

Rogue River Courier.

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No. 24.

PRACTICAL TALK ABOUT IRRIGATION

IMPORTANT FACTS THAT IRRIGATORS SHOULD KNOW

THE VALUE OF WATER

The A B C of the Whole Business of Irrigation Explained to Water Users.

(By Elias Ruud, Consulting Engineer.)
Article No. 4.

How to Irrigate a Steep Hillside.

This question is met the very moment that a high line irrigation ditch becomes ready for operation. If the question is made applicable to this district at Grants Pass where the hillsides are steep and irregular, and the soil varying in character, it becomes a problem that only experience can solve, if the methods suggested in this article are found inadequate.

It goes without saying that all grounds must be thoroughly prepared for irrigation. And preparing does not only mean that the soil should be cultivated and made porous so as to facilitate the absorption of the water, but the surface should be smoothed and leveled, so as to permit the water to cover the entire surface. When the water is allowed to stand in pools in the hollows, leaving the humps dry, no good result can be obtained by irrigation. Labor and money expended on grading and leveling is well invested capital. On slopes the main point is to make the slopes perfectly uniform where possible.

Water is put on a hillside by the following methods:

Side Hill Flooding.

This method of simply letting the water run over your sidehill by cutting a number of holes in the lower side of your distributing ditch and then letting the water run down the slope, allowing it to spread out sideways in its downward course, is objectionable for several reasons.

First, it is sure to cut the land to pieces; and as the cuts deepen, the sideways spreading diminishes and the method fails. This will be seen most quickly where the soil is loose, like the granite in this region, or where it is well and deeply cultivated. If you have a field in crop where no provision has been made for irrigation, this of course is the only method, and where the surface is well knit together by the roots of the crop it will not cause much damage if the water is applied carefully and slowly.

Second, as water has a tendency to wash with it the finest particles of the soil, those of really the greatest value to the life of the plants, you stand a chance of losing more than gaining by irrigation, the creek below or your wise neighbor be-

low you absorbing the best of your land and the most of the fruits of your labor.

Flooding by Checks.

This irrigation is accomplished by raising little check levees about a foot high along the contour lines of the hillside, the distance to be governed by the slope so that the top of the check will be on a level with the bottom of the levee above, and when the water is led down in a ditch to the levee and turned in it is retained by the levee and soaks into the ground. The upper parts are thus irrigated first, the next below and so on. This method is a very good one, as it obviates the loss of fine material by washing. The only drawback is in the fact that more water soaks in at the lower side of the checked belt than at the upper. But in a general way the plan is satisfactory. These checks or ridges can generally be turned up with a plow, or if the scheme is carried on on a larger scale, with a scraper. These checks can either be made permanent and will last from year to year, or they can be made simply by turning up the loose soil for the occasion. The closer the checks are together the better the scheme will work, but on steep hillsides, very low checkridges will come so close together that it would interfere with the cultivation of the soil.

Always bear in mind that irrigation applied in the ideal way is not to let a stream of water run over the land, but to cover the land with a still water to such an extent only that all of the water will be absorbed and no more. Then allowing the surface to dry, cultivate to prevent evaporation, and the application will keep that piece of ground in fit condition for a long time.

Flooding by Terraces.

This method is by far the best on steep hillsides. It is really only an exaggerated form of the check system. The land is terraced off in different levels and a small wall or check is built up on the lower edge to retain the water to allow it to soak in. Where the subsol is well packed, these terraces will become permanent and the cultivation by terraces has always been found convenient and profitable. The water to the land is conducted from the main feeding ditch by a box, or a pipe and let out on the level of the first terrace, always beginning the irrigation with the highest terrace. The shaping of the ground for this system is naturally costly work, but the entire sidehill has not to be terraced at once, as the unterraced part can be irrigated by checks as described above.

A fourth system of irrigating a steep sidehill can be adopted and we will call that:

Sidehill Irrigation by Furrows.

