

TO CLEAR IRRIGATION FIELD

ARBITRATION FAIR TO ALL THE INTERESTS IN CASE.

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"I think the matter should be taken up with the Pilot Butte Development Company on a square business basis," said Mr Lytle yesterday. "It should be ascertained what will compensate the company for its expenditures, and then we should raise the money and buy the rights and property, leaving nothing in the way of government action under the new law. I think that money should be raised by the citizens of Portland and the Columbia Southern Railroad, as the parties most interested in the development of that section of the state. Our company will willingly do its share."

"How should the amount be determined?" "Oh, that is a matter with detail that can easily be arranged. I would suggest a competent, disinterested board of arbitration or appraisal. Men of knowledge and sound judgment in irrigation matters may be found who, upon examination of the ground, and a statement of the legal status of the enterprise, can form a reliable estimate of its worth."

"There is considerable property belonging to the Development Company that has no direct bearing upon the matter of irrigation; for example a sawmill, a store, some houses and quite a bit of land that does not require irrigation. The company might keep all that and simply let us have what would conflict with the new government work. It is possible, of course, that the Development Company might want to sell all or none, in which case I believe in taking all and paying a fair sum for it. Our return will come indirectly from the development of the country. I have no sympathy with the spirit that would induce capital to come to our state and the try to clinch it. No one will be injured with fair and reasonable treatment, and we certainly have the right to try to get the most favorable arrangements possible."

"That comes as a pleasant surprise, in view of the seeming desire to confiscate our property and throw us out of the country," said Mr. Drake. "I am impressed with the spirit of fairness. If it is really found desirable to get us out of the field in order that the government may operate there under the new law, I have no doubt that some such method as that suggested by Mr. Lytle will reach that end. But does anybody know that the government would take hold of that field if we were not there? It is not always wise for the young woman to order her wedding trousseau before the young man proposes."

Mr. Drake reflected a minute, and then reached into his pocket and drew out a letter, which, he said, has been received from a gentleman whose advice he had asked for just such a situation as seemed to be in process of development.

The letter ran in this wise:

"If I owned privileges or rights that somebody else should want, my price to the government would be the same as to an individual; and I suppose your price would be the same."

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The Eastern Oregon people who are protesting against the proposed immense forest reserve up there make out a strong case, and their representations are entitled to careful consideration by the authorities at Washington.—Telegram.

Our farmers have all realized well from their crops this year and it is hoped a larger acreage will be cultivated next season. There is big money in farming in Harney valley, as prices of grain and vegetables, as well as stock of all kinds have been at the top notch with indications of raising higher.

A merchant in a country town recently used a bulletin board to advertise his business instead of putting an ad in his home paper. An old granger with the gable end of his pants out came along and saw the sign: "Before you buy pants come in and see ours." He went in and there was not a man clerk in the store. He bought a corn-cob pipe and went out whistling, "There's No Place Like Home."—Exchange

Mr. Lytle's suggestion that the people of Oregon ought to buy out such rights in the Upper Deschutes region as have been established or acquired by private irrigation companies under the Carey act, where they interfere with operations which the government is willing to undertake, is both timely and practical. However much it is to be regretted that private exploiters have gotten in the way of National enterprise, there is still no wish in any quarter to deal with these exploiters other than in a perfectly fair way. That some of them have established rights and have in good faith and with legitimate purpose invested considerable sums of money in preliminary operations is unquestionably true. It appears that if they were out of the way the government would step in under the new irrigation policy and do freely the work which they have taken as a speculation. It is believed that, in view of the changed conditions and of the public interests involved, the company which holds the most important contract under the Carey law, and which has expended the most money, would be willing to retire upon reasonable terms, and it is possible that the irrigation authorities would be willing to accept the preliminary work done and make an appropriation to cover its costs. Any discrepancy between the amount necessary to the government and the amount which the company might be willing to pay might be made up by a difficulty to be made up by the people of the state. There are, of course, a good many points to be settled before Mr Lytle's suggestion can be worked out, but they are not of the sort to discourage the hope that the thing can be done Oregon's share of the fund now in the hands of the irrigation authorities is approximately \$1,000,000, and it would be a pity, truly, if this fund should be diverted elsewhere through the appropriation for private and speculative operations of the tracts which the government would gladly water for us out of its own free bounty.—Oregonian.

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