

# The Times-Herald.

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## THE VITAL ISSUE

### GOVERNMENT WORK DEPENDS ON STATE LAWS.

Should Elect Enthusiastic Irrigation in the Legislature in order That Work be Carried Out.

at Oregon: Judge S. A. Lowell, is city, one of the very fore- workers in the great irrigation movement, writes the following appeal to citizens of Oregon re necessity of electing irriga- tionists to the legislature, in order by wise laws, the state may be ready to receive the blessings of irrigation, plans for which are being energetically pur- sued in different portions of the

gr., ders are urged to read and or well Judge Lowell's seti- on this important question: rit me to urge through your ons, upon the eve of the se- political conventions, that are interests confronting the of Oregon more important party triumph or individual

imp- refer to the necessity of such orion of the laws of the state- re- wing to the use of its waters as End- ment the requirements of the Pres- ional government in its reclama- doze- projects.

for a greater responsibility ever n ordi- upon a legislature of a West- er for- than will rest upon that sh assemblies at Salem in Janu- next. The enactment of a pro- vative and comprehensive irriga- tion act will unquestionably mean immediate beginning of perma- nent government operations within

ER- borders, which will not cease millions of dollars have been ended, and desert places re- ved in abundant crops and hap- homes.

E, ar- the other hand, failure to leg- islate, or to legislate wisely, will in delay of work, which is to be crowning glory of the century rid America.

While the engineers of the geo- logical survey are already prosecut- ing their labors in this state, it is understood that such work is primary in its character, and nothing permanent or decisive will be done until there shall be ef- fective radical amendments to our

arar bill will be drawn by the very the irrigation commission appoint- ed by the state law board, acting in collaboration with the experienced topographic engineers in the gov- ernment service, but, however meri- torious or necessary such measure may be, strong men in both branch- es of the legislature to urge and

tain it. Many of the states in the arid have recently enacted new laws upon these subjects by sub- stantial unanimous votes of their legislatures, but in this state, when conditions exist as to soil, cli- mate and humidity, the desired results will probably be reached only by labor, compromise and

romany. Legislation, it now seems probable that the opening of another spring will witness in the government's first irrigation experiment in Oregon. It is hoped here will be followed that like work in every other county in every other stream where water is available, and arid lands will be put to artificial application.

Will not all political parties in our state, which seem to be in balance at this time, shall determine this. Respectfully,

Stephen A. Lowell.

RULES UNDER CAREY ACT.

State Land Board to

Special from Salem to

One of the

most important tasks of the State Land Board in carrying out the provisions of the arid-land law remains to be performed in the adoption of rules and regulations governing the distribution of water. The board has been asked by the Three Sisters Irrigation Company to adopt rules to be observed by settlers who take land reclaimed by that company in its 27,000-acre tract.

The principal features of the rules are those pertaining to the quantity of water to be supplied, the time when it is to be furnished, time of payment thereof by the settler, method of measurement, place of delivery of water, method of enforcing payment, and diminution of compensation if the water be not supplied in full quantity. These matters are of great importance to settlers and the members of the board desire to make the rules fair and equitable as between the settler and the company.

According to law, the rules and regulations are to be made by the company, but must be approved by the State Land Board. The Three Sisters Company submitted rules and asked the Board to adopt the same.

### STOCKMEN GET CONSIDERATION.

R. B. Miller, general freight agent of the O. R. & N., was one of the traffic officials present in Chicago at the conference held February 25, with the transportation committee of the National Livestock Association. This committee was appointed pursuant to a resolution adopted at the Portland convention in January to present to the railroads the demand for changes in the method of handling livestock in transit, to ask that trains carrying shipments of cattle, horses, sheep or other livestock be gotten over the road at an average speed of 20 miles per hour: that when more than ten cars of stock were being moved at one time no dead freight be hauled on the same train, and that the railroads issue free return transportation for shippers accompanying their stock to market.