The water is let in at the highest point of the hillside and is conducted over the land in furrows drawn nearly along the lines of equal elevation, allowing no more drop than is necessary to make the water run, zigzagging back and forth. These furrows are merely surface scratchings and as soon as the hill has been thoroughly soaked with water and the surface dry enough, they are blotted out by the cultivation and mulching of the top soil.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

TO PUSH IRRIGATION --IMPORTANT MEETING

Interesting and Highly Satisfactory Financial Showing of Receipts and Expenditures.

After some weeks of inactivity there was a very important meeting held by the Josephine County Irrigation and Power company on Friday night of last week at the rooms of the Commercial Club. There were present twenty or more business men who took deep interest in the proceedings. President Gilkey called the meeting to order and Secretary Riggs occupied his desk as usual. There was much of the old-time enthusiasm displayed by many persons during the evening and there were many expressions of satisfaction as to the success of irrigation and the success of irrigation and the amount of work accomplished during the past season. The president made a talk along the lines of what had been accomplished in the way of construction of the various irrigation canals and the money that had been expended and the work remaining to be undertaken during this fall and winter.

Referring to the work of the past season a financial statement was exhibited covering all the details of the money secured and expended.

Following the reading of the financial statement Mr. Gilkey told of the important work which must be undertaken at once. First came the large gravity canal which was to cover the bottom lands on the north side. This, he said, was expensive work and the great misfortune was that of the 3,500 acres and more which would come under this ditch little had been subscribed for construction. The 200-foot ditch had to be extended a considerable distance to cover the lands of those who had come forward and taken stock, and the Fruitdale ditch needed considerable work. All of which must be looked after in the near future. Referring to finances, Mr. Gilkey said that under the plan of the company ditch extension had to be made from money subscribed by land owners under that particular ditch and under this rule, which was the only just way of proceeding, it became necessary to ask the land owners in the lower bottom to subscribe the amount needed to make the extension. He said, in answer to a question, that the gravity ditch was completed the distance of a mile below the dam and considerable work had been done on it a mile and a half farther.

At this point there was considerable discussion as to the best method of procedure to secure the subscriptions to go on with the work on this ditch. Mr. Gilkey finally said he thought of appointing a committee of twenty-five business men to undertake to dispose of stock sufficient among the land owners down the river to go on with the construction of the line. He made the statement regarding the resources of the company as follows: There was \$10,000 available for work on the Fruitdale and on the 200-foot ditch on the north side, and if \$10,000 could be raised among the land owners in the bottom this would be all the money needed to do the work the coming winter and spring. This practical way of dealing with the question brought out a motion to appoint the president's proposed committee of twenty-five. The motion was put and carried. The committee was at once named as follows:

The Soliciting Committee.
R. L. Coe, Isaac Best, J. E. Hair, Lee Calvert, E. S. Shank, J. T. Tufts, O. S. Blanchard, J. D. Fry, Jos. Moss, Harry Andrews, G. C. Sabin, C. G. Coutant, H. L. Kikney, C. C. Presley, R. R. Turner, Dr. M. C. Findlay, H. D. Norton, C. P. Bishop, G. A. Hamilton, H. C. Bobzein, L. B. Hall, Frank Mashburn, Geo. Calhoun, L. L. Jewell, J. O. Booth, S. J. Burke.

R. L. Coe was made chairman of the committee of twenty-five and blue prints were at once prepared showing the line of the ditches already constructed and their extensions. The chairman organized his committee into sub-committees to visit property owners on the river bottom and to secure as many subscriptions as possible. This work was commenced on Thursday, since which time no report has been received.

