been great activity in the Lakewood land district, occasioned by the prospect that the Columbia Southern would build to Bend. Though Bend is some 25 miles north of the northern boundary of the Lakewood district, the railroad to Bend would be such an improvement over present transportation facilities for that region that there is increased demand for land clear down to the Klama reservation. All that country will be served by the Columbia Southern when it shall get to Bend. One of the important irrigation enterprises that has just obtained a contract from the State Land Board is in Walker Basin, which in Klamath county.

Before last November there were taken within 10 miles of the proposed extension of the Columbia Southern, in view of the extension of the road, more than 186,000 acres of government land.

These figures show how people have been rushing in to occupy land which the railroad is likely to serve. Assurance of transportation facilities will open that country and make it rich and populous.

MUST HAVE TROUT HATCHERIES.

While the Oregon Fish and Game Association has already done and is still doing much to prevent the depletion of Oregon's trout streams, says the Telegram, the problem of keeping up the supply is forcing itself upon the attention of the disciples Isaac Walton. The drain upon the trout streams is greater than the increase of fish. Of this there is no longer any question.

Streams that once fairly teemed with fish to-day give the ardent angler but scant returns for his labors. The experience of every fishing party that has been out this spring adds cumulative force to the growing conviction that the problem of keeping up the trout supply will soon have to be squarely met. All the light catches reported are not due to the high water, its muddy condition or yet high temperature. The truth is coming home that there are fewer fish in the streams.

Close seasons, the limit of catches and other protective legislation have done much to prevent the extermination of trout and delay the depletion of trout streams. The restocking of streams by the Oregon Fish and Game Association has also proven of invaluable benefit to the trout resources of the state.

But the supply is not keeping pace with the demand made upon Oregon's trout streams. The army of fishermen is yearly increasing. The extension of mining and milling operations, the denudation of forests and the expansion of agricultural industries work together for the woe of the finny tribe. The population of the state is increasing and civilization is encroaching upon the hitherto undisputed preserves of game fish toward the headwaters of trout streams. Population and civilization are enemies to game fish as well as to game animals and game birds. Artificial propagation of trout

appears to be the only solution of the problem. Oregon needs one or two trout hatcheries, and with the assistance of Oregon's delegation in congress an effort will be made by the sportsmen of Oregon to secure them. Trout hatcheries are operated with success in California, Colorado and Montana. They are established and maintained by the government. In the opinion of many the time is ripe for Oregon to get into line, for unless some effort is made to restock, many streams will in a very short time become entirely depopulated of fish.

Last year the Oregon Fish and Game Association planted about 155,000 small fry in the rivers and lakes of Oregon. This year the plantings aggregate 169,500 small fish. All the fish planted this year were Eastern brook trout.

HARNEY COUNTY'S BORAX MINE.

The Engineering and Mining Journal of a recent date contained the following article descriptive of the Rose Valley borax works, owned by J. M. Fulton and C. L. Taylor, of Reno, Nev:

Borax has been mined from a borate marsh deposit in Harney County, Southeastern Oregon, for five years past. The deposit covers some 10,000 acres of low land lying immediately below lake Alvord. With the present transportation facilities not more than 25 per cent of this area is capable of yielding ore of sufficient high grade to pay for the working. The richest portion of the deposit, consisting of some two thousand acres, lies close to the lake and is owned by the Rose Valley Borax Company.

Topographically this area is perfectly level and treeless. The ground is covered with a white incrustation several inches thick of borate of soda containing sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate, sodium chloride, etc. in varying proportions. During the long dry summers of that region the loose dry deposit is carefully shoveled by hand into small conical mounds or heaps set in regular rows and resembling a hay field in harvest time. After removing the original incrustation borates are quickly formed, and in a comparatively short time a second incrustation covers the ground. It is claimed that this process will continue indefinitely and the supply is therefore inexhaustible.

Since no mining is done in the winter sufficient material must be gathered in the summer months to supply the full capacity of the refining works which operate continually summer and winter. The crude material carries from 5 to 20 per cent boric acid.

The refining process is simple. The crude material is thrown into tanks of boiling water into which chlorine or sulphuric acid is introduced. In this heated solution the salts are already dissolved and the boric acid liberated. The hot solution is allowed to remain in the tanks twenty-four hours, after which the clear fluid is run off into tanks where it is allowed to remain until cool, where white pearly scales are formed, which are washed with cold water before they are removed from the tanks. The mother solution is reused until sufficient salt has accumulated for separation.

A superior quality of boric acid is produced which commands the highest market price. The annual output of the Oregon borax works is 400 tons of the refined article. This is shipped by mule team a distance of 130 miles to Winnemucca, Nev., whence it is shipped to Chicago and St. Louis. Occasional shipments are made to San Francisco.

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