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BOARDMAN PROJECT LABORATORY FOR J. D.

EXPERIENCE NOW BEING
GAINED INVALUABLE FOR
FUTURE

E. P. Dodd Writes Interestingly of
Possibilities of Proposed Project.

The following interesting article is one of a series being written by E. P. Dodd, of Hermiston, for the Pendleton East Oregonian, relative to the future possibilities of the John Day Irrigation district:

Irrigation is a science. It is not only a science that is general in its application but every locality must develop its own science. The west end of Umatilla county has been an irrigation laboratory for many years and the fumes from long tested experiments still fill the nostrils of students and professors in nature's weird laboratories on the Umatilla and other projects now operating under established principles.

These principles are applicable and valuable now to the John Day project.

Developing a science in irrigation means the testing of many methods, the analysis of soils, the trial of different crops, the education of many settlers, the study of climatic effects and the final selection of successful principles. From a great jumbling together of facts, near facts and false ideas must be evolved by daily toil, careful experiments and honest effort the foundation on which these new communities shall succeed.

To those who witness from afar these efforts may seem somewhat trivial but in the irrigation laboratories of Umatilla and Morrow counties discoveries have been made and principles established that will result in great financial returns in the future and in a splendid development of a great area that heretofore has been but idle waste. Too much importance cannot be given the solution of the varied problems that have hindered development in this region, and, in the future consideration of additional reclamation, these assets must be placed in the same column as land reservoirs and canals.

When the John Day project is open for settlement there will be no failures. The new settler will know just what to do, how to do it and just what to plant, and what returns he may expect from his land. The student who disobeys the rules will flunk in the final exams. The stubborn settler and the wise guy will either mend their ways after a season or quit the class room early with nothing but their conceit to carry them to the next station.

Perhaps no project in the United States can demonstrate the evolution of a local irrigation science so well as has been done at Boardman. About 150 farm units were opened by the government 3 years ago. All were occupied at once and all have been exceedingly successful. It would require many columns to describe the factors that have contributed to the success of that community. The government built concrete lined canals and laterals. This had not been done previously in other projects, but the lesson had been learned in the combat with sandy soils. The government gave the settler 20 years without interest to pay off the cost of constructing the system. Only a few years ago it required the settler to pay in 10 installments, a practical impossibility. The government before opening the lands to irrigation gained control of the price of the private lands and eliminated speculation. Public land was free to the settler and private lands were held down to \$5.00 to \$20.00 per acre in the raw, wild state. The border method of irrigation has been recently discovered and an agricultural engineer was supplied free of charge to aid the settler in preparing his land for cultivation. This was worked out in the laboratory around Hermiston with many tests and with many failures and tribulations. The new community got the benefit just in the John Day will profit thereby. Alfalfa and other crops of quick return. Instead of the red apple at the foot of the rainbow ten years hence, had been well established as the only crop for new development in this locality. The people of the nearby communities were insistent on these facts and the new settler scarcely dared to attempt new and untried fields

JAMES M. COX



Nominated for President of the United States by the Democratic National Convention at San Francisco, at 1:00 this morning.

that were in violation of the well established principles and threatened ruin to the smart one and injury to the whole community. All these very fundamental facts have become embedded in the life of the people of these contiguous irrigation districts. To have opened the John Day ten years ago would have cost the settlers who attempted its development hundreds of thousands of dollars more than it will cost them when that event takes place.

The ultimate object of such development is a successful man on the land and a productive farm. As to the attainment of these ends there can be no question. The land will be worth when developed from \$200 to \$250 per acre subject to water charges. The cost of the water has been estimated at \$100 to \$125 per acre. Under present high costs this would be greater. No land should be sold to settlers at over \$10-\$20 per acre. Both water and land should be on easy terms and government charges would be without interest. These lands are easy to develop because of their smoothness and good soil qualities. Changing conditions would cause changes in our figures, but not, relative, important.

