

# The Times-Herald.

VOL. XXXIII

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 1, 1920

NO. 27

## CONSULTING IRRIGATION ENGINEER IS COMING

Experienced Man Employed To Make Reconnaissance Survey Immediately.

W. C. Hammatt, consulting engineer of San Francisco, is expected to arrive in Burns on next Tuesday to start the engineering work on the Harney Valley Irrigation District construction project.

This is the information given out by Secy. Robt. M. Duncan following a recent meeting of the directors of the district.

Mr. Hammatt is an engineer of wide experience, having been consulting engineer for the Rogue River Irrigation District at Medford; Warner Valley, Goose Lake and Chewaucum projects in this state and a large number of big projects in California. He was assistant engineer on the Hetch-Hetchy project in California.

Engineer Hammatt will first make a reconnaissance survey and outline two or more plans for construction and distribution of the water under the project. When these are submitted the board of directors will decide upon the plan to pursue. This will be followed by detailed engineering work and all necessary data compiled in order that the plans may be submitted to the land owners and approved.

It is hoped by the directors that all detail work may be completed during the summer so that actual construction can begin before winter. However, considering the magnitude of the undertaking it should not be surprising that these are not ready before the winter. In fact, it would certainly be better to have the details well in hand and know they are right rather than make some of the expensive mistakes of our neighboring projects. These details are very essential and should have most careful consideration. The bigness of the project requires this consideration.

Referring to figures compiled by John T. Whistler while he was at work on this project for the government, one finds that he estimates approximately 165,000 cubic yards of dirt to move for the upper dam in Shives, and about 400,000 cubic yards for the lower dam. That's some job and will require time. What we should ask for is reasonable economy but stability in the construction of these reservoirs and it is going to take time to work out the details. Better be one season longer in impounding the water than to have to do some of the work over again at a greater expense.

## RECENTLY MADE NEW TRACTOR IN FIELD

This week C. H. Voegtly, the hardware man, received a new Menck tractor and the machine was demonstrated by a former "Tank" army man, Mr. G. C. Messer, for a day or two in Mr. Voegtly's field adjoining town. It is now being operated by Raymond Voegtly and is doing excellent work in tilling the land. This tractor is one of the standard built machines and put out by a reliable concern.

Tractors are becoming factors in farm work all over the agricultural portions of the world. We may regret the passing of the horse but there is no argument in favor of the old way of doing things other than sentiment. Things are moving to fast to attempt to keep up with the slow methods of bygone days. The tractor is going to be depended upon more in the near future than at present. They are able to do the work economically and do so much more than horses that it is simply up to the farmer to use them.

Rev. B. S. Hughes returned Monday from his trip to the Presbytery. He was made Moderator of the Presbytery which is quite a distinction for the local pastor. Rev. W. F. Shields, former pastor of the local Presbyterian church, was elected delegate to the general assembly, which meets at Philadelphia. This is a fitting recognition of a capable man. Rev. Shields will take his wife with him on his trip east.

## SUTTON BUYS HOME IN TOWN

W. M. Sutton, for the past eight years principal of the public school of this city, has purchased the Chas. Comegys residence property. This is an attractive place for a home and Mr. Sutton expects to make some improvements during the present season. He will move the house to another part of the grounds and fix up the yard.

Mr. Sutton has heavy property interests in Springfield and always makes a trip to that town each vacation to look after his affairs but this vacation he says he'll have to spend most of the time in making his home here more to his liking.

## DISCOVERY OF OIL AID TO DEVELOPMENT

The finding of oil or gas in this valley means much toward its development in more than the mere industry itself. Cheap fuel is what is needed to bring about a wonderful transformation in the dry portions of the country that cannot be served by the present water supply for irrigation purposes. In fact it is doubtful if there is sufficient water to cover the entire valley from the river therefore pumping will be found necessary to reclaim considerable of the outlying lands. An abundance of water at a shallow depth has been found and the only drawback to this method of irrigation has been the supply of fuel at a reasonable outlay. Electric power has been contemplated and there is a feasible project of this character under consideration. This plan is to bring the power from the Malheur river across by Pine creek. It will require a transmission line of considerable distance but even so it is claimed to be feasible. However, oil and gas products right on the ground would be far cheaper both to the user and the expense of making it available.

Everybody is anxious for the oil well to prove a success regardless of whether they have stock in the concern or not.

