

IRRIGATION FOR THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

(Continued from Page One.)

President Anderson's Speech.

M. J. Anderson, president of the Commercial Club, was introduced and spoke as follows:

Mr. President:

I did not hear of your intention to celebrate this occasion until this morning at Roseburg, where I have been attending to some land cases. Last week I was taken sick and when I found that you were to celebrate this occasion I rose from a sick bed determined to be with you at any cost. It has been my pleasure and pleasant duty to act as the president of the Grants Pass Commercial Club, and I am deeply interested in what you are doing. This is the greatest event and will be more far-reaching in its results than anything that ever happened at Grants Pass. Irrigation will completely reclaim every foot of available soil in Josephine County so that in a few years the whole valley will blossom with orchards and vineyards. The people of Josephine County have struggled for years to better conditions, but today you cast the die whereby the whole district is emancipated and will no longer be subject to droughts. In the past we have been conscious of the presence of the "knocker," but from and after this day it will become him to hold his peace and if he can't say something good about his home town to say nothing at all, (and holding up a printed card to the audience, which read, "Boost or be quiet"). This is the motto adopted in our offices at the Forestry Reserve and it ought to be adopted as our motto at this time.

We are living in the beautiful valley of the Rogue River proper, and are today taking our irrigation water from the stream of our own valley. Notwithstanding the fact that some of our neighboring cities over on Bear Creek, one of them twelve miles and the other 25 miles from Rogue River, would lay claim to being the Rogue River Valley and even go so far as to propose to put up signs at Gold Hill and Ashland as the beginning of the end of Rogue River Valley, claiming that Grants Pass is not to be considered. Just let them wait until this irrigation system is in operation and they will learn that Grants Pass is to be considered, and since the real rule of progress is to begin at the lower end and work up we will develop our resources in our own way, for we are the "Rogue River Valley proper" and are entitled to the full rights and benefits of the name, and when the fields and farms about Grants Pass reach its ideal development we will not shut out our neighbors on Bear Creek as tributary beneficiaries to the name of the Great "Rogue River Valley," of which Grants Pass is the center and sole city lying along side and wholly within its natural boundary.

Josephine County as a whole is the richest district in Southern Oregon. The finest timber, the richest mineral deposits, the richest soil and practically the only home of the tokay grape in Southern Oregon.

Let us not forget our neighboring valleys. Let us work for the interest of all the valleys, especially in Josephine County. Let us not speak disparagingly of our neighbors in the county adjoining for in doing so we do ourselves an injury. The Rogue River Valley should embrace all its tributaries and one cannot speak against the others or any of them without condemning his own locality, and it is not a good thing any way to attempt to grow by tearing anybody else down. The Rogue River Valley is known far and wide as the most fertile and productive in Oregon, and it is well if the whole valley be praised by all. Let us rejoice together at the advent of this day. Let us get together and work. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder in the great work of development which is just begun. Let us exert ourselves in season and out of season to bring to the knowledge of the world the infinite resources of Josephine County. Let there be no one to pull back, but ever moving onward we are bound to win.

I thank you for the opportunity of saying these few words, which I assure you come from my heart, but which are expressed on the impulse of the moment.

Remarks of Judge Jewell.

The next speaker was Judge Stephen Jewell, who said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the different organizations of Josephine County are represented here at this time, it is fit and proper that the county at large should be represented.

I have always been a strong believer in the doctrine that all things work together for good. But before all things can work together for

good, it is very necessary that all things be first put together for that purpose. I never could find any fault with nature. The laws of nature and the productions of nature are all right; and when we become wise enough to rightly use what nature

boards on its way to the sea, to take its part in carrying the commerce of the world. On either side and above us are the towering mountains, the hills who wear their caps of snow in the very presence of the regal sun, while below us lies



M. J. ANDERSON, FORMER PRESIDENT COMMERCIAL CLUB

has given us, we will then see results never before dreamed of.

I have no disposition to flatter the state of Oregon because I happen to be a citizen of this state, but nature has done as much for us as she has done for any other part of North America. Our timber supply is almost inexhaustible. Our water supply is equal to, if not superior to, that of any other state in the Union. Our climate is certainly ideal. And when our irrigation system is completed, our soil will produce alfalfa, cereals, vegetables and fruits to compare with any other part of the world. The good country is the one in which all the people are doing something, and all the people enjoying the fruits of their honest toil.