"The members of the committee and traffic representatives present discussed the question of return transportation and the service given to stock shippers," said Mr. Miller, "but no action was taken. Senator Harris, of Kansas; E. S. Gosney, of Arizona; Charles F. Martin, of Denver, and M. P. Buell, of Chicago, were among members who presented the stock shippers' views, and various traffic officials present stated their ideas. The committee was asked to put its requests in written form and submit the questions for further consideration.

### COMBINE FOR OWN PROTECTION.

A recent Associated Press dispatch from Salt Lake, says: The leading cattlemen of several western states have organized a corporation whose object is to protect the interests of stockmen in shipping. The new company is called the Western Stock Growers Corporation. It was incorporated under the laws of Virginia and is capitalized at \$500,000 in shares of \$100 each. The company will own and operate a number of agencies at the important shipping points such as Kansas City, South Omaha, Denver, Fort Worth, St. Louis, Chicago, St. Paul and Salt Lake.

The regular meeting of the Harney County Live Stock Association will be held in the County Court House on Saturday April 2d.

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## WASH ALKALI OUT OF SOIL.

### CHEMIST TELLS OF SOME INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS.

Of Great Value to Eastern Oregon and Idaho if the Scheme is Practical One--Looks Simple.

While discussing various methods of getting rid of the alkali in the soil of certain sections of eastern Oregon with a group of friends Mr. H. C. Innis, a Baker City assayer and chemist stated these interesting facts:

"Very effective use could be made of those spring freshets if preparation was made for them in the fall. During the summer the alkali dissolved in the mountain granites evaporates here in the valley and increases the amount of harmful ingredients already burdensome to the soil. Just north of Irwin is a place where this evaporation is very apparent. In the spring much of this is washed off by the excess of water.

"Making use of this fact government experts in irrigation have been redeeming alkali lands by washing out the alkali. The plot of ground on which the demonstrative experiment was performed consisted of forty acres west of Salt Lake City, near Williams Lake. The highest point on the land was only eight feet above the water level of the lake. Drain tiles four inches in diameter were laid every 150 feet, having at the head an intake for the fresh water and at the foot an outlet to the lake. The drains were four feet below the surface.

"The land was platted and arranged for sectional flooding by levees. Once each week the land was flooded to a depth of four inches in the summer of 1903. In the fall of 1902 the land had been flooded and allowed to remain until the following spring.

"An analysis of the land in the fall of 1902 showed 1363 tons of alkali in the first foot, 1540 in the second foot, 1766 in the third foot and 1982 in the fourth foot, or a total of 6651 tons of alkali in the forty acre plot. In May of the following spring more than half of this alkali had been washed out. The analysis showed in the first foot 499 tons, in the second 650 tons, in the third 1066 tons, in the fourth 1265 tons or a total of 4480 tons to the plot. The upper portion of this soil as might be expected, was benefited the most.

"In October the full effects of the washing became apparent. In the first foot there only remained one-thirteenth of the original amount of alkali, in the second foot there was 158 tons, one-eighth of the original amount, in the third 830 tons, less than one-fifth the amount contained at first, and in the fourth foot 607 tons, or less than one-third the first quantity.

"In all there remained but 1221 tons of the alkali, that is 4430 tons of alkali had been washed out in a year; 4648 tons of this passed out the outlet of the drain, the remainder sank and was carried away by the natural methods, and leaves nothing harmful in the soil, as do many cures."

### JAMES H. GWINN IS VERY HOPEFUL.

Says Quality and Quantity of Wool Will be Good This Year.

James H. Gwinn, the secretary of the Oregon Woolgrowers association is very hopeful that the sheepmen of this part of the state will have prosperous times when the coin is brought in from the clips later in the spring and he does not share the gloomy opinion of some of the buyers to the effect that the price of wool will have to fall before it will be bought by the commission men.

"There is but little wool in the east at present" said Mr. Gwinn, and the market is not overstocked with the remains of last year's clip. Wool is in as great demand now in the Eastern markets as it was last year and there is no reason to be-

lieve that the big firm will hold back in their buying. In fact every indication points to the fact that the firms will want all the first grade wool they can get and will be willing to pay for what they buy.

