

Weekly Rogue River Courier.

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ARBITRATION OUT OF THE QUESTION

The Courier is obliged to admit that there appears to be no hope, or even a possibility, of securing a union of all irrigation interests by submitting the question to arbitration. The times are either out of joint or those interested feel that there is nothing to arbitrate. It can not be that selfish interests predominate, for all clearly understand that the very life of this part of the Rogue River valley is bound up in irrigation. Having failed to secure arbitration of private interests, we must appeal to the people, the source of all power, and we suggest the carrying out of the idea which has been so popular during the last two years, and that is, the organization of an irrigation district. This is now in order and the time has come to organize. If the water users of this district act promptly they can, by united effort, secure without delay the district organization within the next three months. The first step will be a petition to the county court, asking for an election to decide if the organization of such a district is the will of the voters within the proposed territory which may be set apart for a district. This should be found out as soon as practicable. If the election results favorable to the organization it will not take long to elect the officers of the district and to decide the bond issue to be made. It should be understood that a district organization will not interfere with the plans of others to furnish water for the canals and ditches which may be constructed. Such an organization will be a strong factor in the irrigation movement as it will have the authority to make contracts and the financial ability to buy water or water rights. It is not necessary to point out the importance of the proposed movement as this has been understood for many months, and it is safe to say that those interested in securing irrigation are ready to co-operate in the organization of the irrigation district. We have every reason to believe that the county court will do all it can to forward the movement.

THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT QUESTION

In connection with the proposition to organize an irrigation district it is not out of place to explain fully the purpose of such a help to give irrigation to this valley. The Courier will endeavor to cover the ground carefully, so that it may be fully understood by our readers, and as it seems important to go fully into the subject at this time we take up the matter at some length.

Irrigation development in the United States on a large scale has been confined to the past two decades, and more especially to the year since 1902, when the act of congress creating the United States reclamation service was passed. The activity of the federal government has stimulated private capital and the result has been that many millions of acres have been brought under water during the last few years.

Prior to the recent activity in this important branch of development work, individuals and private and public corporations had been preparing the way. California and Colorado early took the lead. In 1887 the California legislature passed what was known as the Wright act, which permitted communities desirous of securing an irrigation system to organize a public corporation with limited powers, for the purpose of securing the desired system, which was regarded in the nature of a public benefit. The constitutionality of this law was passed on favorably by the United States supreme court in 1895. Similar acts have been passed by other states until now there are flourishing districts in practically all of the arid and semi-arid states.

In our period of greatest irrigation development the method of development has differed according to the local conditions pertaining to each project. Areas of public land susceptible of irrigation have been segregated and irrigated under the Carey act, communities where the land was in private ownership have had water sold to them by private corporations, and other communities where the land owners desired to take the matter into their own hands and pro rate the cost of the community's system on all the land, have been organized under the laws of their respective states into irrigation districts.

If now the time has come for the Grants Pass and nearby communities to consider the organization of an irrigation district, it behooves us to consider what advantages will be derived therefrom. As we all know, irrigation development has in the past been retarded by contention among private interests.

First, and foremost then, a district organization would centralize the responsibility and authority for the people's interests in a board of directors directly responsible to them. All private interests would be allowed an opportunity to deal with the people's representatives, but no one of them could hold-up and retard the working out of a definite policy.

Second—A district would give the people the best sys-

tem obtainable at the least cost, for all irrigable land within its boundaries would bear its proportionate share and so reduce the cost per acre. This feature eliminates the possibility of irrigation being delayed by landowners who will not join with their neighbors to carry their share of the community burden. Another saving as compared with a system put in by private interests is found in the fact that only the actual cost of maintenance will be assessed against the landowners.

Nor is the burden of the bonds to construct the project oppressive to the landowners. For ten years only the interest must be paid on them. The eleventh year a small percentage of the principal is taxed on the district, the twelfth year a little more, and so on till the twentieth year, when the entire issue has been paid off and the system free of encumbrance belongs to the district, the only yearly charge thereafter being that for maintenance.

Third—A district means the putting of the people's interests in their own hands, over which they will always have control. No outside interests can interfere with their working out a safe and practical project, and the installing of the system best adapted to the physical conditions encountered in this locality.

The conclusions are then that a district means the eliminating of obstructive factions, though giving fair play to all. It means going ahead along the lines of a definite policy, instead of standing still. It means an economical system, because all the irrigable land will stand its proportional share, and the maintenance charge will be confined to actual cost. It means safety and security for all time—a well built, permanent system, the community's own property and managed by them through their board of directors.

Let us have a district!