The climate is the very best. The district has long growing seasons, short and mild winters, and as it becomes lined with trees and covered with verdure the usual desert conditions disappear. The altitude is low and being in a dry climate, healthful advantages are great. It should be remembered that this is part of the small area of the Upper Columbia, which is the only locality in this latitude in the United States that has a low altitude and a dry climate. Italy has the only similar condition in Europe.

As to markets, this region is the only possible alfalfa district that can be developed so near to Portland and the coast which is so rapidly becoming a great consumer of alfalfa hay and its products. Western Oregon has pasture grazes but needs the feed values of alfalfa for its dairy, beef and mutton herds in winter seasons. This is an other scientific fact of great value to both localities that has been established in recent years in this pioneer irrigation laboratory. The traveler passing through the desert stretches along the Columbia Highway often wonders why people live in this desert when the world is so large. They do not wonder when they reach the highly developed areas. They may still be doubtful about the original desert condition of beautiful fields and pretty home lands and gardens. They do not readily believe in the transformation. To convince the public of the possibilities of the burning sands of a western desert is one of the problems not results, present and future, of these laboratory experiments will be summarized not an easily solved in our laboratory. There is nothing resembling the lap of luxury under a sage brush. It is this problem, chiefly that the directors of the John Day must meet before they can realize their ambitions. The public must become interested in a large degree before an enterprise of such proportions can be put over. The data for construction are available and the methods of development well known. The work of bringing all these into action is the task that must be accomplished.

PORTLAND SITS UP, TAKES NOURISHMENT

Oregon Metropolis Finally Awakes To Irrigation Possibilities

John Day Promoters Encouraged by Portland's Interest in Washington Project

The unexpected has happened.

Portland, the Rose City, the metropolis of Oregon, the one city of the Pacific Northwest whose geographical and topographical position on the map has given license, since the completion of the North American continent, to be the preeminent commercial center of all this great section, has awakened to the possibilities of irrigation. This does not mean only, the irrigation of lawns in Portland for it is now several years since the wide awake people of the City of Roses discovered that without a considerable amount of artificial moisture her lawns and gardens would dry out and burn up as readily as they might do if located in that unknown (to many Portlanders) country which lies east of the Cascade range. Therefore Bull Run water.

The awakening in this particular instance seems to be due to the fact that some Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma boosters have evolved the Big Idea, known as The Columbia Basin Project. It is a big undertaking and one that not only reflects credit on its promoters because of their broad vision and indomitable public spirit, but will also reflect some credit and probably much commercial advantage to the smaller fry who drop in at the tail end of the procession and help, what they can, in whooping 'er up.

That is what Portland is now doing to the best of her ability and for this evidence of having used her perspicacity and taken a glance at the big country across and beyond the Cascade range, the lusty town on the lower Willamette is entitled to lasting credit.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce, which no doubt reflects the spirit of the business men of Portland who compose its membership, is sending letters to the country press of eastern Oregon urging them to accept an invitation from the commercial bodies of Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma to join in a tour of the Columbia Basin Project which, the Portland letter rather naively states is "for editors and publishers of daily newspapers."

As there are only four or five daily newspapers in eastern Oregon and as the tour is only planned for editors of such publications it would appear that the Portland Chamber is wasting considerable in stamps and stationery in sending this urgent letter to the weekly publishers.

That this wastage is real is evident from the fact that since the date of No. 1, Volume 1, of the first newspaper published in the vast domain now known as the Inland Empire, practically every one has been a consistent and confirmed booster for every project that meant the development of the Great Pacific Northwest. Neither county boundaries nor state lines, not even the majestic Cascade range, have obscured their vision but in and out of season they have striven and written and printed for the full and complete development of the wondrous domain known as the Pacific Northwest whose really progressive people know neither state lines, mountain ranges nor water courses but who pin their faith to the man or the community that plays the game and plays it fair.

Too much can hardly be said in commendation of the Columbia Basin Project. It is a Big Idea conceived by the united thought of the able people of a progressive state and it is only a question of getting the machinery behind it in full operation when its consummation will be in sight. Eastern Oregon sends greetings to Portland and applauds the spirit of progress they evidence in thus putting their shoulders to the wheel to help forward this progressive development of a sister state.

