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IRRIGATION MATTERS ARE STILL UNSETTLED

Directors of Harney Valley District Fail to Get Together; May Interest Government.

There was a meeting of the directors of the Harney Valley Irrigation District on last Tuesday. It was currently reported on the streets and vouched for by what was considered authoritative sources that we might expect some definite action in regard to the future policy of the district following this meeting, but the directors failed to agree upon a policy and adjourned for two weeks with the intention of meeting again December 16.

Director Olsen is favorable to starting some construction work next season on the canyon dam, with a definite unit the objective, to be finished as rapidly as circumstances will permit. Mr. Hanley favors postponing any action pending the opportunity to present the project possibilities to the U. S. government irrigation service with a view of getting the government to take hold of it. Judge Thompson has withheld his sanction of either plan. That's the report given of the recent meeting.

Dr. Elwood Meade, head of the U. S. reclamation service, has some definite notions about reclamation and is reported to be looking for an ideal project to carry out the idea he has. It is believed this project will appeal to Dr. Meade. If this can be accomplished there is no doubt but it will meet with approval. One of the first things necessary under Dr. Meade's plan would be that no individual could own in excess of 160 acres of land under the project, the government would have to acquire all the balance and at a price that would permit the charge for construction of the irrigation works to be within an amount that would attract the settler. Could this be accomplished within a reasonable time? Would the land owners take a reasonable price for their holdings, based on its actual productive value?

People of Harney valley have been told in the past by representatives of railroads that they held their land too high and that was one reason why the railroads were not making any particular effort to come into this territory. We really have no standard price for land in Harney valley. It is sold at a price fixed largely upon its advantageous location, its water right, that is, the method and ease with which the water might be applied for irrigation, regardless of what the land produced.

If the government is to be induced to take up this project there should be a concerted effort made and no halfway measures tolerated. We should go after it with a vim and get action without delay. Nothing is going to be accomplished with a divided board and no expression from the land owners that will have the effect of bringing the board together for some definite action. We're all getting tired of waiting. Some of us have been waiting for 40 years and we may be excused for showing a little impatience.

The present undeveloped condition of Harney county is largely, if not entirely due to lack of organization—the absence of leadership that could and would lead the people to real accomplishment. The personnel of the board of directors of the Harney Valley Irrigation District are men capable of such leadership and accomplishment if they will but agree upon a policy and conscientiously push the matter to actual results.

ZX RANCH TAKES CATTLE TO BURNS

Most of the cattle of the Che-waucan Land and Cattle company are being taken to ranches near Burns and Crane for the winter. Two large bunches have been taken across the desert and on Wednesday another large band of almost 2000 head were started.

The company has bought hay and pasture on the P ranch and the big and little Diamond ranches for winter feeding. Only a few of the poor cattle of the company will be left

at the Paisley ranch for winter feeding.—Lakeview Examiner.

WOOLGROWERS TO MEET

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers Association will be held in Pendleton, Oregon, January 14th and 15th, 1925, according to statement received from Mac Hoke, Secretary of the Association.

Mr. Hoke states that the sheep and wool growers of Oregon are facing the brightest prospects for the coming two or three years that the industry has ever known; while prices are not expected to reach war time levels the cost of production is expected to be established and to remain at such a level that the returns from lambs and wool will show the grower a reasonable profit from his operations.

It is apparent that there is not only a world shortage of wool but likewise a shortage of breeding ewes and prices being offered at this time for lamb contracts and for wool are likely to be well maintained for a considerable length of time.

SURVEY OF RECREATION RESOURCES ANNOUNCED

Available information on the recreational resources of United States public lands is to be assembled by the Advisory Council of the President's Committee on Outdoor Recreation, according to information just received by the District Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Ore.

Recreation plans are to be classified into three groups, according to: outstanding scenic beauty and recreational resources; secondary scenic quality but high recreational value; isolated tracts suitable for camping or stopping places.

Under the first class will be included regions which should be administered for their outstanding scenic features or for promotion of their recreational use. Forested lands, rivers and streams and diversified country not chiefly scenic, but having a high value for camping, fishing, hunting, and similar pursuits will be included in the second class. Wooded or waterside tracts not coming under the first or second class, but serving the purposes of temporary camps for passing tourists will fall in class three. This group will also include natural summer homesites.

"This survey and classification is an important first step in carrying out the program of the Outdoor Conference," said the District Forester, in commenting on the cooperation of the Forest Service in compiling the information. "Of course, in classifying National Forest areas for recreation purposes, we will apply the established Forest Service policy of highest use, giving due weight to timber production, grazing and watershed protection. At the same time we will recognize the importance of providing opportunities for outdoor recreation for the average American. The Forests can make a distinct contribution to the physical vigor, moral strength and clean simplicity of mind of the American people."

