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FIRM BELIEVER IN PUMP SYSTEM OF IRRIGATION

Experienced Man Gives Views on Underground Water Possibilities in Harney Co.

A representative of The Times-Herald discussed the present condition of the alfalfa crops in this county with several growers during the week. He also asked the opinion of others and has secured a statement from Supt. Shattuck of the experiment station as to the cause of the crops indicating they are dead.

Ed. Howard, of Drewsey, says his alfalfa has killed out to some extent as has that of some of his neighbors. Some of this is on low ground and was under water and ice during the January thaw, but again there are spots killed on the higher ground.

Mr. Shattuck states that going into the winter with extreme dry ground is one cause. In this Mr. W. C. Bloomer agrees and also points out other causes.

"I saw the first alfalfa field ever seeded in Oregon on the lower Snake river, 41 years ago," said Mr. Bloomer, "and I have been working with alfalfa and irrigation ever since. I have had practical experience in this state, in Idaho and Colorado. My experience leads me to believe that in some instances too close pasturing in the fall is responsible for winter killing as it leaves the crown of the alfalfa exposed; another cause is lack of moisture."

Mr. Bloomer spent last season on the A. R. Olsen farm at Weaver Springs where he seeded and irrigated 50 acres of alfalfa and it shows remarkable life this spring. "I don't believe we lost a spear on that place during the winter, even though it was the most extreme in years, according to the records," said Mr. Bloomer. "I gave it a thorough wetting just before the winter and it has grown up some three inches before freezing weather hit. It grew even more during the winter where it was protected by the snow and emerged this spring looking fine and is now growing."

Mr. Bloomer advocates thorough cultivation of alfalfa. He says it will not thrive and give best results year after year without cultivation with a spring tooth or drag tool—any method of stirring up the soil and also in splitting the crown and make it spread out. He seeded the 50 acre field last year on the 29th of May. This tract was irrigated with a six inch centrifugal pump from a well with an automobile engine for power. Mr. Bloomer considers it an absolute success. In fact the crop proves this, but he also says it was at an expense that is within reason and that his success is nothing more than can be accomplished by any one on any of the rich land of Harney valley at a nominal cost. In fact he is thoroughly convinced that the underground water of Harney valley is capable of irrigating the land and that pumping plants are going to prove practical.

Mr. Bloomer advocates leveling the land before attempting to seed and also to have a seed bed that is ready to receive the seed and moisture. Another matter he advocates is consistent moisture at first, that is, have the ground damp and keep plenty of moisture during the germinating period of the seed and until it is well up. The first setting is important and when once set and a good stand obtained alfalfa will last for years with proper cultivation and care.

Mr. Bloomer is satisfied that the well on the Olsen farm is capable of irrigating 200 acres. However, he would not advocate running the water such a distance under all circumstances, as he feels sure that more wells with a portable power would prove more satisfactory.

Mr. Bloomer's experience is in keeping with the opinion of many of the citizens and land owners of Harney valley—that irrigation by pumping from wells is practiced and that it will be successfully carried out in the immediate future.

LAND OFFICE RECORDS COMING FROM BURNS

By executive order of March 17th, 1925, the Burns Land Office was discontinued and the lands, business

and archives of the Burns land district were consolidated with the Vale land district with office at Vale, effective at the close of business on April 30th, 1925. The officials at the Harney county land office have been instructed to forward all records and equipment to the Vale office the latter part of the month in order to have them in Vale at the opening of business on May 1st.

This will mean that the vacant lands in the Vale, Oregon, land district will be doubled in area, but although the work at the office will likewise be increased, a large part of through United States commissioners throughout the district since it would necessitate considerable expense and inconvenience for public land entrymen in the interior to make the trip to Vale. The La Grande district was entirely consolidated with The Dalles, instead of a part coming here as was first thought.—Vale Enterprise.

CIRCUIT COURT SESSION

The regular spring term of circuit court convened last Monday with Judge Dalton Biggs on the bench. The other officers of the court were all present, the bailiff positions being filled by Joe Linder and Peter Carmer.

Although the docket indicated many cases it has been cut materially by dismissals and continuances, leaving but few trials.

The suit of McWilliams vs. James Paul was settled on stipulation.

The case of H. V. Schmalz vs. Maxene Kern and others for recovery of money was tried and the jury brought a verdict for the plaintiff in the sum of \$200, half of the amount sued for.

General Motors Acceptance Co. vs. Harry Riley resulted in a non-suit being taken.

The damage case of the county vs. W. W. Miller by the market road running through his ranch went to the jury on Thursday afternoon and he was awarded \$1800 damages.

The case of the State vs. Vincent Moon, charged with rape, the young man was found not guilty by the jury.

William Klinkel vs. Alvin Miller, a case where the plaintiff is suing for damages for slander, is being heard today. This is likely to be the last jury case of the session and with the selection of a grand jury for the fall term the jurors will be discharged.