Promoters and friends of the John Day project, which comprises some 300,000 acres of productive soil in Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla coun-

ties, all being political sub-divisions of the state of Oregon, are jubilant over the position taken by the Portland Chamber of Commerce on the Columbia Basin project believing it to indicate quite plainly that Portland is at last really alive to the possibilities of irrigation in the Inland Empire and that the business and financial interests of that wealthy city may, ultimately, be enlisted in putting every available acre of the John Day district under water and adding this vast acreage to the already rich and productive domain which annually sends to Portland docks the agricultural wealth of a kingdom.

The John Day district, which is already organized as a legal incorporation and ready to do business as soon as the present financial situation becomes more nearly normal, was organized almost a year ago and considerable preliminary work has already been done towards getting the proposition under way.

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the district the firm of Lewis & Clark, well known irrigation engineers of Portland, was employed to make a preliminary survey of what is known as the high line ditch and make a report on the probable cost and scope of the project. This work is already under way or will within a few days.

When, a few weeks ago, the director and friends of the John Day district arranged for a big barbecue picnic on the dividing line between the big, unirrigated John Day district and the Boardman project, which is now under water and showing the result of three years of development, for the purpose of attracting attention to the possibilities of the John Day project, there was considerable disappointment that the Portland Commercial club and the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce was without representation. Although assurance had been given that at least a special Pullman car would bring a delegation from the big town, when the time arrived the date seemed to have been lost or overlooked and in the vast crowd of some 3000 people not an official representative of the city of Portland or of any of her commercial organizations was present. The report which is said to have gained some circulation around the town of Boardman and later drifted to Heppner to the effect that the representative of the Portland Chamber of Commerce appointed to arrange for transportation for the party tried to buy tickets for Boardman, Montana, and upon being advised by the railroad company that there is no such station and that the trip was therefore cancelled, is not credited here but the more logical reason that Portland was too busy arranging for the Rose Festival and the Shriners convention to give heed to the potential possibilities of 300,000 acres of fertile lands that might be brought into productivity at her front door, was accepted as the real reason.

Portland is a great city. It is a beautiful and a rich city and its people are above the world's average in culture and intelligence and eastern Oregon people are firm in their conviction that, sooner or later, the people of Portland will awake to the latent possibilities of the Inland Empire and then in with proper vim it helping develop the country that, of far largely undeveloped, has made Portland, the City of Roses, the financial and commercial center of a great state, possible.

LEAVE FOR NEWPORT

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Fred left Monday morning for Newport where they expect to spend the summer. They will probably return to Heppner in the fall although they have not as yet definitely determined on their permanent location.

H. S. CUMMINGS



Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic national committee, chosen as temporary chairman of the Democratic national convention.

THE ROAD TO RITTER

Judge Campbell, W. L. McCaleb and Oscar Minor returned Friday evening from the Ditch creek country where they put in several days helping the road crew open up the new Ritter road in order to make it passable for the merchants and business men of Heppner on their trade expansion trip to Ritter on Sunday. Judge Campbell was somewhat irritated when he returned to find that the business men had all given up going on the trip and were all willing to let George or the judge or most anybody else "do it". Judge Campbell says that Heppner merchants have been agitating for an improved road to Ritter for 35 years and now that one is opened they want the travel to all come one way.

Band Concert Friday Evening

The City Band, under the direction of Prof. James Austin, gave the first of their series of summer concerts at the park last Friday evening and will continue the entertainment throughout the summer.

The band has been ready and willing to provide music for some time but the city has been slow about lighting the band stand and providing seats for the public.

FARM HOUSE DESTROYED

The farm residence on the H. A. Edmonds ranch three miles south-east of Morgan, farmed by W. A. Bunnell, Mr. Edmond's son in law, and known as the Veight place, was totally destroyed by fire, together with its contents last Friday, supposedly from a defective flue.