Secretary J. G. Riggs, in speaking of the importance of the undertaking in hand, said:

"If work is to continue the owners of property to be benefited must subscribe for stock to the full amount of the property benefited. The business men of Grants Pass are now carrying the big end of the stick and to this they have made no objection, inasmuch as they felt that irrigation to a certain extent was an experiment, but now it has been proven by those who have used the water that no soil or spot on the coast responds so abundantly as our own locality; therefore, the land owners must now take up the burden and push

| STATEMENT OF THE JOSEPHINE COUNTY IRRIGATION AND POWER COMPANY | |
|---|-------------|
| Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, at the close of business, August 14th, 1909. | |
| Receipts. | |
| Assessment No. 1, 5 per cent. | \$ 498.75 |
| Assessment No. 2, 5 per cent. | 491.25 |
| Assessment No. 3, 5 per cent. | 483.75 |
| Assessment No. 4, 15 per cent. | 4,478.40 |
| Assessment No. 5, 10 per cent. | 3,864.10 |
| Assessment No. 6, 10 per cent. | 3,225.65 |
| Assessment No. 7, 10 per cent. | 3,024.60 |
| Assessment No. 8, 10 per cent. | 2,785.10 |
| Assessment No. 9, 10 per cent. | 2,368.10 |
| Assessment No. 10. | .30 |
| Stock paid up in full. | 838.75 |
| | \$22,068.75 |
| Disbursements. | |
| General Expense | \$1,863.44 |
| Preliminary Survey | 1,250.00 |
| Machinery, tools and horses. | 3,011.10 |
| Golden Drift Mining Company. | 1,592.55 |
| Flame material account. | 894.87 |
| Ditch, North 200, engineering. | 693.06 |
| Ditch, North 200, construction. | 6,112.83 |
| | 6,805.89 |
| Ditch, South 350, engineering. | 470.50 |
| Ditch, South 350, construction. | 2,331.60 |
| | 2,802.10 |
| Ditch, Gravity, engineering. | 208.50 |
| Ditch, Gravity, construction. | 2,822.33 |
| | 3,030.83 |
| Ditch, South 200, engineering. | 178.25 |
| Ditch, South 200, construction. | 371.90 |
| | 550.15 |
| Balance in bank. | 245.82 |
| Cash on hand. | 12.00 |
| | \$22,068.75 |
| Unpaid Subscriptions. | |
| Balance due on 1st assessment. | 7.50 |
| Balance due on 2nd assessment. | 12.50 |
| Balance due on 3rd assessment. | 17.50 |
| Balance due on 4th assessment. | 359.25 |
| Balance due on 5th assessment. | 362.00 |
| Balance due on 6th assessment. | 887.95 |
| Balance due on 7th assessment. | 1,079.00 |
| Balance due on 8th assessment. | 1,307.00 |
| Balance due on 9th assessment. | 1,702.50 |
| | \$5,735.20 |

it to completion. It is true that many of our people are not in a financial condition to subscribe, but they can and must do as has been done in other places, i. e., sell a part of their land in order to improve the balance."

Will Take Down Old Bridge.

A contract has been let by the board of county commissioners for the taking down of the old bridge and W. H. Kenney is the contractor. The price agreed upon for doing the work is \$1550, and this includes piling up the material in a workmanlike manner on the bank of the river without injury to any of the material. Mr. Kenney has entered into a bond of \$10,000 not only for the faithful performance of his duty in this manner, but that he will not injure the new steel bridge in removing the old one. He is to complete his contract on or before November 1st.

RAILROAD MAGNATE HARRIMAN DEAD

Event Occurred at His Arden Home at 3:35 Thursday Afternoon.

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—Announcement is made that Harriman is dead. This is official and has been confirmed.

Mr. Harriman died at his home in Arden at 3:35 this afternoon. Mr. Harriman had been in ill health for a long time. He was born at Hempstead, L. I., February 25, 1848.

Mr. Harriman's death had been expected for several days. Last Sunday he suffered a serious relapse, due to an acute attack of indigestion, and he was unable to rally from the critical condition which then threatened his life. With him at the time of his death were all the members of his immediate family and Dr. Lyle.

Judge Lovett, the close friend and business associate of Mr. Harriman, received the first word of the financier's death at the Union Pacific offices and left immediately for Arden. Mr. Harriman is survived by a widow, two sons, Avery and Roland Harriman, and three daughters, Mrs. Robert Gerry, Miss Mary and Miss Carol Harriman.

