

HARRIMAN'S MAN HERE

Col. W. H. Holabird Pays Section a Hurried Visit from South

DOES NOT TALK ANY RAILROAD

Visitor Known as Wizard's Confidential Representative and has
Been Here Before--Didn't Want to be Connected with any
Railroad System--May Mean Purchase of P. L. S. Co. Lands.

Col. W. H. Holabird, known as S. Co. and was making the company ranches his stopping places all along the route of travel. This has given rise to a rumor that Mr. Harriman has an option on the P. L. S. Co. holdings and that Col. Holabird is inspecting the property. Should this prove true and a transfer is made it would mean great things for this section in the way of transportation and development. However, The Times-Herald can say nothing in this respect with any authority.

Col. Holabird has investigated many portions of Oregon in the interest of Mr. Harriman, among others the Coos Bay and Tillamook section. His report on Coos Bay was considered a most conservative and fair one of conditions and the gentleman was complimented by men in that district who desire railroad transportation.

Col. Holabird is a man of years and thoroughly understands his business in "exploring" various sections as he says was his mission here. He isn't making such trips for pleasure or for his health, therefore we feel confident his visit means something. He left here with a P. L. S. Co. team and stated that he would go immediately to his Klamath summer home.

NEWELL MAY LOSE HIS JOB.

It has always been said that the "red tape" methods of the government land department is about as slow as anything could possibly be, but it seems Secretary Ballinger is really a man who does things and at last he has discovered that F. H. Newell is not the man who should be at the head of the reclamation service. This fact has long been patent to those who have observed and now Mr. Newell is slated to go. A recent Washington press dispatch says:

Unless there is a change of program, F. H. Newell will retire from the office of director of the United States reclamation service some time during the coming fall, probably to be succeeded by some man now in the government service. Who that man will be has not been determined, but the indications are that he will in addition to an engineering education, have a comprehensive knowledge of the law, Mr. Newell, unless he so desires, will not sever his connection with the reclamation service, but will be retained as an engineer—probably a general consulting engineer.

About the time there was a change of administration it was learned that certain western senators were anxious to secure the removal of Mr. Newell from office. That effort failed. In fact, those who talked most about securing the removal of Director Newell were the last to make any serious effort to accomplish their purpose. The agitation they started was of short duration. In time it completely died out.

But it develops that Secretary Ballinger is not altogether satisfied with the way the reclamation service has been conducted. While he finds no evidence of corruption or crookedness; no yielding to political influence; no flagrant mal-administration, he finds more or less dissatisfaction; some little friction, and what he is inclined to regard as looseness in the conduct of that bureau of his department.

The situation in brief, is this: While Secretary Ballinger finds no fault with the engineering work of Mr. Newell, and has respect for his ability as an engineer, he inclines strongly to the

opinion that he can find a more satisfactory administrative officer to take general supervision of the reclamation service—to become its business manager so to speak. He recognizes that Mr. Newell's abilities lie among the lines of engineering rather than administration, and it is that fact which inclines him to the opinion that a change should be made. By retaining Mr. Newell as an engineer, he can save to the reclamation service the valuable advice of the present director on all problems affecting construction, while by appointing a new director he believes he can overcome those unsatisfactory features of administration which do not meet with his approval.

Secretary Ballinger is not ready to recommend a change at the present time, for he desires to get more detailed information before taking such a radical step. During the summer the secretary will personally go upon a number of irrigation projects, especially those that have given rise to complaint and to trouble. On the ground he will find out for himself what has led to unsatisfactory conditions, and who is to blame. If his investigation fails to bear out his present impression, and if he finds that no fault attaches to Mr. Newell, as director, he will alter his plans, and Mr. Newell will remain at the head of the reclamation service. On the other hand, if investigations sustain the secretary in the impression he now holds, he will recommend a change after his return to Washington in the fall.

The inclination of Secretary Ballinger to urge a change in the head of the reclamation service is not due to the activity of politicians who have quarreled with Director Newell; it is not due to the recommendation of any one. It is due to his own experiences with the reclamation service since he became secretary of the interior. As a government machine, that service is not running as smoothly as might be desired; there is not entire harmony between the service and the present head of the interior department. On many details of administration the reclamation service, under previous secretaries, has followed a policy that does not meet with the approval of Secretary Ballinger.

NOTES FROM SUNSET.

—ANANIAS—
Mrs. J. Gilbert, of Pomeroy, Washington, is visiting her mother Mrs. Barron of Sunset. Dr. Gilbert will arrive in July and they will return home in their automobile.

