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WILL OREGON GET IRRIGATION

STRINGS TO THE \$2,000,000 APPROPRIATED FOR MALHEUR.

Harney County's Project Seems to be Left in the Background—Portland People Talk and Newspapers Comment.

The plans of the government on the line of irrigation in Oregon are occupying considerable space in the various papers of the state but statements are as contradictory as the Russia-Japan war news. One day it appears that a certain project has received consideration and then it is learned there are strings to the proposition and such a complication of provisions as to almost make it an impossibility to come up to the requirements.

During the past few days much has been said about the Malheur and Umatilla projects but Harney County is completely ignored. Just why this is done is not clear to the friends and supporters of irrigation here.

Just why these other projects should be exploited in preference to the admitted most feasible project in the state, where there is more land susceptible to reclamation under one system than two of any other proposed sites and at a cost less than half of that estimated for other projects is, indeed, a question that we cannot answer. Other places have an advantage of lower elevation closer proximity to market, but yet Harney County is not so high as to effect crops materially or is the question of transportation one that should interfere. We raise better crops—more to the acre and of better quality—than many places that are recognized as fine agricultural districts.

We have been accused of not taking enough interest in the irrigation question, yet we have done everything possible to assist the government and are willing to do more when given an opportunity and instructed as to what is wanted and how to proceed.

It is known, of course, that Harney County's project has not advanced so far in the experimental stage and preliminary work as other sections. That the measurements of water that have been taken recently are not yet known to the reclamation officers at headquarters, yet we do not feel that we should be completely overlooked.

It is now reported that high officials and experts in the service will visit us in the near future—in fact every proposed site in the state—and pass upon their merits. We court such investigation. We are willing to submit our scheme on its merits. If the government then considers it better to take up projects where from 75,000 to 100,000 acres can be reclaimed at a cost of \$25 to \$30 per acre in preference to more than 200,000 acres here at an estimated cost of \$7 or less per acre, we will have nothing further to say.

If we are to have government aid to reclaim this large body of land, the sooner it is taken up the better for all concerned. Each year will add more complications in the way of securing contracts or approval of water holders, as land is being taken up right along and people devising some means of getting water on the land at considerable expense. If these individuals finally succeed in irrigating lands by means of engines, pumping stations, or otherwise, they will not be so anxious for government aid and not take hold of the matter with such enthusiasm as now.

The quoted interview of A. King Wilson in the Portland Journal published in these columns shows that there is evidently a political pull somewhere and that it has some influence. Possibly this is only with minor officers, however, and extended so far as to materially do a detriment to any section. He is quoted as saying that even the private Corey act reclamation scheme over on the Deschutes would be of more benefit to Oregon than the Lewis and Clark fair. What would be the benefit, then, if the Harney County scheme was taken up by the government?

Mr. Whistler, who has charge of the work in this state is also quoted in the East Oregonian to the effect that the government has made no definite selection and that it would not until further investigations were made.

No Location Made, Says Whistler.

John T. Whistler left this morning for Echo to supervise the work of preliminary surveying and sinking of test holes in the Butter creek district. Referring to the personal revamping of the report that "the government has actually concluded to build a reservoir on Butter creek," Mr. Whistler said: "Please quote me as saying that the government has done nothing of the kind. No living man knows where in Umatilla, Morrow or Malheur counties the government will build reservoirs; or whether, in fact, it will build any at all. All the work done up to the present time and the work that is in progress, now is strictly and only preliminary, and in the nature of investigations. Further, so far as anybody yet knows, it will never get past the experimental stage. In other words, if there will ever be government irrigation works in Umatilla, Morrow or Malheur counties, no one as yet knows.—East Oregonian.

Portland People Talk.

The Portland Journal says: Local business men are of the opinion that the reclamation of the desert lands in the Malheur district and around Pasco, Wash., will increase the population of Oregon many fold. It will also mean that Portland wholesalers will enjoy a very large trade from fertile fields that are now a barren waste.

The announcement that Secretary Hitchcock had decided to set aside \$1,000,000 of the reclamation fund for the irrigation of 75,000 acres of land near Vale, Oregon, providing that settlers along the Malheur river may be induced to surrender their water claims, has caused general rejoicing throughout this state. It is the opinion of many Portland men who are interested in the Malheur project that if Chief Engineer Newell will treat the people of Oregon fairly in this matter, the government will find no trouble in securing the water rights now held by settlers along the Malheur.