"The eastern firms are preparing to send their buyers to this part of the state and as many will be here when the wool begins to come in as was here last year, and they will all buy just as fast as they did then.

The Arizona clip is now in the hands of the buyers, having all been bought as soon after shearing as could be, which shows something of the hunger of the market.

"There is no reason for the growers to worry about their price for it will come. I do not know that it will run higher than it did last year, it may in some cases but in the majority of clips it will be about the same perhaps, but one thing is certain and that is that the wool of Umatilla county and of Eastern Oregon in general is of better quality last season than it has been for many years. It will be as heavy in fleece, and as good in staple as it has in the history of the county and from this reason alone the growers should take heart of hope and not be discouraged by any tales of starvation prices or of overstocked markets.

"Green feed has been plenty all the winter long, the sheep went into the season in the best of condition and have stayed there through all the cold weather. In fact the winter has been so open, the feed so plentiful and the general conditions so favorable that the wool has never stopped growing for a day, the sheep have never lost flesh, and the clips will come on heavier, cleaner and of better quality than has been noted for several years. I do not remember of a year more favorable for the wool men than this one promises to be.

"Taking the situation as it is and counting the price at the same figure as it was last year it is easy to see that the wool grower will have more money at the end of the season than he had last year by many dollars. He has not had to feed, all of his fat has been picked from the ranges and not from the pocket. His sheep are numerous and in far better condition. Their fleeces are heavier than in many years and have been grown clean white.

"They will be sheared freer of dirt than last year, will have more wool of a greater strength and life which will take in most cases the top place in the market. It can be readily seen from this state of affairs that the Umatilla and Eastern Oregon sheepman has nothing to fear from the markets. He will come out of the year with more wool of a better grade, and at as good a price as last year. And he will have the market to sell it in, in spite of the tales of a dreading demand and depression in price."

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## PRESIDENT ECCLES IN BAKER

### WILL EXTEND SUMPTER VALLEY, AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

Waiting Only on The Weather and The Right of Way--Mr. Eccles Busy Maps, Surveys, Etc.

President David Eccles of the Sumpter Valley railroad arrived from Utah Sunday and will spend two weeks here working out the plans for the extension of the road through the John Day country and into Canyon and Buros, says the Baker City Democrat. When seen in his office yesterday Mr. Eccles was very busy with maps, estimates, profiles and surveys. He stopped work long enough to give the Democrat man a pleasant half hour and when asked in regard to his plans and the statements made in the evening paper concerning them said:

"We expect to begin work on the extension of the Sumpter Valley just as soon as the weather will permit and we have secured the right of way for same across the public domain.

"As to the Baker City Herald, we have asked nothing from them and have no favors to curry in that direction and I can see no reason for their attack upon the road.

"The statements made in the paper are manufactured out of whole cloth. All the road has asked of the interior department is a right of way through the forest reserve lands and public domain. A private petition was filed with the department to have restored to public entry certain lands along the proposed line of road for colonization purposes. The Sumpter Valley road is the only road that can give the people of that particular section any relief and we certainly shall build the extension if we can get the right of way and there is any possible show to make the road pay anything at all.

"It seems to me that such action as the Herald has taken is detrimental to the public interest and if there is to be any rapid development of this country it should be frowned down by the heavy business men and general public to be benefited by the extension of Baker City's trade into a larger field."

The petition to the interior department for the restoration to public entry of certain lands in the John Day country was seen by the Democrat before it was forwarded to Washington and the names thereon were leading bankers and business men of Eastern Oregon.

District Attorney Wm. Miller came over from Ontario last Thursday and left again for his home the following day. The business which called him over in such unfavorable weather was of an official character.—Grant County News.

JOHN D. DALY, PRES. N. U. CARPENTER, CASHIER.  
FRANK R. COFFIN, VICE PRES. A. C. WELCH, ASST. CASHIER.

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