

# The Times-Herald.

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NO. 30.

## IRRIGATION BILL IS PASSED

### WILL BE A LAW WHEN PRESIDENT SIGNS IT.

Creates a Reclamation Fund From Sale of Public Land--President Roosevelt Favorable Toward It.

The House passed the irrigation bill last week by a vote of 146 to 55. The irrigation bill, as passed, created a reclamation fund from the sale of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, less the amount to be paid to local land offices and 5 per cent due the state under existing laws for educational purposes, the reclamation fund to be used for the construction and maintenance of irrigation works in the states and territories enumerated. Provision is made for the payment out of the Treasury of deficiencies in the allowances to agricultural colleges owing to this disposition of public lands. The secretary of the interior is authorized to examine, survey and construct the irrigation works and report the cost thereof to congress at each session.

Section 4 provides for the letting of contracts for the works contemplated in sections when the necessary funds are available in the reclamation fund for such section.

Section 5 provides that "no right to the use of water for land in private ownership shall be sold for a tract exceeding 160 acres to any one land owner and no such right shall permanently attach until all payments therefor are made, and no such sale shall be made to any land owner unless he is a bona fide resident on such land or occupant thereof, residing in the neighborhood of such land."

Section 6 authorizes the secretary to use the reclamation fund for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation works.

Section 8 requires state control over waters of non-navigable streams, such as are used in irrigation.

#### PRESIDENT AND THE IRRIGATION BILL

President Roosevelt used his influence in every possible way to secure the enactment of the irrigation bill into law at the present session of congress. His interest in the measure has been such that he has had a number of conferences with senators and representatives in which he urged upon them the necessity for such a law. Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, saw him and at his request the President wrote a personal letter to Chairman Cannon, of the house committee on appropriations, in which he strongly expressed his views on the subject and indulged the hope that early and favorable action would be taken. Upon leaving the White House, Mr. Mondell said that the President had been of vast help to the irrigation cause, and was himself confident that the bill drawn by the joint committee of Western senators and members would pass.

#### DANGER IRRIGATION BILL FACES.

The passage of the irrigation bill in the house was a great victory for the Western men and President Roosevelt, who has been the main supporter of the proposition. The main opposition to the irrigation bill really proved the strongest faction in its favor. It was the jealousy of the East and Middle West against the development of the trans Mississippi country. They showed that their fear was that Eastern and Middle Western farmers would be depreciated if the arid regions of the West were irrigated. This was really a strong card in favor of the irrigation problem, as it pointed out that there were possibilities for the arid region.

The danger which the bill has now to face is a delay in the senate. Its opponents there have already prepared to send it to committee instead of conference, which would cause a great deal of delay. The irrigation men of the west may

head off this proposition by moving to concur in the house amendments, which would give an opportunity for debate, and would not prevent the bill being shelved. The lack of time for consideration in the senate of the amendment bill, and the conference report if there should be one, are the only dangers that stand in the way of irrigation legislation at this session.

At the vote Representatives Tongue, Moody, Cushman and Jones all voted with Western members for the bill, and against amendments, Jones taking occasion to make a brief vigorous speech, in which he pointed out that the reclamation lands, instead of entering into competition with the east and Middle West, would be thickly settled and create a market for products of those sections, as the crops grown on reclaimed lands are of a different character from those of the Eastern farms.

#### PASSED BY THE SENATE.

A later dispatch announces that the senate had concurred with the house amendments and passed the bill. All that is necessary for it to become a law is the president's signature.

#### Admiral Dewey to go to Sea.

Admiral Dewey is to go to sea again, flying his flag, with the four stars, in command of the greatest fleet in numbers the United States has gotten together since the days of the Civil War, and far more powerful in offense and defense even than any of those war fleets. Secretary Moody has conceived the idea, and after consulting the pleasure of Admiral Dewey it has been arranged that he shall be placed in supreme command of the fleet (comprising the North Atlantic, the European and the South Atlantic squadrons), which is to assemble near Culebra Island, in the West Indies, next December for the winter maneuvers. Secretary Moody himself desires to witness these maneuvers, and it is even possible that the President may find time to make a voyage to the south to see the big ironclads in war movements. Admiral Dewey goes gladly to his work.

It is settled that Secretary Moody will witness the summer movements of the North Atlantic squadron, involving combined naval and army attack on and defense of the Eastern approaches to New York City. It is expected he will board the Dolphin for the purpose, and he has invited as his guests Senator Hale, chairman of the senate naval committee; Representative Cannon, chairman of the house appropriation committee, and Representative Foss, chairman of the house naval committee. There will be other guests than these, but Secretary Moody has not yet announced their names.

#### Moody Says it is Fiction.

Representative Moody has been receiving numerous congratulations from his many friends in the house since the Washington Post referred to the articles in the Oregonian mentioning him as a Senatorial candidate. Mr. Moody says: "The local reporter's sensational article in the Oregonian of the 4th, setting forth in detail the product of his imagination of a concerted scheme for making me a candidate for the senate, probably served its purpose in furnishing a moment's entertainment to the readers of the paper, but it has no other value or significance, and probably no other object. It is pure fiction, and was properly and justly treated as such in the editorial of the next day. My loyalty to the Republican ticket, like my regret that the victory was not complete, was inspired simply by my lifelong devotion to the principles of the republican party. I had no thought of how the vote might affect me personally."

The Windsor is one of the most elegant and attractive bar rooms in Eastern Oregon, has the best line of cigars in Burns. Gentlemen mixologists and courteous treatment accorded all customers.