The news reached Wall street before it was made known elsewhere and produced a decided sensation in financial circles where he had been a familiar figure so long. Fortunately the stock exchange had closed for the day and brokers were on their way home when the news reached them. This gave the market a chance to prepare for the event before the next day's session of the Exchange opened.

Pave to the Bridge.

The Courier on Thursday made a practical investigation as to the wishes of the property owners between M street and the steel bridge as to their preferences in paving that street. It was found that a majority favored hard pavement and none cared to have macadam, each giving as a reason for his opposition that such pavement was only a makeshift at best and was not worth the original cost, let alone the constant repair that would be necessary. Bitulithic seemed to be the favorite on that part of the street. This was, of course, only a straw vote, but then the old saying is that straws tell which way the wind blows.

Rogue River Improvements.

Jos. Moss, of the committee on river improvements, has been investigating the condition of the rapids above town and has had an expert to look over the work necessary to be done and will make a report to the club on Monday night, which will show somewhat in detail his investigations and what has yet to be done before boats can be run to the Ament dam. Quite a number of people are deeply interested in this subject and will be glad to learn the success of the movement to make the river navigable from the steel bridge to the dam. The work is in good hands.

Mrs. Nellie Tryer and daughter, Miss Louise Birdsall, returned Thursday evening from Seattle where they have been since June visiting relatives.

THE NORTH POLE AGAIN DISCOVERED

THIS TIME LIEUTENANT ROBT. E. PEARY DOES IT

TWO AMERICAN VICTORIES

The Scientific World Honors Deeds of United States Arctic Explorers.

Last week the Courier gave an account of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's visit to the North Pole and our readers found it an exciting story and this week we have to announce the successful results of the Robert E. Peary expedition with the steamer Roosevelt, which marks the fact that two intrepid American explorers have reached a point in the north which has been the ambition of the people of all countries for centuries past. In round numbers thousands have lost their lives in the attempt to reach the North Pole and here two men reached the goal with the loss of only one man.

It will be remembered that Dr. Cook reported reaching the North Pole (that charmed spot on which you may stand and turn any way you may, you will face the south) on the 21st of April, 1908. Robert E. Peary returns later and reports the discovery of the pole April 6th, this year.

We gave the various dispatches printed in the great dailies regarding the two expeditions.

Commander Robert E. Peary on Tuesday officially notified the National Geographical Society that he had reached the North Pole. The board of managers of the society, through President Willis L. Moore, telegraphed the following reply to Peary's message:

"In answer to your telegraphic report that you have reached the North Pole, the National Geographical Society, through the action of its board of managers, today extends to you its heartiest congratulations on your great achievement."

The statement given out by the board, besides giving the congratulatory message, says:

"The board of managers of the National Geographical Society today decided to take no action regarding honors of arctic explorers until after detailed observations and records are submitted to and passed upon by competent authorities."

Robert E. Peary, having discovered the North Pole on April 6, 1909, as told in his series of messages Monday from Labrador, was figuratively lost to the world last night, homeward bound on the Roosevelt. At Copenhagen royalty continued to pay homage to Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who announced he had unfurled the flag of his country at the Pole on April 21, 1908. Neither saw indications of the other's achievement, both will be in the United States before the close of the present month.

Commander Peary on the Roosevelt, according to the best reckoning, was in the vicinity of the Strait of Belle Isle, between Newfoundland and the Province of Quebec, last night. Inadequate telegraphic facilities may move him to decide to proceed to North Sydney, N. S., before he gives the world details of his triumph.

Commander Peary had intended stopping at Chateau Bay, Labrador, but the telegraph station there was abandoned some time ago. It is 450 miles from Chateau Bay to North Sydney and the time of his arrival can only be guessed. The Roosevelt may reach there late Wednesday.

Says No Word About Cook.

INDIAN HARBOR, Sept. 7.—Despite his many hardships in the Arctic regions, Commander Peary appears to be in the best of health and spirits.

When told that Dr. Cook had reported finding the North Pole, those on board the Roosevelt expressed surprise, but declined to make any statement other than that no traces of any previous expedition had been found.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Special New Arrivals

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