## JUDGE WILLIAM FARRE

The fore part of this week Wm. Farre received his commission from Governor O'Leary appointing him county judge of Harney county. He at once took the oath of office and assumed his duties. Judge Farre is judge only when addressed in his official capacity, but otherwise he insists he's just "Billie" to his numerous friends.

## IT'S "MILK COW," NOT "MILCH COW"

Hereafter it will be "milk cow" and not "milch cow"—at least so far as the U. S. Department of Agriculture is concerned.

This decision marks the termination of a controversy in which etymologists in the department have had not a little interest. Those defending "milch" have pointed to scriptural use and certain of the classics as establishing precedents, while the opposition has contended that dairymen, ranchmen, and farmers in general use "milk" instead of "milch" almost universally. The advocates of "milk" also favored that word because, they contended, it was more strictly an English word, while "milch" was akin to German. Since Americanization of language as well as ideals is an article in every patriot's creed, it is thought that this last rally of the "milch" defenders helped as much as any to decide the question in their favor.

## AMERICA SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD

Theoretically the war has made the world safe for democracy. In reality it is not safe for anything or for anybody.

There is not a country in the world in which tranquility reigns. Smoldering unrest and discontent are everywhere. Political volcanoes are on the point of eruption by the wholesale.

It will require much wisdom and sagacity and many firm hands to bring order out of chaos and make this earth really habitable for mankind. America, the richest and the greatest, should take the lead in a determined struggle to regain international safety and sanity. No other country can do as much.

## OBSTRUCTION AT THE OIL WELL REMOVED

Bit Lost Over Three Years Ago Recovered Making Possible New Work.

What is decidedly the best news for many days from the Dog Mountain oil well came Thursday afternoon when it was announced that the bit that had been lost in the bottom of the hole over three years ago had been recovered and the obstruction removed to further prosecution of work in the same well. This obstruction has caused much grief and delay in prospecting for oil at that point.

When this tool was lost in the well three years ago last October the prospects were most favorable and those most interested have been diligent in their efforts to remove the obstruction. The well was down over 3700 feet and the formation indicated that the cap rock had been reached. Various methods and experiments were resorted to with the hope of removing the obstruction but failure after failure met these efforts until it was feared it would be necessary to start another hole in order to ascertain what was there. Now, however, the hole is open and drilling will be resumed at once. In fact work is going forward at present, as it is found other foreign material has clogged the hole more or less and this is being removed preparatory to getting ready to put down the casing and shutting off the water. When this is completed it is the intention to continue the hole down with a six inch bit.

It is said the four inch bit that caused the delay and which has just been removed, is badly battered and bent. C. H. Voegtly will have it brought to town and placed on exhibition.

Thousands of dollars have been expended in the prosecution of the work at this well. It was first started under the management of J. C. Turney and many local people put their money into the venture. They have been discouraged time and again but there were always those who had faith in the prospect and urged further effort. Several men have spent much of their time and what money they could earn for the past few years in prosecuting the work and they are entitled to some return for their faithfulness.

Promising oil prospects have been found in several localities in this valley and leases have been taken from time to time and one other well started. This season two new concerns have entered the field according to information received in Burns and new outfits will come in to prospect. The Dog Mountain well was the first to begin operations and is still considered by many to be the best "bet". W. G. Howell and associates are drilling at Swan Lake south and east of the Dog Mountain prospect. Encouraging prospects are also found in that field and the work there will be continued during the season.

## LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Dr. Smith was called to Harney the other night to attend Jack Withers who had been kicked on the chest by a horse. He was considerably bruised but no bones were broken.

Leon M. Brown of the Harney County National Bank left Tuesday for Baker where he goes to attend a ceremonial of the Masonic order and take some additional degrees. Later he will continue his journey to Portland. Mr. Brown expects to be absent about ten days.

Henry Dalton, assistant cashier of the Harney County National Bank, arrived home from Portland the fore part of this week. Mr. and Mrs. Dalton went to the metropolis last week for special attention for an injured eye for their little son, Estel. An operation was performed but it is feared the sight of one eye is destroyed. Mrs. Dalton and the boy remained for a few days longer that he might be under the care of the specialists a while longer. The little fellow accidentally ran a pair of scissors into his eye.

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION SIMPLE

Local Men Fihd Difficulties On Ochoco Project Not Evident in Harney.

Construction of the necessary reservoirs and distribution of the water on the Harney Valley Irrigation project will be very simple and inexpensive in comparison to the Ochoco project, is the opinion of some of those who visited the latter project at Prineville last week.