## NEW RAILROAD TO BE

### WORK ON RIPARIA-LEWISTON LINE TO BE PUSHED.

Separate Company to be Organized for That Railroad--Grade Imperceptible and Curves Are Slight.

President Mohler, of the O. R. & N. Co., has received word from New York to proceed with the construction of the Riparia-Lewiston Railroad as fast as material can be assembled for the work. In anticipation of this order he has had surveys on the line several days retracing it and getting everything in readiness for resuming construction work. The bridge location across the Clearwater River at Lewiston, has been surveyed. It is roughly estimated that the cost of the structure will be about \$250,000. Of course, the cost of 78 miles of railroad will greatly exceed this figure.

This road proceeding from harmonization of the differences between the O. R. & N. and the Northern Pacific as to the Clearwater country, it would be expected that the best line would be adapted for it, regardless of the company that first projected it. And this is said actually to be the case. The Northern Pacific surveyed a line up the south side of the Snake, when it was racing with the O. R. & N. for possession of the Clearwater valley, and the claim was then made that the south bank of the stream offered the best location for the railroad. But that claim has been abandoned, and it is now said that the only practicable route lies on the north bank of the Snake. That is the line now to be utilized. The grade is only about 17 feet to the mile, and the few curves do not in any place exceed 4 per cent.

Bids for the construction of the road have been called for to be presented at the office of Chief Engineer Kennedy after which time there will be no delay about letting the contract and getting the work under way. All these preliminary operations are being conducted by the O. R. & N. Co., but there will be a separate incorporation for the Riparia-Lewiston line, an there is for the road between Wallula and Grange City, on the lower Snake. That road was built and is owned by the Snake River Valley Railroad Company, of which W. W. Cotton, secretary and general attorney of the O. R. & N. Co., is president. Construction of the Riparia-Lewiston line will not wait for the organization of the new corporation, however. It is expected that dirt will be turned on the new work before the end of this month.

Construction on this road will not do away with steamboating on the Snake River. No matter which bank the railroad should be built on, there would still be the products on the opposite bank to get out to market, and the steamers must be used for the purpose. About half the local traffic of the Snake River line above Riparia will need to be freighted across the river in boats, and there will be plenty of business for the steamers after the trains shall be running.

#### WILL STOP WHIPPING AT PENITENTIARY.

A recent dispatch from Portland says: Governor-elect George E. Chamberlain says that as soon as he assumes the duties of the office of governor he will stop the whipping of prisoners at the state penitentiary. Several of the police department here, as well as a number of private citizens, have appealed to him to stop the practice, which is detrimental to the best interests of the prison and is decidedly inhuman. There are only three states in the union which permit the whipping of convicts, and Oregon is one of them.

Under Pennoyer's administration whipping was abolished at the penitentiary. Under Governor Lord's administration the whipping post was resumed on account of the conduct of Abe Lawrence, who was sent up from this city. No other way could be found to make him obey the

rules of the prison. Since that time the punishment has been general, until at the present time the convicts are unmercifully whipped for very small, petty offenses, such as talking to one another, talking back to the guards, laughing or shirking work.

When whipped the convicts are stripped of their clothes and their hands are elevated over their heads by means of handcuffs. With the first blow almost the blood comes and nine times out of ten the punishment is so severe that the culprit faints. After the whipping the prisoner is made to put on his coarse shirt, which scratches the bleeding and raw back until the pain is almost unbearable.

Both Tracey and Merrill, the convicts who made their escape last Monday, have been given several whippings. It was on account of the severe whippings in a measure that the escapes were driven to take such desperate chances.

#### STATE LAND TO HIGHEST BIDDER.

The Oregon State Land board has advertised for sale to the highest bidder 2240 acres of fine timber land in the southwestern part of the state. Of the advertised acreage, 1280 acres are located in Coos county, and 960 acres in Curry county. The land has been recently surveyed, and by reason of its value there are several applicants for the purchase thereof at the nominal figure of \$1.25 per acre. The board has concluded, as a fair means of disposing of the property, to advertise the same and sell it to the highest bidder. The law regulating the sale of these lands confers upon the board the right to sell the same as it may consider best, and in view of the authority vested in them the members of the board have decided that it is within their province to sell the land in the manner that may appear to them just and equitable. The time for filing bids expires at 12 o'clock noon Tuesday, June 24.

#### Oil to Lay Dust a Short Line Experiment.

For some years past the dust on the Idaho division of the Oregon Short Line has been a source of great annoyance to the passengers, especially since there has been considerable work in straightening out the grade and putting in long sidings and otherwise disturbing the roadbed. The Short Line hopes, however, to abate this nuisance and make a trip through Idaho, especially between Mountain home and Glenn's Ferry as pleasant as riding over the Sheridan Hill ballast in Eastern Wyoming.

With this end in view an oil sprinkler was recently purchased for use during the dry season. It has arrived at Glenn's Ferry, and the work of sprinkling the roadbed will be started in a few days. As yet the move is only in the nature of an experiment, but it is anticipated that it will affect the purpose, with the result that patrons of the dining car will miss the grit in their viands.

Trainmen are watching the outcome with considerable interest.

#### Estray Notice.

One sorrel horse, between 8 and 9 years old, weight about 1100 lbs, branded with a blotted H H or H N, is now in my field and has been there for some time. He is well broke and very gentle. The owner can have same by proving property and paying bill.

M. V. HAKER.

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