Van Embree and R. D. Staht are riding with Robt. Settlemeyer in the spring round up.

Alec Barron visited over Sunday with his family in Sunset.

Mr. E. C. Eggleston was a visitor to Burns Monday.

Mr. Sheppard of Burns visited over Sunday with his family.

Messrs. Nash and Black are drilling wells near Weaver Springs.

Mr. Riggs, the agent for the Milton Nursery Co., is soliciting orders in Sunset this week. He is having good success, as the trees he sold here last year are all doing fine.

Joe Cavender was at his home instead the latter part of the week.

Geo. Hopkins and family left last week to visit the former's parents at Weiser, Idaho.

Mrs. Thos. Sprague and children left Saturday for the Hanley ranch where they will spend the summer.

RANCH FOR SALE:—One small horse ranch, located on Malheur river. First-class summer, fall and winter range surrounding it. Fine location for fruit and vegetables, also. For further particulars, write or call on E. L. Beede, Drewsey, Oregon.

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A COUNTY OF VASTNESS

"Old Man" Bennett Finds Harney County Tour Interesting

FINDS OLD RAILROAD SURVEY

The "Old Man" Attempts to Give Some Figures and Make Comparisons, But it's so Big His Arithmetic gets Mixed--No Other Such Area in Civilized World Without a Railroad.

The following are paragraphs taken from a recent descriptive letter written by Addison Bennett and published in the Portland Journal. Mr. Bennett is making a tour of Harney county. He says:

I am now at a cattle ranch on Riddle creek, at the very base of Riddle mountain, which is the northernmost spur of Steens mountain. This ranch has about 10,000 acres under fence. The buildings are located on section 6 township 29 south, range 34 east. I am therefore about 180 miles south and 15 miles east of Pendleton, and about 80 miles north of the Nevada line.

I left the OO ranch yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, and traveled eastward, south of Harney lake, and arrived at Narrows at 12:30, having thus completed a circle of the lake since Saturday noon.

I wrote from the OO ranch Sunday, telling of the lands and conditions north of that body of water, and I will now attempt to give you a short resume of my trip yesterday from the OO here.

As mentioned in my last letter, the OO ranch is situated in what is known as Warm Spring valley, but one does not appreciate the full significance of the name until the conditions are investigated from the bluffs back of the OO buildings eastward along the rim rock south of the lake.

The large springs bursting out immediately around the buildings and corrals of the OO make a large stream, and several lakes are formed. Much of this water is handled through a system of canals and thousands of acres of meadow land are thus irrigated. The water comes from the ground quite warm, and at one point some 15 miles to the eastward there is one spring where the water has a temperature of 200 degrees.

After leaving the OO and getting outside of their fences I came to ranch after ranch, and in each instance the owner had confined the waters of a spring and was irrigating from 20 to 160 acres. Between the rim rock and the lake the distance varied from a half mile to three times that distance, and up a cove now and then perhaps a half dozen sections could be seen which was what might be termed bottom land.

The ranchers mostly have little bunches of cattle, but many of them are not so "little" at that—say 200 to 3000 head. Indeed, for a distance of say 10 or 12 miles along what might be called the southwestern portion of the lake, I saw about as good evidence of thrift and prosperity as I have seen anywhere in the county.

Allow me to digress for a moment and go back to the OO. On Sunday evening a camping party came in. There were four men, a mess wagon, a tent and three saddle horses. Shortly after they had made camp I heard one of them yelling "Rabbitville," and I went down to find the voice was that of Jimmie Donegan, assessor of the county. His assistants were Messrs. Loggan and Buchanan and another whose name I have forgotten.

Mr. Buchanan was at one time county assessor and Mr. Loggan is well versed in values, hence the party is well qualified to fix land and other values—and that is what they are doing. They are taking a township, six miles square, at a time and will be in the field for five months—and then will not complete the work. I have recurred to this to give you an idea of the duties of an assessor in a county a little larger than the state of Massachusetts.

And that leads me to again refer to the roads over which I have traveled. I know they are mostly nothing but dirt roads and that they are now at their best. But consider that the county authorities have 3000 miles of road and over 500 bridges to look after, and then remember that the county is 125 miles long by 85 miles wide, and contains as many acres of land as Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined, with twice as much territory as Multnomah county has thrown in, and then a little strip a mile wide and 35 miles long. Or, to bring the matter home to the county court of Multnomah county, Harney county is 23 times as large as Multnomah county—and 129 square miles "to boot." Or, to give another illustration, the county authorities of Harney have to look after what practically amounts to one wagon road reaching from Portland, Or., to Portland, Maine.

