

### GOVERNMENT SHOULD AID

#### STATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BORROW MONEY.

Popular Loans Should be Made Where The Projects are not Large Enough for Government Schemes.

Commissioner Judson A. Ferguson, of the Montana bureau of agriculture, labor and industry, is an earnest advocate of the proposition of a government loan in aid of the work for the reclamation of the arid lands of the West, and believes that favorable action can be secured at the next session of congress, if the people of the arid states will unite in their advocacy of the project.

Commissioner Ferguson says the people of Montana are, without exception, enthusiastically committed to the plan of government aid to irrigation, and are anxiously waiting for the actual work of reclamation to begin in that state. In an interview Mr Ferguson pointed out the necessity for steps looking to expediting the work of reclamation. Among other things he said:

"While the preliminary surveys are perhaps progressing as rapidly as is consistent with the acquirement of definite knowledge concerning the several projects, there is danger in overlooking the fact that under the present law it will be many years before sufficient money will be available for the actual reclamation of land, for the reason that the \$30,000,000 now in hand must be distributed among 13 states and territories.

"It is true that the ratio of increase in this fund will be greatly advanced by payments from settlers after the land is occupied, but some action is necessary to secure the benefits of this part of the law at as early a date as possible.

"In this connection it is suggested that the people of the Western state agitate the proposition of a government loan for reclamation purposes. The United States can easily float a loan of \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 at 2 per cent, which in turn could be loaned upon their irrigation enterprises at 4 per cent, to be repaid in the same manner and upon the same terms as provided in the present law, the 2 per cent advance to be placed in a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds.

"Under this plan, there would be sufficient money immediately available for construction work and the settlement of the arid and semi-arid states would be begun at once."

#### Child Drowned in Canyon Creek.

One of the most unfortunate accidents that has taken place in Canyon City for years, occurred Wednesday evening in the drowning in Canyon creek of Dorothy, the two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. McHaley.

The child was missed from the family home about 6 o'clock, and after searching for some time, the body was found in Canyon creek near the planing mill. It was at once taken to the family home and Drs. Chilton and Newgord were called and for several hours, with the assistance of many neighbors and friends, did all known to medical skill to restore life to the child but with no result.

Just how the drowning occurred will never be known, but it is supposed that the child had fallen into the stream while attempting to cross a foot bridge near the planing mill, its body being found but a short distance below that point.

The funeral services will be held this morning at the M. E. church in this city by Rev. E. Hayes, following which the body will be taken to Prairie City and interred in the cemetery at that place this afternoon.

Dorothy Marv McHaley was born in this city July 16, 1902, being at the time of her death 2 years, 10 months and 15 days of age.

The grief stricken parents have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends.—Blue Mt. Eagle.

#### Relic of Pioneer Days.

Captain S. V. Winslow of the government dredge boat Willows reports the discovery of an old flint lock rifle in a hidden cave in the Grande Ronde valley by Chet Appington, a resident of the Joseph creek country. Mr. Appington was searching for horses and in riding under a ledge of a rock in an unfrequented part of a canyon dis-

covered a small cave almost hidden from view. Upon examination he discovered a flint lock rifle standing against the wall of the cave and in a perfect state of preservation. The rifle appears to have been but slightly used and still retains much of the varnish on the barrel and stock. The steel shoulder plate has been rusted away by contact with the damp ground, but otherwise the weapon is in excellent condition. On the lock is the name Barnett, 1842, and several crowns are stamped on the barrel and lock, showing the gun to be of English make.

The discovery of the old-time fire arm has caused considerable interest in the Grande Ronde section and many theories are advanced relative to the history of the weapon. It is generally believed that the gun belonged to a gang of cattle and horse rustlers who frequented the Grande Ronde section in early days, and when hard pressed took refuge in a large cave located about a mile from the spot where the discovery was made by young Appington.—Lewiston Tribune

#### Most Presidents Were Masons.

Both President Roosevelt and Vice-President Fairbanks went into masonry after they had been elected to office of vice-president. Colonel Roosevelt was elected to that office in November, 1900, and before the winter was over he had become a member of Matinecock lodge, at Oyster Bay, New York. He has been elected to receive the degrees in the Royal Arch chapter, but has never taken them, because of the pressure of public business. He might take these degrees during his summer vacations at Oyster Bay, but this would attract so much attention as to embarrass him and the chapter at that place, and so he has decided to wait until after his term as president has expired and he is once more a private citizen.

Mr. Fairbanks took the symbolic blue lodge degrees at Indianapolis, under dispensation from the grand master of Indiana, during the holiday recess last year, the three degrees being conferred in one day. He has since taken the chapter degrees, also under dispensation, and in one day. It is said to be his purpose during the present year to take the remaining degrees of the York rite, ending with that of Knight Templar, and then to take the Scottish Rite degree, up to and including the thirty-second. He will thus be shown all the mysteries of the order far ahead of the man whose place in the White House he is so anxious to fill after 1908.

It is rather a noteworthy fact that the majority of presidents of the United States, from Washington to Roosevelt, have been members of the Masonic fraternity. In the later years the best known of these are Garfield, Harrison and McKinley, with Roosevelt, Garfield was a Knight Templar and held his membership in all the York rite bodies in this city. He was a charter member of a Washington lodge and remained on its rolls until his death. McKinley was also a Knight Templar, but his membership was in Ohio.

Only one president was avowedly anti-Masonic. John Quincy Adams came into the presidency during the Morgan excitement and he talked and wrote against the order with all his might for many years. His distinguished father, John Adams, however, was an enthusiastic Mason and was buried with Masonic honors. Andrew Jackson was at one time grand master of the grand lodge of Tennessee.

An informal poll was made of the two houses of congress a few years ago by a Washington Mason, and it was discovered that more than 87 per cent of the members of the house were in the order, and more than 80 per cent of the members of the senate.

#### Two Men Strung up.

Ed Preston, who arrived from Malheur county this week, states that just before leaving there he heard that two men had been "strung up" for horse stealing. He stated that the affair had been kept very quiet so far. One of the unfortunate victims is said to have been John Knox, a man of considerable notoriety in that county. He formerly resided in this county and at one time had the horses belonging to the French estate on shares. No particulars can be learned.—Grant Co News.

### HIS AUTHORITY IS DOUBTED

#### CONFLICT OVER APPOINTING JUDGE TO TRY LAND CASES.

Attorney-General Questions Right of Judge Gilbert to Make Assignments for Oregon Cases Pending.

A Washington dispatch of recent date, says: The designation by Judge William B. Gilbert, of the Ninth Circuit, of Judge John De Haven, of the Northern District of California, as Presiding Judge in the trial of the land-fraud cases in Oregon, has led to some embarrassment among officials here. The recent death of Judge Bellingier, who was to have tried these cases, causes a vacancy in the Oregon district. It practically has been determined by the President and Attorney-General that Judge Hunt, United States Judge of the District of Montana, should succeed Judge Bellingier in the trials, and that the appointment of Judge Bellingier's successor should not be made immediately.

At this point Judge Gilbert, exercising authority which he supposed he had, directed that Judge De Haven should try the case. This was displeasing to officials of the Department of Justice, and a telegram was sent to Judge Gilbert by Attorney-General Moody, inquiring by what authority he had directed Judge De Haven to act in the trials. Thus far no reply has been received to that telegram.

What the result of the situation will be is uncertain, and whether the action of Judge Gilbert will be overruled may depend on the reply he makes to the Attorney-General's inquiry.

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