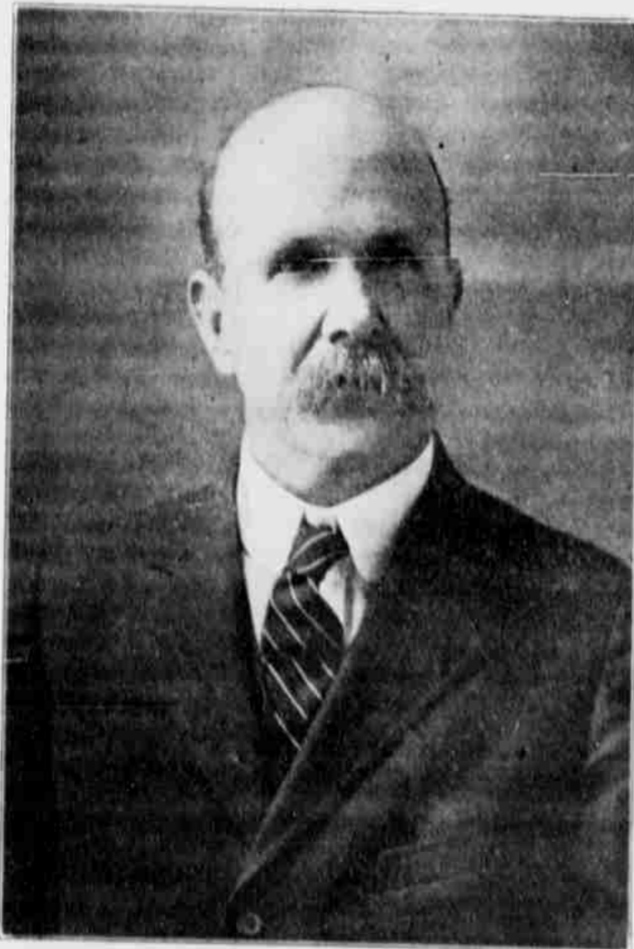
In this enterprise, we have those who oppose, just as it has ever been. When Robert Fulton undertook to propel his boat by steam power, the smart people on the street corners made fun of him; but they did not make fun of him a few years later. When it was suggested that electricity would some day be used to light our houses and streets, men thought it an idle dream, but now we see who was right in the premises.

We remember the men who have

the beautiful valley, spreading out like the scene of a great panorama in the center of which, like the principal jewel in the diadem of a king, lies the beautiful city of Grants Pass, practically deserted today as the populace have come to this beautiful and historic pass, to celebrate an event, the results of which are destined to reach away down the ages. No wonder you are enraptured. I am not surprised that you are here and I only wish I were capable of saying the right thing at this hour.

It has been my very great pleasure and duty to be present at, and participate in, every stage of the proceedings whereby the events of this day were made possible.

I have been honored by the association of eight of the best men that I ever knew, in an attempt to solve the questions incident to irrigation and never in my life did I see such self-sacrificing devotion to the interests of all the people, such loyalty to principle, such oneness of aim, such unwavering fidelity and such unflinching determination to accomplish the thing sought for, as these men have shown during the months of deliberation just past.



E. E. BLANCHARD, MANAGER COMMERCIAL CLUB

done something for the good of the world, and not so much the men who have talked and written. This enterprise is going to be a success. We know that it can be done, we know it should be done, and we believe that those who have the work in hand are able to do it.

Speech of Secretary Blanchard.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is an occasion of great rejoicing. If I were able, in this presence to express in words the feelings that well up from my heart, I would say many things which my poor, weak lips are incapable of framing. I am proud to stand before a crowd of "boosters."

As I gaze upon this scene my heart swells with enthusiasm. I behold at my feet a rushing river,

They have given you their best thought and reported to you their unanimous conclusion. Today you see what it is.

We did not go into this question with any idea of confiscating the property of any man, neither did we think for one moment of permitting the interests of the people who trusted us, to be sacrificed. We have given most careful and thoughtful consideration to every project in sight, and as carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of each.

We have given without reserve, months of our valuable time, without any remuneration, except the reward which comes to every man for duty well and honestly done.

We all rejoice that the die is cast and that the dawn of a new day is at hand upon which we are to realize

the benefits anticipated in our prophetic dreams.

But we are here today with the goods, gentlemen. We are here to rejoice over that which the grace of God has made possible. We are here to proclaim to the world that the Rogue River Valley is to be an irrigated valley, the preparations for which having gone so far that nothing can stop it save the hand of Him who created the water and the dry land.

In this beautiful valley we have had both. The summer last past gave us a wide experience with the dry ground, while the winter just closing has furnished an overabundance of water. But our difficulty has been one of timely and equitable distribution.

Thus has the parched earth looked in vain to a cloudless sky for deliverance to the thirsty vegetation whose roots rest within its heated bosom and thus have the torrents created by winter's rains, rolled away to the sea and been swallowed up, no longer to do service, except to him who rides the rolling billows to conduct the commerce of the world.

But what opportunity have we here? God who created these towering mountains with their mineral wealth also created this mighty river to roll down the valley, and I do not believe that the great architect of the universe ever placed that river there for naught. I do not be-

lieve that he ever made this beautiful spot just for scenery. But it was all placed here right at hand for the use of man, though that use has been utilized only in part, until now.

It is our purpose to harness this mighty torrent of unused water and convert it to our own use. We cannot chain it, for it is irresistible. If it be detained it will manifest itself in power. If it be stopped it will rise until it overleaps the obstruction and again so bounding on its way rushing and roaring and dashing its mass of spray as if to laugh at the feeble hand that sought to confine it.

