

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.25, Three Months .75.

JULIAN BYRD - - - - - Manager

While of course the hearing just completed at the local land office in which the P. L. S. Co. made a showing as to the feasibility of the proposed reclamation of some 60,000 acres of Harney Valley land by the Harney Valley Improvement Co. is not settled as yet it is a step toward bringing the matter to a condition where it will be possible that something be done with the big tract anyway by next season. The Improvement Co. made no appearance other than file a report of Inspector Green in which that gentleman states that the land is desert in character. Inspector Mayberry does not agree with Mr. Green in every particular however. He states we have desert land in this valley but does not so consider the Carey segregation of the Harney Valley Improvement Co. as a whole. This does not imply that either of these inspectors have misrepresented the character of the land, but merely a difference of opinion.

Five years ago when the state of Oregon took advantage of the Carey Act conditions in this section were quite different from the present. At that time very little if any farming was done on land that could not be irrigated. In fact it was not believed at that time that successful crops could be raised on dry land. Experiments have proven otherwise, yet we all know that irrigation would greatly increase the yield even though scientific dry land farming has been made a success in Harney Valley.

The Times-Herald will not attempt to express an opinion as to the character of this land. In fact it seems a hard matter to determine just what the Government considers desert or otherwise, since it appears to be simply a matter of opinion of men. The main feature of this contest in which The Times-Herald is most interested is to get it definitely settled in order that homeseekers may begin the improvement of this vast tract in some manner either by taking it up under the public land laws, or making contracts with the reclamation company.

Had the Improvement Co. met with no opposition and had shown a more feasible proposition with a sufficient water supply and a place of storage that the people would have been assured of the reclamation and permanency of the project, it would have been of inestimable benefit to Harney county. As it is the P. L. S. Co. contests the right of the reclamation Co. to take any water whatever, besides farmers do not want to take chances on the mere flood waters of Silvers River without some assurance that a sufficient amount be conserved for the later season when irrigation is really needed to mature the grain and vegetable crops.

This case shows plainly that blunders have been made. The state land board certainly did not realize the importance of knowing the project was feasible before approving the contract in the first place. The applicant should have known at the time that there was sufficient available water beyond a question, then no injustice would have been done. As it is has transpired the development of the Harney country has been greatly retarded for. The Times-Herald is of the opinion that the major portion of this segregation would now be in the hands of actual settlers at this time and much of it successfully farmed. In this assertion it does not wish to be understood as considering all this land non-desert in the sense it has heretofore been taken, but that the later methods of farming have made it possible to successfully raise crops where five years ago it was considered impossible.

CANNOT BUILD THE SUMPTER VALLEY

Impossible to Get Contractors to Take Job at Any Reasonable Price

At a meeting of business men Saturday evening while discussing the matter of railroad construction

in Baker county as well as elsewhere, a well known contractor threw a bomb into the camp which caused some people to stop and think.

"I happened to know personally that the Sumpter Valley railroad would extend its line from Baker City on down through the John Day country into Burns, but it can not get contractors to take the job at any reasonable price that will possibly pay the building of the road now. The price of labor is out of sight and men are hard to get at any price. The cost of steel rails is almost prohibitive the quotations having been augmented by the tremendous demand for structure steel.

"I personally know that the Utah Construction Company which has a \$10,000,000 contract for the building of the Western Pacific Railroad of the Gouids from Salt Lake to the Pacific is practically unable to fulfill its agreement because it cannot get subcontractors to strike a pick or stick a shovel on account of the labor market. When the contract was made the company figured on making ten per cent profit on the deal. Since then the price of labor has gone up 25 per cent and cannot be had at that. Where are they?"—Grant County News.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account as administrator of the Estate of Elizabeth J. Kelso, deceased, and the Hon. J. P. Becor, County Judge, has appointed Monday, January 7th, 1907, at 10 o'clock a. m. at the court house in Burns, Oregon, as the time and place for the hearing of objections to such final account and settlement thereof.

All persons are hereby notified to file their objections, if any they have, to said final account, on or before said time fixed.

SAM PARKER, Administrator of Estate of Elizabeth J. Kelso, deceased.

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LIQUOR LICENSE PETITION.

We, the undersigned legal voters of Lake precinct, Harney county, state of Oregon, respectfully petition the Hon. County Court of Harney county, state of Oregon, to grant a license to Sidney Comings to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in less quantities than one gallon in Lake precinct, Harney county, state of Oregon, for a period of six months, as in and to be found in the following petition:

PROSEY COMINGS.

Job printing—The Times-Herald.

Try Us We collect everywhere and make no charge unless collection is made. We please our clients.

Ask Them. Address: MORRIS MCGOWAN CO., Portland, Ore.

ARCHIE MCGOWAN

Land Locations—Real Estate for Sale Land Scrip Bought and Sold.

BURNS - - - OREGON

E. N. SMITH, SURVEYOR

Valley, Oregon Reconnite Hydrographer-Monitor Project Land, Irrigation and General Surveying Water Supply and Stream Measurement—Drafting.

Thanksgiving or Christmas Turkey Will be all the more enjoyed with a bottle of our refreshing and wholesome BEER.

We have opened up of the old stand select a share of the public patronage Beer always on Tap FINE CIGARS

KNOTSCH & BURKHARDT, Proprietors, Locher's Hall, Burns, Oregon.



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