The blaze was first discovered by Mrs. Bunnell in a bedroom in which an infant child was asleep and she had barely time to snatch the baby from the burning bed and make her escape before the whole building was in flames. The child was painfully but not dangerously burned about the face and body. There was no insurance on either the house or contents and the loss is about \$1200.

—Jones Independent.

Tailor Shop Closed Temporarily

The tailoring shop of G. Franzen, on lower Main street, has been closed temporarily on account of Mr. Franzen's family being under quarantine for measles. Mr. Franzen wishes to express his regret at any delay or inconvenience this situation may cause his customers but the measles has entirely outside his control.

Due announcement will be made when the establishment will re-open its business.

GRASS FIRE CAUSES ALARM

A fire alarm was sounded Saturday forenoon getting a quick response from fire company and citizens. The alarm was a small grass fire on the hillside between the power plant and the Catholic church. The blaze, which may have started from a spark from the power plant stack, was quickly extinguished.

GLORIOUS FOURTH FITTINGLY OBSERVED

PARKERS MILL, ENTERTAINS
CROWD WITH DANCING,
GAMES, RACES

Lexington Celebrates Saturday, Many
Heppner Folks Spend Day at Home
in Shade.

The Glorious Fourth has come and gone and as usual in Morrow county it may be truthfully chronicled that the natal day of American Independence was fittingly observed because the statement means that most all Morrow countians spent the day just as they pleased, and wasn't that what the colonies fought England for—the right to do as they pleased not only on the fourth of July but on every other day in the calendar.

Heppner is not strong on formal celebrations at home because most Heppner folk like to get away from things occasionally and go to the mountains for a change.

Lexington celebrated Saturday and while there was not an exceedingly large crowd present all who were there report having had a splendid day and to have been royally entertained.

The big event was at Parkers Mill where a four day celebration was held and where by far the largest crowd in the county congregated.

Dancing, horse races, ball games and other sports helped make up the daily program of entertainment. Some disorder was reported from there on Saturday when, it is said, several fights occurred, one man being reported dangerously injured.

Many Heppner people spent the day in the timber on upper Willow and Rhea creeks and many more were content to remain quietly at home, spending Saturday and Sunday under their own vine and fig tree where no one could make them do anything but rest.

A number of business men had partially arranged to spend Monday at Ritter making the trip over the new road but conflicting reports about the condition of the road, received here late in the week, caused that trip to be deferred to a later date when it is expected the trip will be made by a large number of business men and citizens.

JOHN DAY BOY TO COMPETE FOR OLYMPIC PLACE

University of Oregon, Eugene, July 6.—Accompanied by trainer Bill Hayward, Henry Foster of John Day, Oregon; Kenneth Bartlett of Estacada, Oregon; and Arthur Tuck of Redmond, Oregon, will leave July 8 to take part in the final tryouts at Harvard Stadium, Boston, July 17, for places on the team which will represent the United States at the Olympic games at Antwerp, Belgium. Two of the men, Foster in the broad jump, and Bartlett in the discus throw, hold the best record made in America this year.

Foster, a member of the class of 1920, will enter the 220 meter run and the broad jump. He has one of the men who took part in the preliminaries at Pasadena this month but did not qualify. He was accepted for the finals on account of his past record. Foster's record of 23 feet 10 inches was the best made in this country this year.

APPRECIATES HEPPNER PEOPLE'S KINDNESS

Mrs. J. H. Leek, who was called here by the illness of her son Elwood Leek, the young man who was taking part in the Ritz opera, Mikado, at the Chautauque held here recently, is highly pleased with the excellent care given her son, when he was stricken here, by local physicians and by nurses at the Moore hospital. The young man, who is a student in an eastern college, was winner of the Phi Delta Psi Key at Golden High school, St. Louis, last year and was taking the Glee solo in the Mikado on the Western Chautauque circuit. He has so far recovered so to be able to return to St. Louis with his mother leaving tomorrow morning. Mrs. Leek has asked the Herald to express her appreciation to the people of Heppner for their untiring kindness to her son and herself.

Heppner Herald only \$2.00 a year.