The Times-Herald.

VOL. XV. BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, JULY 12, 1902. NO. 33.

The Times-Herald.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year	$2.00
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THE NEW IRRIGATION BILL

MONEY FROM LAND SALES TO GO INTO A RECLAMATION FUND.

The Secretary of the Interior is Directed to Make Surveys For Storage Reservoies.

The general irrigation bill recently adopted by both house and senate, and signed by the president, reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That all moneys received from the sale and disposal of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, begining with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, including the surplus of fees and commissions in excess of allowance to registers and receivers, and excepting the 5 per centum of the proceeds of the sales of public lands in the above states set aside by law for educational and other purposes, shall be, and the same are hereby, reserved, set aside and appropriated as a special fund in the treasury, to be known as the "reclamation fund" to be used in the examination and survey for and the construction and maintenance of irrigation works for the storage, division and development of waters for the reclamation of arid and semi arid lands in the said states and territories, and for the payment of all other expenditures provided for this act; Provided That in case the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands other than those realized from the sale and disposal of lands referred to in this section are insufficient to meet the requirements for the support of agricultural colleges in the several states and territories, under the act of August 30, 1890, entitled "An act to apply a portion of the proceeds of the public lands to the more complete endowment and support of the colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts, established under the provisions of an act of congress approved July 2, 1862," the deficiency, if any, in the sum necessary for the support of the said colleges shall be provided for from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 2. That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized and directed to make examinations and surveys for, and to locate and construct, as herein provided irrigation works for the storage, diversion and development of waters, including artesian wells, and to report to congress at the begining of each regular session as to the results of such examinations and surveys, giving estimates of cost of all contemplated works, the quantity and location of the lands which can be irrigated therefrom, and all facts relative to practicability of each irrigation project; also the cost of works in progress of construction, as well as of those which have been completed

Sec. 3. That the secretary of the interior shall, before giving the public notice provided for in section 4 of this act, withdraw from the public entry the lands required for any irrigation works contemplated under the provisions of this act, and shall restore to public entry any of the lands so withdrawn when, in his judgment, such lands are not required for the purpose of this act; and the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized, at or immediately prior to the time of beginning the surveys for any contemplated irrigation works, to withdraw from entry, except under the homestead laws, any public lands believed to be susceptible of irrigation from said works; Provided, That all lands entered and entries made under the homestead laws within areas so withdrawn during such withdrawal shall be subject to all the provisions, limitations, charges, terms and conditions of this act; that said surveys shall be prosecuted diligently to completion, and upon the completion thereof and the necessary maps, plans and estimates of cost, the secretary of the interior shall determine whether or not said project is practicable and advisable, and if determined to be impracticable or unadvisable he shall thereupon restore said lands to entry; that public lands which it is proposed to irrigate by means of any contemplated works shall be subject to entry only under the provisions of the homestead laws in tracts of not less than forty nor more than one hundred and sixty acres, and shall be subjected to the limitations, charges, terms, and conditions herein provided; Provided, That the commutation provisions of the homestead laws shall not apply to entries made under this act

Sec 4. That upon the determination by the secretary of the interior that any irrigation project is practicable, he may cause to be let contracts for the construction of the same, in such portions or sections as it may be practicable to construct and complete as parts of the whole project, providing the necessary funds for such portions or sections are available in the reclamation fund, and thereupon he shall give public notice of the lands irrigable under such project, and limit of area per entry, which limit shall represent the acreage which, in the opinion of the secretary, may be reasonably required for the support of a family upon the lands in question, also of the charges which shall be made per acre upon the said entries, and upon lands in private ownership which may be irrigated by the waters of the said irrigation project, and the number of annual installments, not exceeding 10, in which such charges shall be paid and the time when such payments shall commence. The said charges shall be determined with a view of returning to the reclamation fund the estimated cost of construction of the project, and shall be apportioned equitably; Provided, That in all construction work eight hours shall constitute a day's work, and no Mongolian labor shall be employed thereon.

Sec. 5 That the entrymen upon lands to be irrigated by such works shall, in addition to compliance with the homestead laws, reclaim at least one half of the total irrigable area of his entry for agricultural purposes, and before receiving patent for the lands covered by his entry shall pay to the government the charges apportioned against such tract, as provided in section 4 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 sale shall be made to any landowner unless he be an actual bona fide resident on such land, or occupant thereof residing in the neighborhood of said land, and no such right shall permanently attach until all payments therefor are made. The annual installments shall be paid to the receiver of the local land office fo the district in which the land is situated, and a failure to make any two payments when due shall render the entry subject to cancelation, with the forfeiture of all rights under this act, as well as of any moneys already paid thereon. All moneys received from the above sources shall be paid into the reclamation fund, registers and receivers shall be allowed the usual commissions on all moneys paid for lands entered under this act.