Judge Biggs has made no announcement but it is the impression of some of the attorneys consulted that he will adjourn the term this evening.

WINTER KILLING OF ALFAFA

Indications on the experiment station to date show that there has been some winter killing of alfalfa. The injury has been most severe in sections where the crop went into the winter in a very dry condition. Wherever the land was moist there is practically no injury. Young alfalfa seeded the latter part of May in 1924 was uninjured by the extremely cold weather last winter on the irrigated land, but the same variety sown on dry land in rows in the spring of 1922 was injured in a marked extent.

It is too early to determine the extent of the injury on the dry land as this crop is always slow in starting. More information will be available by next week.

OBIL SHATTUCK, Supt.

HOME SITES PURCHASED

Bend, Or., April 5.—(Special)—A group of Bend business and professional men has acquired the interest of E. W. Barnes and associates in the Barnes Investment company, controlling the tract of land between the proposed location of the Herrick Pine Milling company and the business section of Burns, it was announced here today.

Bend men taking over the Burns land, to be used for homesites, are R. S. Hamilton, J. H. Melster, R. W. Sawyer, W. J. Coleman, Carl A. Johnson, T. H. Foley, L. B. Baird and Dr. John Besson.

Articles of incorporation under the name of the Burns Investment company were forwarded to Salem today.—Oregonian

I. M. Davis, the Drewsey stockman and rancher, was in town the last of the week attending to some business matters and greeting his friends.

MATERIAL DELAY HOLDING UP TERMINAL WORK

With Arrival of Doors and Windows For Depot Building Will Soon be Completed

Active work on the completion of the depot has been delayed pending the arrival of doors and windows. These will be shipped from Nampa next week and when they are ready and put in place the finishing will go forward rapidly. Mr. Morton is anxious to get permanently located and also to move into the cottage provided for his family.

This week the painters have been quite busy and are still wielding the brushes on several of the buildings. The stock yards fences have been white washed and the gates painted red. The filling in of the grounds has about been completed and a quantity of shade trees have been received which will be planted at once.

Gravel and cinders are being spread around the driveways and along the side tracks to make the approaches better for trucks and automobiles. The grades have been improved all around the grounds in this respect.

The incoming trains have been bringing more or less cinders and gravel for ballasting the track and each morning these loads are dumped at points where they desire to improve the roadbed.

ODD FELLOWS TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

Announcement is made by members of the order that the Odd Fellow organizations of Burns will celebrate the one hundred and sixth anniversary of the founding of the order in the United States on April 26th. The writer is not familiar with the details of the program contemplated, but it is going to include a 6 o'clock banquet for members of the subordinate and Rebekahs at the banquet rooms in the Odd Fellow building on Saturday evening, April 25, as the anniversary date falls on Sunday.

In addition to the banquet there will be some talks from members and other entertainment.

A dance at the Tokewama will follow to which the general public is invited. Further details of this celebration will be given in our next issue.

C. J. Brown and Floyd Brown were down from their railroad grading camps during this week. They are making rapid progress in their work and are glad to have the fine weather.

NEW CONTRACTS LET ON RAILROAD GRADING

Practically Entire Distance To North Side Silvies Valley Let For Construction

General Manager Girard of the Fred Herrick Lumber Co. activities in this section, has confirmed the letting of more railroad contracts on the line between Burns and Bear valley. Practically the entire distance from the end of the present grade to the north side of Silvies valley, now seems to be under contract with the exception of a short distance of heavy work between Trout creek and Silvies that will require the big diesel shovel to handle.

The equipment recently purchased by General Superintendent Kloubucher during his visit to Portland, is being received. The large diesel shovel that will be used for considerable of the deep cuts and fills, is expected to arrive either on tonight's train or on Tuesday. This machine weighs 86,000 pounds and will travel from where it is unloaded from the car in Burns to the place it will be used first on its own power. This is one of the latest improvements in the line of shovel for heavy and fast work and has a big capacity.

In enumerating the several contracts recently let for construction Mr. Girard said that the A. H. Arneson contract on the first unit is for three miles joining on the end of the present completed grade about 12 miles up Poison creek. This stretch includes some very heavy cuts and fills with eight bridges. The next three miles of grade has been contracted to J. W. Crew. This contract is not such heavy construction, calling for the moving of dirt with Fresno scrapers. The next mile and a half joining the Crew stretch on the north is also let to Mr. Arneson and requires more heavy cuts and fills. On this comes a contract that Harry Howell has which completes the grade to the portals of the tunnel.

Mr. Girard explained that there is considerable removal necessary at the portals of the tunnel before that part of the work is begun. This with the tunnel has been contracted by a group of Swedes from Spokane. The portals require the removal of some 20,000 cubic yards of dirt. Whether there is to really be a tunnel or a deep cut has not been determined nor will this be, according to Mr. Girard, until the character of the ground is ascertained. If solid rock is encountered, he said it would likely be best to bore through the hill, otherwise it would be a cut. This

portion is a distance of some 400 feet in addition to the portals.