But one gets lost in such figures—figures, however, which illustrate the fact that there is not in the United States—in the civilized world—anything like such another area as this great central Oregon without a railway. With the other counties we have here an area as large as the six New England states without transportation facilities any better than—not so good—as the Indians had centuries ago.

I will now go back to my trip along the rim rock south of Harney lake. There is much good land there, some of it extra fine, with a huge growth of sagebrush, and bunchgrass every where. Some of this land will in time no doubt produce a large yield of wheat, for it is certainly very rich in all of the elements going to make it productive.

There is an old railway survey running along south of the lake. None of my maps show it, so I do not know when or by whom the stakes were driven. But I followed these grave stakes for many miles, and a road could be built there cheaper than north of the lake, and operated cheaper, for there is very little drifting sand—as three fourths of a mile where there are several miles on the north side.

The south shores of the lake are well defined and there is no overflow land. The first bench is from 10 to 100 feet wide. As the wind sweeps down from the southwest at times the waters are said to get very rough, and at one point in a crescent shaped cove east of the highest point of the southern bluffs, the waters have swept up millions of tons of the finest road or ballast material I ever saw. It lies in great windrows, from one to three miles long, 10 to 15 feet high, and in places a series of these rows look like stationary waves, and are 300 feet across. If I should say 100,000 railway flat cars could be loaded there I think I would be way below the mark.

It must be 30 miles, possibly 35 from the OO to Narrows. I arrived there 12:30, got dinner fed my team and then came on here, 30 miles farther, where I arrived at 7 o'clock last evening.

From Narrows I bore along the southern edge of Malheur lake for some eight or nine miles, thence I headed south up what is called Notched Butte valley. Lots of fine land, as fine as any I know of, but no surface water save one small lake. How far it is down to water I do not know, but from the lay of the country I should judge not over 25 to 40 feet. I passed a number of claim shanties, but found no one at home to ask. Bearing across the divide, the

land became rougher, the surface was stony and the soil not so good. But once on the crest, between the lake region and Riddle creek, the soil grew better and down low in the valley is lots of land of the same nature as in the valley of the Blitzen, into which the Riddles empties some twelve or fifteen miles to the west.

This is a beautiful valley. The ranch house is right up at the very mouth of the canyon. The climate is peculiar, the soil of the best, and oceans of water. Riddle creek is said to be one of the finest trout streams in the state, but the waters are a little too high for good fishing at present.

There is a fine apple orchard here despite the altitude—perhaps close to 5000 feet—they have a fine crop of as fine apples as you ever saw about three years out of four. The trees are just now coming out in full bloom, and a full crop is expected this year. The trouble is that occasionally the blossoms appear too early, then a hard frost comes and kills them. A light freeze or very heavy frost does not seem to affect them.

The ranch is in charge of Jeff Cawfield, and he and his estimable wife make one feel at home. They keep the ranch up in fine shape, and have the best garden in this whole section. Potatoes and cabbage they raise by the ton, and such things as radishes, lettuce and beets they have in profusion, but the season is rather short for tomatoes and sugar corn. In fact, the only growing days are in June and July, and it is very often too cold for vegetable growth up to the 10th of June.

FROM WAVERLY.

Mr. Ringin is painting A. Haastrich's house.

William Grant is residing on his claim.

John Patign is our stage driver. He is a good one, too.

Mr. Armstrong has gone to Ontario after supplies. His two daughters accompanied him. They contemplate a visit to sunny California and parts of other states.

L. J. Gibson and D. Williams have gone to Ontario.

Mr. Quairodine has been hauling posts.

Robert Grant has gone to Ontario after supplies.

William Grant was at Lawen Saturday.

Mrs. A. Haastrich and her daughter, Miss Nena, have been visiting friends in Happy Valley.

Oren Thompson and his daughter were seen at Lawen Wednesday. Mr. Thompson says that he is through shearing.

William Caperton made a bus-trip to Burns Tuesday.

L. F. Smith and Lee Wilson passed through, Saturday. Mr. Wilson says the salt grass land is alright; and it will grow wheat successfully. He believes that thorough cultivation will gradually eliminate the alkali.

Mrs. Grant visited at Haastrich's Sunday.

Adam George passed through Wednesday with six new comers looking for land.

NOTICE.

All parties owing Lewis & Garrett, or Simon Lewis are hereby notified that all these accounts are in the hands of our attorney C. H. Leonard for collection and settlement. Persons indebted to us will please settle the same with Mr. Leonard at once.

SIMON LEWIS
J. T. GARRETT.

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C. H. VOEGTLY

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Adam George

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