Sec. 6. That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized and directed to use the reclamation fund for the operation and maintenance of all reservoirs and irrigation works constructed under the provisions of this act are made for the major portion of the lands irrigated from the waters of any of the works herein provided for, then the management and operation of such irrigation works shall pass to the owners of the lands irrigated thereby, to be maintained at their expense under such form of organization and under such rules and regulations as may be acceptable to the secretary of the interior: Provided, That the title to and the management and operation of the reservoirs and the works necessary for their protection and operation shall remain in the government until otherwise provided by congress

Sec. 7. That where, in carrying out the provisions of this act, it becomes necessary to acquire any rights or property, the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized to acquire the same for the United States by purchase or by condemnation under judicial process, and to pay from the reclamation fund the sum which may be needed for that purpose, and it shall be the duty of the attorney-general of the United States upon every application of the secretary of the interior, under this act, to cause proceedings to be commenced for condemnation within 30 days from the receipt of the application at the department of justice.

Sec. 8. That nothing in this act shall be construed as affecting or intending to affect or to in any way interfere with the laws of any state or territory relating to the control, appropriation, use or distribution of water used in irrigation, or any vested right acquired thereunder, and the secretary of the interior, in carrying out the provisions of this act, shall proceed in conformity with such laws, and nothing herein shall in any way affect any right of any state or of the federal government or of any landowner, appropriator, or user of water in, to or from any interstate stream or the waters thereof. Provided, That the right to the use of water acquire under the provisions of this act shall be appurtenant to the land irrigated, and beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure, and the limit of the right.

Sec. 9. That it is hereby declared to be the duty of the secretary of the interior in carrying out the provisions of this act, as far as the same may be practicable and subject to the existence of feasible irrigation projects, to expend the major portion of the funds arising from the sale of public lands within each state and territory hereinbefore named for the benefit of arid and semiarid lands within the limits of such state or territory: Provided, that the secretary may temporarily use such portion of said funds for the benefit of arid and semiarid lands in any particular state or territory hereinbefore named as he may deem advisable, but when so used the excess shall be restored to the fund as soon as practicable, to the end that ultimately, and in any event, within each 10 year period after the passage of this act, the expenditures for the benefit of the said states and territories shall be equalized according to the proportions and subject to the conditions as to practicability and feasibility aforesaid.

Sec. 10. That the secretary of the interior is hereby authorized to perform any and all acts and to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into full force and effect.

SHEEP CROWD THE RANGE.

Livestock Agent C. J. Millis, of the O. R. & N. says there are more sheep on the Oregon ranges than they ever knew before at one time. Comparatively few were sent to market last year because the price was not so high as the year before, and this resulted in a large accummutation of sheep that would have moved under other conditions. The large increase this season has still further crowded the range and brought the number of animals well up toward 5,000,000. This is more than there is range for ordinarily.

The season thus far has been exceptionally favorable for the sheep, however, and there has been comparatively little trouble where in an ordinary season there would have been great slaughter of the innocents, and there has not been entire harmony this year, But the cool, moist weather has made grass plentiful and there has been little occasion to fight for pasture. But it is also early in the season. It is expected that the sheep will experience considerable difficulty in getting food along in dog days or later. Then will come the real test to see how many sheep can be maintained on the Oregon range. And the conditions are such that the market is rather expecting the price of sheep to fall.

No large shipments of sheep have gone East this year. If the corn crop of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa shall turn out good, a considerable sheep movement in that direction may be looked for, for the price of screenings, on which sheep are fattened, is governed by the price of corn, and a large corn crop will mean cheap screenings and a heavy demand for range sheep to fatten. The present prospect for corn is good, and it is certain that the overpressure on the Oregon ranges will welcome the relief that will come from an active demand in that quarter. A few bands of sheep have been driven into California this year and many more are likely to that way, but the 100,000 or so sent to adjoining states are hardly missed from our millions.

The wool clip has been unusual for both quantity and quality. The quantity is not adequately represented by figures of weights, for the wool is so clean that the fleeces are lighter than common. But the wool is there, just the same, and it is of long even fiber that gives it added value. Favorable weather during the growing season accounts for the extra quality and the large number of animals shern accounts for the extra quantity. Satisfactory prices are paid for the clip and the wool is moving off to market freely and even without the rate disturbances that have characterized the business heretofore since railroads began competing for it.

Neat cattle have brought too good a price on the Coast markets to permit much of a movement east. Prices have been so high that Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas, who formerly drew heavily on the Oregon ranges for feeders, have this year been stocked from Texas, and they are likely to continue to draw from that source.

A few thousand cayuses have been taken from the ranges for army use in Africa and for the Linnton pickling and fertilizer works, but there are still a vast number of animals at large that aught, in the interest of the stock business, to be gotten out of the country. An ornery cayuse pony that will hardly bring enough in the market to pay his freight to the boneyard consumes as much pasture as would be required for a 1000-pound steer. Many thousands of these worthless animals eat out the range of Eastern Oregon and make hard picking for cattle. And, of course, they increase faster than the useful and profitable animals, for which there is a good demand at all times.

The prosperity of the livestock men tends to overgrazing of the range. They do not care to sell until they can get the top prices of the year before, and often the market will not justify them. Then the stockmen, not needing the money, hold their animals for better effers. And the stock accummulates and the range suffers.

NOTICE FOR BIDS.

Bids will be received up to July 13, 1902, at the office of the trustees of the Drewsey School Dist. No. 13, for the erection of a school building and out buildings.

Plans and specifications on file at the office of trustees. Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

E. L. BEEDE, Chairman.
A. I. JOHNSON, Clerk.

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.

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