From the tunnel Frank Thompson and the Otley Brothers are getting ready to grade a stretch which brings the road out into the Trout creek section considerable beyond the summit of the mountain.

Contractors have been busy through Silvies valley ever since last fall and a considerable portion of that grading is completed, according to Jack Craddock, a resident of that section who was discussing the subject with a representative of this paper this week. Jack says that with the present good weather, these contractors are renewing their activities.

AN OLD TIMER PASSES

Henry W. Hamilton, one of the best known characters of this section, died last Sunday night. He was in his 86th year and had been in poor health for some time.

Henry Hamilton was born in Missouri but came to the west when a mere boy. He was a resident of Prineville in the early '80s and at one time conducted a livery stable that bore his name up until recently when it was destroyed by fire. While in Prineville he was married and later moved to Spokane where his wife remained, but Henry was used to the outdoors and decided to come back to this section and since 1898 he had been almost constantly with R. H. Brown, the pioneer stock man and rancher with large holdings in Diamond. He was an active employee of Mr. Brown's up until he was incapacitated by an accident and later became more or less a cripple. He had spent his recent years mostly in Burns, although he spent a portion of the time at Nyssa with Mr. Brown and also visited with his sisters, one in Portland, another in Ashland.

Henry was an Indian war veteran and drew a pension from the government. He is survived by his two sisters. His brother, Sim Hamilton, died at Drewsey last year.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon with Rev. Howd of the Baptist church conducting the service at the cemetery. R. H. Brown, his old time friend and benefactor, came over from his home at Nyssa to attend the funeral and has since been looking after his affairs, getting things straightened up.

Henry Hamilton was a good man. He was honest and always could be found doing what was right. He had many friends among the old time people.

R. V. Hopper, the local Dodge representative, unloaded a car load of Dodge automobiles the fore part of this week and some of them are already in the hands of new owners. Mr. Hopper is representing a good and popular car.

M'NARY EVOLVES NEW LAND POLICY

Bill To Be Introduced at Next Session Would Completely Supplant Old System

(Oregonian)

Washington, D. C., April 7.—A national reclamation program which he will advocate at the next session of congress, was made public today by Senator McNary, Oregon, chairman of the irrigation and reclamation committee.

Senator McNary's plan embraces all forms of reclamation, including the drainage of swamp lands in the south, the placing of water in the arid regions of the intermountain and Pacific coast states, removal of stumps from cutover lands in the Great Lakes region, the flooding of lands in the Mississippi valley states to provide sub-soil irrigation, restoration of soil in the New England states, flood control on the Colorado and other rivers and construction of dams which will develop hydro-electric power.

Revolving Fund Proposed

The senator announced that he would propose establishment by congress of a revolving fund of from \$350,000,000 to \$500,000,000 to capitalize reclamation projects approved by the secretary of the interior and incorporated under the laws of the state or states in which they might be situated.

The plan would contemplate the issuance of bonds by the incorporated reclamation districts or projects, which in the opinion of Senator McNary would find a ready market. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds would be used to repay advances made by the government out of the revolving fund.

Reviewing the reclamation proposals now pressing upon congress, including the Boulder Dam project on the Colorado river, Senator McNary asserted that "congress will not desire to take up these projects one by one, by an appropriation directly from the treasury."

Subsidies Not Wanted

"Such a policy," he said, "would encourage log-rolling, incite jealousy among the advocates of the various projects, with the result that all would fail by reason of unscientific methods used."

"The government needs a comprehensive and constructive policy of reclamation which can be invoked whenever the needs of an expanded agriculture require. Such legislation must avoid the appearance of carrying federal aid to the point where it may be denominated a subsidy. Such a term could be applied if each of the various projects were to be constructed out of funds directly withdrawn from the treasury. The national plan which has been suggested would not challenge the opposition of those unfavorable to federal assistance."

SECRETARY STATE CHAMBER PAYS HURRIED VISIT

A. C. Heston, who holds a dual position with the Tourist Association and also a secretary of the State Chamber of Commerce, with headquarters at Ontario, was a visitor to our city last Sunday. He arrived by auto late Saturday evening, accompanied by his wife and at once got in touch with Dr. Hibbard, president of our Commercial Club.

The gentleman said he wanted to see as much of interest as possible on the limited time he had at his disposal and asked to be directed to any scenes that would be attractive to tourists and also expressed a desire to meet with local real estate men to discuss land listings in order to be in a position to direct inquiries.

Dr. Hibbard suggested that he visit the bird reserve at Malheur lake and also to make a tour of this vicinity with a view of inspecting the farms. The gentleman went first to the lake and came back by way of Crane. Upon reaching Burns again on Sunday evening he was accompanied on a short tour by A. A. Traugott of the Inland Empire Realty Co. and expressed his very favorable impression of the country. Mr. Heston will be in a position to aid this section in development and says he's going to give us that assistance.

EASTER CHICKS

By SATTERFIELD