In speaking of the rights of the settlers who already own small irrigation ditches on the Malheur river, A. King Wilson, the attorney, this morning said:

"If the government will agree to give the settler as much free water as it takes away from him, I do not see wherein there would be any trouble. The pioneer who has taken his family out on the desert and built a home should not be expected to give up everything for nothing. That pioneer is a producer—he is of a class that every state wants and needs. But I am sure that if the government will agree to give him as good as it takes, there would be no hitch anywhere along the line of irrigation work now proposed.

"The irrigation of 75,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Vale would mean that thousands of families would move into Oregon. Farms in an irrigated country are only small patches. Here a man can make money on a few acres. This means that the homes will be close together, and that churches, school-houses and banks will be scattered thickly about the watered land.

"Some time ago I was asked by a man who stood near the government officials if the people of Oregon would be satisfied if \$3,500,000 were spent in Washington along the Oregon border, instead of \$2,000,000 in this state and \$1,500,000 in the northern commonwealth. It was pointed out to me that if the money was spent in Washington that the Portland wholesalers and shippers would enjoy all the trade. I replied to this that the people of Oregon wanted the money spent within the borders of the commonwealth, but if this was not done, of course we would want it expended where it would help Oregon business men the most.

"The work already done by the

Deschutes Irrigation & Power company will do more good for this state than the Lewis and Clark fair. And now, if the Malheur project is carried through, Oregon will be the Mecca of thousands of home seekers and builders, and Portland will be one of the greatest wholesale centers in the nation. The business of the citizens of the redeemed Pasco country will all be handled by Portland merchants. This will also tend to greatly increase the river transportation facilities on the upper Columbia."

A. H. Devers, president of the Oregon Irrigation association, said that if the Malheur project were carried through it would mean great things for Oregon and Portland. "And it will be carried through," said Mr. Devers, "if the people who now hold small water rights in that district will only be willing to make a few sacrifices for the good of the whole state."

Washington Advice to Oregonian.

A Washington special says the announcement that Oregon, the largest contributor to the reclamation fund, has finally been recognized by Secretary Hitchcock, who has approved the Malheur project, contemplating the irrigation of 75,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Vale and has set aside two million dollars for the construction of storage reservoirs and canals, is somewhat misleading. The Secretary's action does not necessarily mean that the government will undertake the construction of the Malheur project or that the two million dollars now set aside will be expended on that or any other irrigation work in Oregon.

To secure an explanation of the Secretary's action, the Oregonian correspondent had an interview with Chief Newell, of the reclamation service, on whose recommendation the Secretary acted, and ascertained the facts as hereafter given. Mr. Newell says the allotment does not commit the government to the Malheur project, but simply signifies that the department has ascertained by field examinations that about 75,000 acres near Vale can be reclaimed at a cost not exceeding two million dollars.

Whether the government will take up the Malheur project will depend altogether upon future developments. There are already many vestments. There are many vested rights of water around Vale. The entire Summer flow of streams which would be depended upon to furnish water for the Malheur project has already been appropriated, and about one half of the land lying under the proposed government canals has been entered. If the owners of the water rights are willing to waive their claims and allow the government undisputed control of the streams, at least to the extent of securing sufficient water to make the project a success, and if the owners of land included within that project will sign an agreement to bear their proportionate share of the cost of constructing the works, namely, \$25 or \$30 an acre, then the government will be ready to construct this work provided that a subsequent investigation shows that dams can be constructed on sites already picked out and canals can be built and maintained at a reasonable cost.

The Burns Druggists

do not hesitate to recommend Dyspepsia Cure to their friends and customers. Indigestion causes more ill health than anything else. It deranges the stomach, and brings on all manner of disease. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat, cures indigestion, dyspepsia and all stomach disorders. Kodol is not only a perfect digestant but a tissue building tonic as well. Renewed health, perfect strength and increased vitality follow its use.

Judge M. D. Clifford, of the ninth district, is in this city on his return home to Canyon City from a trip through Harney and Malheur counties. Judge Clifford is the Democratic nominee for reelection and his election is conceded.—Baker Democrat.

ARE SITUATED LIKE HARNEY

BUYERS OF STOCK SCARCE OVER IN WHEELS COUNTY.

Cattle and Sheepraisers Are Hard Pressed As Result of Conditions—Reported Stock can be Bought Cheap.

