

Harney Valley Items.

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WATER IN MALHEUR

Government Surveying for Irrigation Scheme.

The reclamation service of the United States Government has plans on foot at the present time whereby over 250,000 acres of arid land in Malheur County will be reclaimed from the desert and irrigated at an expense of \$2,000,000, says the Oregonian of the 23rd inst.

For some time there have been reports of probabilities of great irrigation work in the Malheur Basin. Now come reports of realities, in the shape of the recommendations of Special Agent Arthur P. Davis, of the Department of the Interior, and the arrival of a party of engineers in the field.

When it was first known in this, one of Oregon's largest counties, that there was a possibility that the General Government might take a hand in making fertile fields out of the desert lands, there was great rejoicing among the citizens, and they at once undertook to co-operate with the Government. It was thought to be the best plan to have an agent come to the county to make a personal investigation, so that the whole status of affairs might be thoroughly understood at the department in Washington.

Accordingly maps, charts and reports showing the number of acres of irrigable land to be reclaimed in the county, the location of the most desirable reservoir sites and such other information as was thought necessary were forwarded to the department, with the request that Malheur County might show her possibilities as an irrigation field.

In response to the requests, John T. Whistler, an engineer of the department, came into Malheur County about seven weeks ago and began a personal investigation of the reservoir sites and the water supplies. He devoted the most of his time to the Owyhee River, Willow Creek and the Malheur River.

The Owyhee River scheme was pronounced impracticable, as the results to be obtained would not justify the expense. The Willow Creek plans were disposed of by the engineer on the ground that the water supply was inadequate, and the result was that the Malheur River plans stood alone.

Mr. Whistler was then shown the Malheur Basin at Little River, and he at first expressed his dissatisfaction at the small amount of water on supply. He was then taken to the Harper Basin, a proposed reservoir site, which suited him to a dot. After completing the preliminary investigations, he reported to the department the recommendation for Harper as a suitable reservoir site for the construction of a Government supply.

Acting on the report of Mr. Whistler, the department sent Special Agent Arthur P. Davis, first assistant in the reclamation service, out to the Malheur country to make a more thorough investigation of the Harper Basin. He arrived two weeks ago, and after the proper examination, he pronounced the site admirable. He stated that it was the best reservoir location in the State of Oregon, and, if there was as much Government land to irrigate as had been represented to him, the Malheur proposition was second to none.

He immediately sent a telegram to the department recommending that the land susceptible of irrigation from the proposed reservoir together with all the lands needed for construction, be withdrawn from entry at once.

Mr. Davis informed the local people interested that within ten days a party of Government surveyors would arrive to run lines for the proposed canals and other works. True to his word, on May 16, a party of nine men showed up at Vale and at once commenced active operations for the \$2,000,000 irrigation works.

It will take these engineers at least six months to complete their labors. They will make estimates of the cost of construction and of the number of acres to be reclaimed. The results of the surveys will determine whether or not the Government will undertake the work in the Malheur Basin. If the cost of construction can be defrayed by the funds received from the sale of land benefited, the work will be begun and pushed to an early completion.

Inside the tract proposed to be irrigated there is no less than 150,000 acres of arid land now belonging to the Government. In addition to this, there are at least 100,000 acres in the ownership of companies and individuals, who would all purchase rights, making the total benefited about 250,000 acres in all.

The project now contemplated by the agent is an extensive one, with the resultant cost of about \$2,000,000. But it is conceded that, if 150,000 acres can be reclaimed, or even half that much, the work would justify the expense.

A St. Louis judge has recently taken a stand that should win for him the approbation of right feeling people all over the country. He has ruled that no children be permitted to remain in the court room during the progress of the divorce proceedings of their parents. The laxity of some courts on this question has been most reprehensible up to date. Children lose their ideals soon enough without having them ruthlessly brushed aside by contact with the frailties of their own parents.

The Chicago Weekly Inter Ocean is the only weekly newspaper published in Chicago in connection with the great daily papers. It contains a judiciously selected summary of the news of the nation and world, the best stories, home, farm, woman's, and other special departments, and fair, patriotic, able editorials, written from a Republican viewpoint. It is by far the best general newspaper of the Western States. The regular price for the Weekly Inter Ocean is \$1.00 and for the Harney Valley Items \$1.50, but subscriptions will be received at this office for the two papers in combination for one year for only \$1.50.

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TO VIEW THE LAND

Railroad Party Will Go Into Eastern Oregon.

Oregonian: A. L. Mohler, president of the O. R. & N.; E. E. Lytle, president of the Columbia Southern and T. B. Wilcox, representing the commercial bodies of Portland, will leave during the present week for Eastern Oregon to make a thorough examination of the country that it is proposed to tap with a railroad—either an extension of the Columbia Southern or a branch of the O. R. & N. The railroad men will be accompanied by a party of engineers, representing the different interests at stake.

The details for the investigation are in the hands of Mr. Mohler and are not yet definitely determined. It is probable, however, that the party will leave in wagons or carriages from Shaniko about the middle of the present week and will cruise over that part of Eastern Oregon lying east of the Deschutes River, going into the Prineville district and probably pursuing the investigations east of that district. The objective point of the expedition is Bend, the point the Columbia Southern has planned to reach by a 100-mile extension.