All the directors and Secretary Robt. M. Duncan, as well as Commissioner Sam Mothershead, of the Harney Valley Irrigation District, made an inspection of the Prineville project the latter part of last week. The visitors observed the character of the work in construction at the dam, also the ditches and distribution system. They found the ditches were built of expensive concrete lined on sidehill and almost solid rock formations. One 28 inch siphon of over half a mile was also necessary.

The dam, which flood three of the most valuable ranches in that territory, will impound about 45,000 acre feet. The construction of this dam has been accomplished under great difficulties, as it is in a gorge some 150 feet wide at the bottom and because of the character of river bed at the point it was necessary to excavate 40 feet below the original bed of the river to get a proper foundation to start the structure. The structure is dirt, clay silt and rock which was puddled. The dam extends 650 feet up and down stream, 125 feet high and is 1000 feet long on top. The spillway is built to carry about five times the amount of any known flood, which with the outlet into the ditch will carry ten times the amount of any known flood which was done as a safeguard of any accident that might arise from a sudden flood or cloud burst.

This information was gleaned from an interview with Secretary Robt. M. Duncan, who said further that the spillway is reinforced concrete lined throughout so that no possible chance is given to wash back to the dam structure.

"The dam was constructed by hydraulic process," said Mr. Duncan. "The hillsides in the vicinity were very rocky and therefore it was difficult to find the proper proportion of clay and rock for binding element. This hydraulic process is expensive. The construction people secured electric power from the Deschutes River and used two large centrifugal pumps with which to wash down the sidehills and sluice the material to the dam site where the water was drained off the silt and rock put in place. The structure consists of about 50 per cent broken rock and clay dirt which gives it right proportions of weight, the rock being on the faces, above and below, the clay center being impervious to water."

"The construction is on the cost plus plan," continued Mr. Duncan, "and when completed the dam will cost approximately \$360,000, the cubic yard cost being something like 60 cents. The distributing system and other expenses will be about the same amount. The cost has been apportioned to the lands ranging from \$7.60 per acre to the bottom lands that had a prior perfect water right, to \$76.00 per acre on the dry lands. The district delivers the water to the highest point on the border of each tract of land to be irrigated and the owner provides for its distribution over his land."

According to Capt. Duncan the land that is being reclaimed under this project is of a sandy rolling character and the experiments finds the average duty of water under the system is 1.8 acre feet during the irrigating season, which allows about 2.25 acre feet to alfalfa and 1.25 acre feet for grain.

From observations the people who made the trip are under the impression the duty of water under that project will be much greater than here because of the character of the soil. Harney Valley soil will not require the amount used on the lighter sandy soil over there.

Since returning from Prineville

(Continued on page 4)

## ODD FELLOWS DANCE A SUCCESS

Harney Lodge, No. 77, and Sylvia Rebekah Lodge No. 43, I. O. O. F., gave a very enjoyable dance at Tonawama Monday night in celebration of the anniversary of the Order. A large number of guests were present and all seemed to enjoy the evening. Dr. H. M. Horton, who has been a member in good standing of the local Lodge for more than 30 years, led the grand march that evening.

Guests were served with refreshments during the evening.

## MORE WATER THAN WAS EXPECTED

Frank Matney returned the first of this week from a trip to his mountain places where he took some of his stock to turn on the spring range. He says he was agreeably surprised at the amount of ice and snow he found on the north hill sides of the mountains and timbered section. He says it is not a lot of sight snow but some decidedly solid ice that he found up there and he is confident there will yet be a big lot of water come down for irrigation purposes later in the season, being so well packed in the mountains the ice will melt slower and thus extend the flood period longer than usual.

Messrs. V. Cawfield, James Anderson and W. T. Vanderveer, who were here last Saturday to attend a meeting of the stockmen called to discuss ways and means for the coming Cattle & Horse Growers Association convention, state they had investigated conditions to the north of their stock ranches in the Van country and found them similar to that described by Mr. Matney. Up in the Logan Valley and Bear creek regions they report a big quantity of solid ice on the north hill sides. Considerable new snow has fallen on the Trout creek range and the Purlington mill which is bringing down a quantity of water at present and will continue for a time.

The people of the Lawa section report more water in that neighborhood than for the previous three years. Bailey Hayes says he has a big lot of water at his place and A. B. Swain reports the same.