A press dispatch from Fossil to the Portland Telegram, says: "Do you know of any buyers yet?" is the daily query throughout Wheeler County, and doubtless also the other stockraising portions of the Inland Empire. The question is asked by both sheepmen and cattlemen and is prompted by the fact that stockbuyers are not appearing, as they usually do at this time of the year. The same was true last fall, and but very few were then able to dispose of what stock they wished. In consequence of the few sales at that time money has been extremely scarce during the winter, and stockmen and merchants have been looking forward to spring sales to relieve the tension. But thus far this hope has not been realized, as almost no purchasers have appeared on the scene.

The greatest hardship is with the cattlemen, as they have difficulty disposing of their surplus. Among many of this class it will be absolutely necessary to sell some stock this spring in order to meet expenses, therefore, they would welcome a buyer almost regardless of what price he might offer. It is said that yearling steers can now be bought for \$10 or \$12, and cows and calves for \$15 or \$16. These prices are just about one-half what the same stock brought two years ago, and to sell at such prices means a big loss, or, at best, no pay for the growth of the stock. Quite naturally cattlemen are not feeling very jubilant over their business.

But the anxiety concerning buyers is not by any means confined to cattle-raisers, for the sheepmen come in for their share also. Most all of them wish to sell some of their bands either because they cannot run what they have or for other reasons. Quite a few "small" men run bands of 800 or 100 sheep during the winter, and rely on selling in the spring just before or after shearing. Sheep men are not situated so as to summer their sheep, and so are virtually forced to sell. Thus far they do not know just where they are going to get off. The only sales in this vicinity so far were of yearling wethers to a California buyer, and the price was \$1.65 for Shropshires, the sheep to be delivered after shearing. Those prices are 50 cents lower than last fall. Consequently the only profit is from the wool as the decline in price prevents any pay for the growth.

As a result of the above mentioned conditions business is not up to the average this year, and merchants find it almost impossible to make collections.

When The Sap Rises

Weak lungs should be careful. Coughs and colds are dangerous then. One Minute Cough Cure cures coughs and colds and gives strength to the lungs. Mrs. G. E. Fenner, of Marion, Ind., says, "I suffered with a cough until I ran down in weight from 148 to 92 lbs. I tried a number of remedies to no avail until I used One Minute Cough Cure. Four bottles of this wonderful remedy cured me entirely of the cough, strengthened my lungs and restored me to my normal weight, health and strength." Sold by Burns Drug stores.

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DRY LAND GRASS EXPERIMENTS.

William Holder will conduct an experiment farm about 12 miles south of Paisley. Mr. Holder has secured several species of grass seed and will make a thorough test of the yielding qualities of the different species on his farm the coming season. That these tests will prove successful there is no doubt, as the soil there is of the kind that produces abundantly when properly cultivated, and the climate is excellent for all the hardier varieties of vegetation. Mr. George Conn, merchant of Paisley, who owns several hundred acres of land adjoining Paisley, has made some experiments with grass that have proved successful.—Paisley Post.

Mrs. Geo. McGrath, sister of Mrs. D. L. Moomaw, who has been visiting in Baker City from Kansas city left Friday night for Portland to visit relatives.—Baker Democrat

Still the big eggs come to the front—that is, into newspaper offices. One brought to the Hillsboro Independent office, laid by a Plymouth Rock hen, measured 8½ by 6¼ inches, and weighed four ounces. Next.

Stockmen of the Echo region have organized a Stockmen's Protective association, principally to eliminate and prevent disease among horses, cattle and sheep.

Four steers sold by a Lucki-mute farmer weighed 5,562 pounds and brought \$270. The same man has a lot of chittim timber. He thinks Oregon is all right.

If the average woman thought as much of her husband as she does of her doctor and preacher, there would be lots more happy homes in the world.—Atlanta Journal. But if the average man tried as much to please his wife as her preacher and doctor do, perhaps she would think more of him.

A Cure For Piles.

"I had a bad case of piles," says G. F. Carter, of Atlanta, Ga., "and consulted a physician who advised me to try a box of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. I purchased a box and was entirely cured. It is splendid for piles, giving relief instantly, and I heartily recommend it to all sufferers." DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is unequalled for its healing qualities. Eczema and other skin diseases, also sores, cuts, burns and wounds of every kind are quickly cured by it. Sold by Burns Drug stores.

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