"Although the twenty-two National Forests of Oregon and Washington are enjoyed annually by millions of people, the public should not forget that the primary purpose of the National Forests is the growing of timber crops. It follows naturally that if tree crops are grown they are to be harvested and the product, which is lumber, put to use, and the ground kept growing more tree crops. Recreation on the National Forests will continue to be an important but a minor use as compared to the growing of trees. The practice of forestry and recreation on the same ground is by no means inconsistent, as European peoples have long ago found out," said the District Forester.

MEMORIAL FUND SUBSCRIBERS MEET MONDAY, DEC. 15

It is desired that the subscribers to the Austin Goodman memorial fund meet at The Times-Herald office on Monday evening, December 15, at 7:30 for the purpose of perfecting a permanent organization and select officers and transact any business that may be necessary at that time. It is important that this notice be kept in mind. An organization is absolutely necessary and the sooner it is functioning the better.

LAND OFFICE NOT LIKELY TO BE ABOLISHED

Recommendation of Secretary of Interior Disapproved by Congress, Says Telegram.

Register James Donegan of the U. S. land office at this place Tuesday received a telegram from Congressman Nick Sinnott to the effect that the house appropriations committee on the recommendation of the Secretary of the interior had reported a bill abolishing 39 land offices, including Burns and La Grande.

On Thursday Congressman Sinnott sent another wire stating that the house in committee of the whole adopted by amendment striking out the provision of abolishing the land offices referred to. The telegram further stated that a roll call would consider the matter further when the bill got back in the house probably today or Monday.

It is considered unlikely that the recommendation will be given further consideration at this time, especially when it is known that the Burns land district embraces 3,500,000 acres of vacant land and that practically one thousand homestead entries are now pending before this local land office.

TRIAL OF CODY GOING ON AT VALE

According to the Boise Statesman that was received in this city yesterday morning considerable trouble has been found in securing a jury for the trial of Archie Cody who killed Sheriff Goodman, which was started at Vale on last Tuesday. All but one juror had been secured, however, at that time and a special venire had been issued for more jurors.

District Attorney Sizemore and Atty. C. H. Leonard have both gone from here to give what assistance they can to the district attorney of Malheur county in this case. The family of Mr. Goodman, Dr. B. F. Smith and other witnesses are also in Vale for the trial.

Oscar Downs came in from his ranch home at the head of Catlow valley during the week. He was accompanied in by his sister who has been making her home with him. The young lady finds the big outdoors of Oregon much to her liking as does her mother, both of whom recently came here from Iowa. They spend a portion of their time in Burns at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Downs.

MAIL YOUR CHRISTMAS PACKAGES EARLY

Hope to Make "Shop Early" and "Mail Early" Habit With The American People.

Last year, through the generous cooperation of the press, the movies and other advertising mediums, Christmas mailers were induced to dispatch their Yuletide presents earlier in the month than ever before in the history of the institution of gift exchanging in the holiday season.

As a result, the spectacle of the last minute rush of former years, with its attendant heartbreaking labor on the part of wearied and nerve worn store clerks and postal employees, was avoided.

This year Postmaster General New and First Assistant Postmaster General John H. Bartlett have determined to make an even better record and to banish for all time the suffering undergone in past years by those engaged in the sale or transportation of gifts. They hope to make "Shop Early" and "Mail Early" a habit with the American people.

Mailing early does not mean December 1 or before, but if everyone could get their holiday tokens in the mail between December 10 and December 20, the post office could not ask more.

Particular attention this year will be paid to greeting cards. Despite the success last year it was noted that the last minute mail consisted largely of cards. Possibly many of them were returned greetings to friends, heard from on a previous mail, but overlooked on the original Christmas list. Unlike parcels and letters containing money orders, cards, of course, can not well be marked "Do Not Open Until Christmas." Therefore, it is possible that the many mailers hold them until the last to insure delivery on Christmas Eve. This class of mailers this year, however, may find their cards undelivered until after Christmas Day.

Believing that the energies of postal employees should not be sapped to the last degree for any avoidable reason, and, intent upon securing for them the same Christmas privileges enjoyed by others, Postmaster General New asks the hearty cooperation of the public. The last-minute, or zero hour has been moved up so that all postal employees may eat their Christmas dinners at home. Rural carriers will deliver

no mail at all on Christmas day and clerks and carriers in the city offices will stop work promptly at noon.