## FORESTRY MEN HERE TO MEET WITH STOCKMEN

W. W. Cryder, superintendent of the Forest in this territory, who has headquarters at John Day, and E. N. Kavanaugh, connected with the service with headquarters at Portland, are in the city today to meet with local stock men. Mr. Kavanaugh is in charge of the grazing department of the service. The gentlemen expect to be here for several days.

## LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Will Byram, the Canyon Creek Shorthorn breeder, was here during the week accompanied by his son. They were over on some business.

J. W. Biggs and Mrs. E. B. Hill left Thursday at noon for the southern part of the county to look after some business affairs in connection with Mrs. Hill's holdings and Mr. Biggs will also tour his own ranches while down there. Mrs. Hill had been a guest at the Biggs farm near this city for a couple of weeks before starting on the journey.

Mr. and Mrs. Halvorsen arrived here Thursday from Arkansas and will visit for a short time. Mrs. Halvorsen is a cousin to Mrs. Dr. W. C. Brown. Geo. Simmons and Will Newton. Mr. Halvorsen has a brother at Sumner Lake and also relatives in the Willamette Valley and they expect to continue on to see those other relatives and look over the coast part of the country with a view of probably locating in the west.

J. E. Loggan and his son Frank are home from Boise where they went to consult with specialists about Frank's eyes. They decided the boy had a toxic poisoning in his system, contracted in some manner, and that when this was cleared up his vision would be better. Our readers will recall the sudden manner in which Frank began to see double last week and had to quit his studies in the high school. It is expected that his condition will become normal in a reasonable time after taking the treatment given him and wearing corrective glasses.

## A. OTTINGER HERE FROM SAN FRANCISCO

Proprietor Farmers Exchange Looking After Business Interests in Burns.

A. Ottinger, owner of the Farmers Exchange, is here from his home at San Francisco. Mr. Ottinger arrived Wednesday night and has since been keeping to his room on advice of his doctor, as he has not been well and the trip up was quite fatiguing.

Mr. Ottinger has large interests in California and although not as young as he once was, is ready to make further investments if he finds conditions to his liking. Since coming to Burns he has inquired into the irrigation prospects as well as crop conditions for the present season and found an optimistic trend in every respect. He recently bought additional property in Burns, acquiring the Fry stone and brick structures adjoining the present store room occupied by his grocery concern, and it is hoped he will make some announcement of adding to his activities in this vicinity before he returns home.

If he follows the advice of his doctor, Mr. Ottinger will remain in his room for several days yet before venturing out on any sightseeing expeditions.

## DAVIDSON IN A HURRY FOR IRRIGATION

W. P. Davidson, president of the Oregon & Western Colonization Co., is in town. He came in by way of Prineville in company with Frank Johnson and is spending the day greeting friends and looking after business affairs.

Mr. Davidson says we should rush the irrigation project as rapidly as possible as every day it is delayed means a loss. If the dam was in and water conserved he points out we would be raising better crops this season besides it would be an incentive to a greater endeavor upon the part of his company and others to get more people in to till the land.

## FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER MARRIED

Friends in this city have received the announcement of the marriage of Miss Mary E. Godfrey to Mr. John Herbert Embleton, on Friday, April 9. The bride is a very popular young lady among the former students of the Harney County High School where she taught a few years ago. She has visited this section since at intervals and has always met with a hearty welcome. She is an accomplished young woman who is much admired by a wide circle of acquaintances in the part of the country.

## LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Triaka, April 22, a daughter. This information was received this morning in a letter to a friend in this city.

J. J. Dunn, one of the boys who aided in the late war, arrived here Thursday evening from outside points. Mr. Dunn has a homestead near Crane and is leave from army duty to look after it. He rode horse back from Condon to Burns. The young man was in the tank service with Don M. Taylor and was disappointed when he found Don had returned to Portland. Mr. Dunn is stationed at Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sullivan were in town for a few days during this week. Mr. Sullivan is now a traveling representative of a tobacco firm and makes regular trips to this city. Mrs. Sullivan has been in the employ of W. P. Fuller & Co. for the past few years, formerly in the Portland offices of the concern but later transferred to Boise where her husband has headquarters. She has resigned her place and is taking a rest which accounts for her visiting this city with her husband. Mrs. Sullivan was an employe of the local telephone service for a few years and has many warm friends in this city, who were glad to have her visit them during her stay in town.

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