The Aments have partly curbed its onward march and forced it to dismount the hills, thus causing them to yield up their mineral wealth to the use of man.

We are here today, not to chain this mighty torrent, but to divert it into channels of usefulness. We have carefully laid a system of channels through which the water is to pass constructed as to unite the quenching water with the thirsty earth and thus to do agricultural and horticultural service all down the valleys, in the foothills, on the slopes and in the hills.



MAYOR H. C. KINNEY OF GRANTS PASS

several months men have been working to bring about that for which we are gathered here. But further back than that, the Messrs. Ament recognized this strategic point of the Rogue River and harnessed its waters. We have tried several times to inaugurate an irrigation scheme but have failed because the farmers could not be interested. All great enterprises in this county must have the support of the farmers and last fall after the dry season and the failure of the crops, the farmers were ready to give their support, and so we are here today to begin work on the ditch which shall bring great prosperity to this part of the Rogue River Valley.

We want better things in this county. We want a better city, better streets, better homes, better lawns, more flowers and more of everything that goes to make our city more attractive. And so in this first shovelfull of earth from these irrigation ditches that shall encompass our city and valley, I pledge Josephine County through its officers to more earnest work for the welfare of the county. We want better roads that the products of the farmers may be brought to the market with the least expense.

I pledge the Commercial Club through its president to greater efforts towards unifying the business men and interests in building up our city and letting the outside world know of the opportunities with which we are surrounded.

I pledge the city through its Council and Mayor to more efficient labor in bringing about better conditions in our town. We want paved streets in the business district that they may be clean and attractive. There are going to be things done from now on and I pledge you one and all that when improvements are proposed that you consider them well and then use every bit of your influence in the right direction that our city may become what its surroundings call for—the prettiest city on the coast.

The Mayor's speech was well received and at its close he placed the shovel which he had been holding in

his hand, on the ground, and placing his foot upon it, he sent the blade deep into the soil, and threw out the first shovelfull of earth from the proposed irrigating canal, depositing it beyond the line of stakes. This was the signal for the clapping of hands and a prolonged demonstration of enthusiasm. At the close of the Mayor's speech the plows were started and after several furrows had been turned, the big teams with the scrapers came in and carried the up-turned soil to the outer line of the proposed ditch. The proceedings having ended, the crowd wandered over the grounds, visiting the dam, and inspecting the large pump which will be used to fill the high line ditches. The whole affair from its very inception at Grants Pass, the excursion, the speeches and return to the city was without mar or blemish of any kind.

At 4 o'clock the whistle of the coming train was heard and the signal for the return being sounded, the excursionists once more got on board and in a few minutes were again in Grants Pass. All voted the occasion worthy of our city and county and the good people who are engaged in promoting the promising enterprise of irrigation.

Address of Mayor Kinney. Mayor H. C. Kinney of Grants Pass was the last speaker. He said:

Every enterprise whether great or small requires a great deal of preliminary work and while some here may think this is the beginning of this irrigation work, it is not so, for

TO DEVELOP ABOUT EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ACRES

DITCH BUILDING NOW GOING ON

READY FOR THIS SEASON

Four Ditches Under Construction at the Present Time, Two North and Two South of River.

Work on the irrigating ditches which are to supply the Rogue River valley in Josephine county was commenced on the 18th day of February of the present year and construction has been pushed from that time down to the present. The one idea has been to have the water for irrigating the present season, and there is every reason to believe that this will be accomplished, at least on the land under three of the ditches.

The fifty miles of irrigating ditches which are under construction around Grants Pass will water in the neighborhood of eighteen thousand acres and later from six to ten thousand can be added to the number. The canals or ditches will belong to the farmers and within two years the great dam across the Rogue river which supplies the water will also be a part of the ditch system and be owned by the possessors of the soil. This irrigating system when completed will be as near perfect as any on this continent.

Irrigation has been the one thing needed in this valley but its expense was so great that it was an undertaking seemingly beyond the reach of the land owners of the valley, but during 1908 the matter was taken up in earnest and by untiring exertion and the enthusiasm of the many it became possible to get the necessary capital to commence the work. In the neighborhood of 150 business men became interested and put up the money necessary to inaugurate construction.

At the present time the company is building four ditches, a gravity ditch from a point below the Ament dam down and through the city of Grants Pass and beyond to a point covering the rich bottom lands between the Rogue river and the high bench that runs along the north side of the valley. This ditch will cover in the neighborhood of six thousand acres. Another ditch under construction is what is known as the 200-foot level on the north side. This ditch starts from a point on the hillside 200 feet vertically above the dam and is supplied with water by a pump which it is said is the largest in the world. The ditch follows along the contour of the hills northward above the city of Grants Pass. It will also supply the lawns and gardens of the city. The two ditches mentioned are both on the north side of the river.

On the south side there is a 350-foot contour ditch which starts on the hillside over the dam and follows along southwest and covers the noted settlement known as Fruitdale. Work is progressing rapidly on this ditch and it is hoped to furnish water to all the settlers in this district on or before the first day of

the prettiest city on the coast.