COMMERCIAL CLUB ACTS

At a meeting of the Burns and Harney County Commercial Club on last Monday evening a committee was appointed to draft a communication to the railroad people setting forth the sentiment of this city in regard to train service. This recommendation went to the railroad offices in the shape of a communication rather than a resolution, as there was a disposition to not insist in the face of what has already been done for this section. However, it was pointed out that regular train service would stimulate development in this vicinity and be a factor in advancing the interests of the railroad as well as a convenience much appreciated by the local residents and business men.

The Club went on record as favoring the location of the Standard Oil Co. plant in Burns and against the protest that had been filed with the state fire marshal.

MOTHERS CLUB MEETS

(Continued)

The regular meeting of the Mothers Club was held last Thursday afternoon at the farm home of Mrs. Carey Thornburg with Mrs. Roy Buchanan joining as hostess. The entire afternoon was spent in a social way with the exception of a short business session. The attendance was large and the members and guests responded to roll call with quotations that were unique and which brought out many wholesome thoughts that might be applied.

No special decorations were in evidence in the rooms but two beautiful bouquets of carnations grace the center tables and added to the home atmosphere.

Delightful refreshments were served and the guests departed feeling they had been royally entertained and expressed their appreciation to the hostesses.

TO ORGANIZE MUSIC CLUB

The Times-Herald has been informed that a music club is to be organized in Burns in the near future to be known as the Nocturne Club and will be federated. This club will include both ladies and gentlemen as members and the meetings will be held in the evening. Any one may join, those who do not play or sing will be expected to give papers on various composers. Study will be along the lines of programs sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. The first meeting will be announced later.

CHARITY BALL DEC. 13 COMING SOCIAL EVENT

Harney County Elks Preparing For Annual Christmas Cheer; Unfortunates Remembered.

The Harney County Elks have their plans well underway and the stage well set for their Third Annual Charity Ball and public Christmas Tree Entertainment.

Committees are hard at work and nothing will be overlooked this year in making the ball one of the splendid social events of the season.

The decorating committee propose to drape the hall in colors of purple and white and evergreen will be used as a background all suggestive of the holiday season.

The committee on music will guarantee the best and contemplate organizing our leading players in one big orchestra for the occasion and the probability of a variation with St. Frances Hotel Garden Room orchestra by Radio.

Arrangements will also be made for a dainty lunch served right in the ball room as well as drinks that cheer but do no inebriate. It is the intention that everything will be worked out for the public convenience and enjoyment and all of Harney County is expected to be represented.

Charity Balls have been for ages popular in large communities as a medium for funds with which un stinted charity could be administered to those who might be in need. With the whirl of the dance and the spell of the orchestra we should not be forgetful and our presence on such an occasion is demonstrative of our thought for those who are not so fortunate.

Three years ago the Elks of Harney County underwrote the Charity Ball which guaranteed its financial as well as the social success and during the past two years have ministered to the needy and relieved suffering and attempted to bring happiness and good cheer at Christmas time to every neglected home in the community.

WHAT IS DONE WITH THE FUNDS

A statement of Treasurer E. H. Conser of the Harney County Elks, in connection with their Charity Ball activities, has been submitted to this paper. It shows that for the two charity balls given, December 16, 1922 and December 8, 1923, a total profit of \$324.29 was made. It was disbursed for the following items: Groceries and clothing for poor families, \$145.14; nursing and supplies for sick persons, \$37.79; general aid for needy families, etc \$70.00; expended for community Christmas tree 1923, \$71.51, making a total of \$325.37, leaving a balance in the treasury for the present of \$8.92.

YOUNG PEOPLE MARRIED AT BOISE

Willard Laythe and Miss Hazel Violet Turner were married at the First Presbyterian church of Boise on last Monday, Dec. 1, the Rev. Wm. Baird of Baker performing the ceremony. Mr. Laythe has been associated with the Burns Garage for some time and is a former high school graduate of this city. He is a young man of sterling qualities with a reputation for dependability. He is well liked by his acquaintances and business associates. His bride is a lovely young woman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner of Andrews.

The ring ceremony was followed by the officiating clergyman, who is an old time friend of both the young people. A few close friends witnessed the marriage. Mrs. Will Fiser of Crane being a member of the bridal party. Following the ceremony the guests sat down to a sumptuous wedding dinner.

Willard and his bride arrived in Burns on Thursday evening and went to the home he had prepared before hand and where they were visited during the evening by a number of their friends who gave them a hearty and noisy welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hamilton were over from their home in the Diamond country Thursday.