THE FLYING MACHINE IMMORTALS

There is a maxim to the effect that no great cause was ever won without the shedding of blood. Judging the flying machine by this standard we may feel certain that there is much truth in the same quoted. The carnage in proportion to the number engaged is indeed frightful. There is a list already of twenty-two brave men who have for the sake of success given their lives in behalf of a cause which was dear to them. That they were brave even unto death no one will deny. At this time there are many be made a practical success for the reason that there is too much risk to human life to justify continuing the experiments longer. This is a very narrow view to take and does injustice to that noble craft who have enlisted in the scientific cause of human progress. The flying machine has gone too far to stop now. Men will continue to enlist in the work of making this invention practical, so as to who will be ready to say that the flying machine can not enable it to take its place in competition with other modes of transportation. It naturally follows that it will cost many lives, but finally success will crown the efforts of those who do and dare. This line of work will require more real bravery than the storming of a fortress, or the charge of infantry or cavalry. So far the list of immortals who have given their lives in this cause is composed of the following:

AVIATORS KILLED IN TWO YEARS

1908

September 17—Selfridge, Lieutenant Thomas E., U. S. A., killed in fall with Orville Wright, near Washington.

1909

September 7—Ena Roost, Italian, killed in Rome in machine of own invention.

September 7—Lefebvre, E., killed in Wright machine at Jusivy Sur Oreg, France.

September 22—Ferber, Captain Louis E., Killed at Bou-longe, France.

December 6—Fernandez, Antonio, Spaniard, killed at Nice, after motor exploded.

1910

January 4—Delagrang, Leon, killed at Bordeaux, France.

April 2—Leblon, Herbert, killed at San Sebastian, Spain.

May 13—Michelin, Chauvetto, killed at Lyons, France.

June 17—Speyer, Eugene, killed at San Francisco.

June 18—Robl, —, killed at Stettin, Germany.

July 3—Wachter, Charles, killed at Rheims, in Antoinette monoplane.

June 12—Rolls, Captain C. S., killed at Bournemouth, England.

August 3—Kinet, Nicholas, a Belgian, killed at Brussels.

July 25—Kinet, Daniel, Belgian, killed at Ghent.

September 25—Pollot, Edmund, killed near Chartres, France.

October 1—Hess, killed at Metz, Germany.

September 24—Chauvez, G., died as result of accident while crossing Alps.

November 17—Johnstone, Ralph, killed at Denver.

December 22—Grace, Cecil, disappeared while flying across English channel in effort to win De Forrest prize for longest cross-channel flight and return.

December 30—Caumont, Lieutenant, of French army, falls 60 feet at Versailles.

December 31—Hoxsey, Arch, fell 563 feet at Los Angeles while trying to beat own altitude record.

December 31—Moissant, John B., plunged suddenly while trying to land at New Orleans, struck head on ground and was instantly killed.

BRIGHT MINING OUTLOOK

In the opinion of the various mining men The Courier has consulted, the new year will have a large volume of mining business to its credit. Josephine county miners have been successful during the year 1910, and there is no reason to believe that the future has not something good in store for this class of industry. It is pleasing to note that investors are looking with confidence to our mines, and we are reliably informed that large blocks of capital will be invested in the business in this

county in the very near future. We are glad to be able to report this good news, as it is of the utmost importance. The Galicelistrict alone will more than double its business during 111. The new auto road short-cut from the Alameda min to Leland will reduce the cost of transportation more than one-half and as a consequence will increase the outlook of all the producing mines in the section. The new smelter will be put in operation in a short time and this will make the Alameda one of the great producers of the Pacific coast.

A GREAT OUTRAGE ON OREGON

On Tuesday President Taft allotted the \$45,000,000 carrying on government irrigation for the next five years. Of this great sum Oregon only gets \$925,000. This amount is so small that everybody in Oregon is wondering how it happened and what Senators Bourne and Chamberlain were doing to allow such an outrage to be perpetrated on the state which they pretend to represent in the United States senate. It appears that they have been totally ignored by the president and it may not be out of place to ask these gentlemen the meaning of such action. Will they tell us why we get only a trifle more than 2 per cent of \$45,000,000? Perhaps Congressman Hawley of this district, or Congressmen Kafferty of the second district, throw some light on the subject. But the senators should come right in the limelight and tell us why we find no record of their objections to this insult to Oregon. The people have been looking for four days for some explanation but both senators are mute and sit there in Washington like bumps on a log. As we to understand that these senators are absolutely worthless and have fostered the selves on the state by methods peculiar to sharp politicians? We had hoped that there was some honesty in a pair and that they, to some extent at least, had the good of Oregon at heart, but it appears otherwise.

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