

AN EAST AND WEST LINE

CORVALLIS & EASTERN TO BE EXTENDED ON EAST.

May Mean New Transcontinental Railroad Through Oregon--The Survey Has Been Run Through Here.

Information of semi-official character leaks out that the Upper Deschutes valley as railroad territory has been transferred from the Columbia Southern to the Corvallis & Eastern, and that the latter road will soon put an extension through to Bend, probably before the end of this year. According to this statement of the case the Columbia Southern will be extended but little beyond its present terminus and Crook county's first railroad will be the long-desired east-and-west line, says the Bulletin.

An interesting theory in this connection is that the capital in the new Deschutes irrigation work is affiliated with Standard Oil interests; Standard Oil controls the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, which has \$25,000,000 of cash in its treasury and is very eager for a Pacific coast outlet, and that the new turn here may mean an entirely new transcontinental railroad through Bend. This, it is argued, would account for the confidence shown in the country by people who are really but little acquainted with it—they know what is coming.

However that may be, the indications are strong that the Corvallis & Eastern will soon start its extension this way. Its grade is now but 50 miles from Bend, though 40 miles of its grade has no track upon it.

There is reliable information that the Corvallis & Eastern is arranging for station facilities and townsites along the line of the proposed extension. One of these will be at Picket island, about ten miles below Bend, where a town to be called Laidlaw is being planned. It is named after W. A. Laidlaw, secretary and manager of the Columbia Southern Irrigation Company, which company will have headquarters there. It will be a central point for settlers on Columbia Southern reclaimed lands, which will increase its importance as a trading point. Arrangements are now being made for platting the new town.

Whether the extension will be under the control of A. B. Hammond, owner of the Corvallis & Eastern, or in other hands, is not yet known here. If in Mr. Hammond's control it may not get across the state for some time, for it would lack transcontinental connections. But Mr. Hammond can operate the Corvallis & Eastern quite independent of the big transcontinentals. He can do a large business carrying Deschutes lumber down to Yaquina bay and there loading it on ships for the California market. No other line can get Deschutes lumber without making terms with the transcontinentals.

If the Corvallis & Eastern has gone over to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul it doubtless means the advent of another powerful line into the family of transcontinental railroads. And the development it will bring to Central Oregon will be beyond all calculation.

MALHEUR PLAN MAY FAIL.

There seems nothing sure about the government taking hold of the irrigation projects in Malheur county. John T. Whistler, engineer in charge of the irrigation situation in eastern Oregon whose headquarters are in Pendleton, is quoted as saying by a paper of that town that if the "people of Malheur, or that part of the county included in the proposed irrigation reserve, come to the aid of the government and accept the government's terms, actual construction will commence this year."

It apparently all depends upon the people who own the lands in Malheur whether the government's project materializes. If they are willing to cut down their holdings to 160 acres and give up their water rights to Uncle Sam, the latter gentleman will go ahead and put in the big ditch, but if the homesteaders hold out for what they now demand, the project will be given up.

Most all the land in the reservation is held through patents issued by the United States government. The sum of \$2,000,000 has been set

aside for reclamation work in Oregon is now available, and part of it will be used in Malheur county if terms are made with the present settlers. As to the proposed Butter creek or Echo scheme all that Mr. Whistler would give out for publication at the present was that the scheme had not turned out as he had expected and he was greatly disappointed in it. The failure lies on the lack of stable foundation for the reservoir site.

While Mr. Whistler did not say hope had been entirely abandoned concerning the Umatilla county scheme yet his general conversation would lead one to believe that the prospects were very gloomy for a government project being undertaken in this county at present. Work in the field has been abandoned and the men have been transferred to other parts of the state. But there may be other propositions in Umatilla county which the government will find feasible. In fact Mr. Whistler said:

"The Echo plan has not turned out as we expected, and we have to look elsewhere." This may mean that he has been considering some other project in Umatilla county and is strengthened by the fact that he said he would retain his residence and office in Pendleton one year.

To Extend Road To Burns.

Work of extending the Sumpter Valley railroad has begun, according to information obtainable. Just how far it will be extended this year is not stated, but it is known that the surveys have all been made to the south as far as Burns, and the work of construction will follow in that direction.

Mr. Eccles has not stated just when the Burns extension would be completed. The road was extended about 10 miles last year from Whitney, all but a few finishing touches, which the contractor is now busily engaged in completing. A large force of men has been engaged and a call is out for more men to work as graders than is necessary to finish up last year's work, so that it is positively known that the work of extending the road is to be pushed this season.

It will require about two years to complete the extension to Burns, if the work is pushed as fast as possible this season.

OFFICIAL RETURNS OF THE ELECTION

A complete summary of the votes cast at the recent election has been compiled by Secretary of State Dunbar from the official returns filed with him by the county clerks of the various counties. This summary shows that the total number of votes cast in the entire state was 99,315.

Frank A. Moore, Republican candidate for supreme judge, was elected by a plurality of 24,217. His total vote was 52,946, and Thomas O'Day, his Democratic competitor, received 28,729. C. J. Bright, the Prohibition nominee, received 5,514, and 6,419 votes were cast for the Socialist candidate, C. C. Mikkelsen.

J. W. Bailey, the Republican nominee for food and dairy commissioner, was elected by a plurality even larger than that given to Justice Moore, though his total vote was some 4,000 less. Bailey received 48,821 votes; S. M. Douglas, Dem., 24,538; Ira W. Berry, Pro., 5,112, and N. Rasmussen, Soc., 6,098. Bailey's plurality was 24,283.

Congressman Williamson was re-elected by a plurality amounting to 14,353. His total vote was 27,126, while his Democratic opponent, J. E. Simmons, received 12,773. The Socialist and Prohibition candidates received respectively 3,678 and 3,535 votes.

In the first district Binger Hermann was re-elected by a plurality of 6,813. His vote was 23,970. Robert M. Veatch, Dem., received 17,157, and the Socialist and Prohibition candidates received respectively 2,800 and 2,867.

The local option law carried by a majority of 3,118. About 83 per cent of the voters who went to the polls voted either for or against the law, showing the widespread interest in the measure. The total vote for the law was 43,316, and the vote against it was 40,198.

The majority in favor of the direct primary law was overwhelming, amounting to 39,851. The affirmative vote was 56,205 and the negative only 16,354.

Quite as decisive was the vote on

the constitutional amendment, relating to the state printer's office. The affirmative vote was 45,334 and the negative vote only 14,031 giving a majority of 31,303. The Republican majority in the next legislature will be even stronger than in the last. In the senate there will be 25 Republicans and 5 Democrats. In the house the Republicans will number 50 and the Democrats 10.

Calamity Howlings.

The many friends of Mrs. R. Drake will be pleased to learn that she is recovering from a successful operation performed by Dr. Volp, who is talking of locating in Drewsey permanently.

The smiling countenance of Mrs. Fred Robertson was observed at the R. Drake home during their hours of trouble. The Silvie Valleyites and Calamity Howlers are to meet and extend the glad hand of fellowship at a rousing picnic to be held in Crane Flat the 4th. Dance at night at Mr. Reynolds's in Silvie.

Elder Davis, accompanied by his wife, held services at the Wolf creek school house last Sunday.

Peter Clemens' road crew has been working the roads in this vicinity. They are sadly in need of it.

Howler.

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