Mr. Wilcox may not be able to influence the decision of the O. R. & N. relative to the Eastern Oregon extension, but he will be able to lay before Portland capitalists facts that would be sufficient to induce them to invest their own money in the enterprise even though it should be turned down by Mr. Harriman. This is the reason he is accompanied by men in whom he can place the utmost confidence and will make an independent report.

There have been so many reports of the resources of Eastern Oregon that the O. R. & N. demanded its own findings before investing in the railroad work that was pledged to Mr. Wilcox in New York. The earlier reports of this country were all favorable, and it was not believed there was any question as to the advisability of extending a line into Eastern Oregon, but a short time ago opposite reports became current and Mr. Harriman declared his unwillingness to go further without a showing from his own officers. Mr. Mohler, president of the O. R. & N. was charged with the duty of making such a report, and will make the investigation in person.

Officials of the Columbia Southern insist there is no question as to the value of the Eastern Oregon country and that any investigation made by the railroad will show the project is worthy. But to protect the interests of his company, President Lytle intends to accompany the expedition.

Should the O. R. & N. turn down the Eastern Oregon extension, there yet remains the proposition that Portland capitalists build an extension of the Columbia Southern and the other plan of securing money for this road elsewhere. In Portland there is a general impression that the Eastern Oregon country will support a railroad, but capitalists will not put their money into the scheme without a definite showing. That is the reason Mr. Wilcox is accompanying the expedition. He will be able to show Portland men of money whether or not it would be advisable to build the line as a Portland enterprise, even in the face of Mr. Harriman's objections.

While the actual details of Mr. Harriman's arrangements are not made known, it is strongly intimated

that the railroad manager provided for the construction of this road in the event it was found to be a feasible proposition. It is declared by those in touch with the situation that the scheme will not be blocked, entirely, by Mr. Harriman's European trip, though of course, Portland men are not as well satisfied as they would have been had Mr. Harriman determined to remain in this country until the investigation is concluded. Mr. Harriman was expected to sail on May 26, and the investigation will not be under way at that time. It will require from a week to ten days to complete the the investigation.

The question to be determined is whether the country is able to support a railroad at present, not whether it can be made so, either with or without irrigation. It is a maxim in railroad circles that any country will support a railroad in time, but neither the O. R. & N. nor the Portland capitalists desire to await the millennium for returns.

The investigation is to satisfy all parties on a number of points. The question of the character of the country is first, and then will come the advisability of extending the Columbia Southern. That this will be done if a railroad is built is felt certain, unless it is discovered the proposition is not at all feasible. Since an ironclad agreement on the part of the O. R. & N. to respect the Columbia Southern's territory exists, the selection of another route would involve so much that the O. R. & N. officials would hesitate to take any other course, but at the same time the Deschutes River proposition is to be investigated. This involves the construction of a branch line up the Deschutes from the O. R. & N.

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Lodge Directory.

BURNS LODGE, No. 70, K of P. Meets every Thursday night. F. M. Jordan, C. C. S. Mothershead, K of R. S.

BURNS CHAPTER, No. 49, O. E. S. Meets second and fourth Monday of each month in Masonic hall, Voegtly building. Mrs. Maggie Levens, W. M. Mrs. Eunice Thompson, Sec.

BURNS LODGE, No. 97, A. F. & A. M. Meets Saturday on or before full moon. Qualified brothers fraternally invited. C. E. Kenyon, W. M. F. S. Rieder, Secy.

BURNS LODGE, No. 98, A. O. U. W. Meets every Saturday evening. Visiting brothers fraternally invited. Thos. Sagers, W. M. Chas. N. Cochran, Recorder.

HARNEY LODGE, No. 77, I. O. O. F. Meets every Saturday evening. Brown's hall. Visiting brothers fraternally invited. Frank O. Jackson, N. G. C. G. Smith, Secretary.

TULE CIRCLE, No. 165, WOMEN OF Woodcraft. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Brown's hall. Mrs. Tillie Jordan, Mrs. Lane Whiting, Guardian. Clerk.

Church Announcements.

Sunday School at Harney the first Sunday of each month at 10 o'clock, A. M. On the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month at 3 o'clock P. M. Preaching services every second Sunday at 8 P. M.

At the Presbyterian church Burns, Rev. A. J. Irwin pastor. Divine services the third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sabbath school at 10 a. m. every Sabbath morning.

Preaching services at the Baptist church every 1st and 2nd Sundays, morning and evening. Sunday school every Sunday at 10 a. m. prayer meeting every Thursday evening.

Services at Christian Science Hall, corner east of the Bank, every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Service Wednesday evenings at 8. Everybody is invited to attend these services.

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WILLIAMS & FITZGERALD, Thornton Williams, M. Fitzgerald, Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public. Law, Notarial and Real Estate Practice. Burns, Oregon. Office in Masonic building.

F. M. JORDAN, Practical Land Surveyor. Burns, Oregon.

S. W. MILLER, Notary Public and Conveyancer. Mortgages, Deeds, Etc., correctly made. Office at Store. Burns, Oregon.

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