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EDITORIAL

Opposition Always Develops

No worthwhile enterprise, so far as we have ever been able to learn, has been started and carried through to completion without opposition. It is not within the realm of possibility for everybody to think and act the same way and consequently, no matter how essential, or how desirable, a project may be there is always someone or a group of "someones" to take the opposite viewpoint.

Thus we find here and there a voice crying out in opposition to the Heppner flood dam and it is the belief of supporters of the project that those expressing disfavor are not fully cognizant of the terms under which it will be built. At least it is only fair to give them the benefit of the doubt and try to convince them of the advisability of having this big development take place.

It is reasonable to expect that the dam will be built, providing the City of Heppner, and perhaps Morrow county to a limited extent, will accept the terms of the government's proposal. Acceptance of those terms will mean assuming a local expenditure of from \$33,000 to \$40,000 for bridge replacements, easements, etc. due to damsite and storage area and widening and straightening of of Willow creek channel through Heppner. It is assumed that the city will accept this obligation and the county, in view of benefits to residents along the creek below Heppner, will not be averse to sharing some of the expense.

It must be made clear here that it is not proposed that water users below the dam be called upon to pay the cost of construction. It will be primarily a flood control dam. There will be no violation of riparian rights. Water will be released in sufficient amount to maintain a flow to the Columbia river so that irrigation may be maintained as at present—up to the middle of May or perhaps the first of June. Thereafter the dam will operate as a flood control measure and any water released for the purpose of irrigation will be charged for at a rate fixed for that purpose.

As to the dam itself, it will be of a type that will withstand any conditions due to storms such as have been seen here. There need be no worry that it will wash out. It will be anchored in bedrock, built of reinforced concrete, with a 75-foot base. The government is not contemplating spending a large sum of money to build a dam that will go out with the first freshet. Even the earth dams built in various parts of the country have to withstand serious tests created by the vagaries of nature and certainly a dam to be built in a region like this will be just as permanent and safe as modern engineering can devise.

Another phase of this question to be considered is the eventual settling up of this section of the country. It is headed this way and we can't be accused of dreaming if we predict that within the next decade there will be truck gardens where alfalfa is grown today along Willow creek. People are looking to the west of homes—for a place to live and the time is not far distant when more

and more of our ranches along the creeks will be cut up into tracts. Those people will want and need irrigation water. If after three or four years from the time the dam is in operation it is feasible to make an irrigation project along the valley and the lower hills it may be converted to that purpose.

In the meantime it is up to Heppner to give proper assurance to the government that the town will do its part, and it may be added that the amount asked is small in comparison to the benefits to be derived in the preservation of human life and property and the more equitable distribution of water to those who hold riparian rights.

Those of an older generation who witnessed the terrible disaster of 1903 need no reminder about the destructive force of a cloudburst flood. Those of the present generation should not hesitate to go on record favoring construction of the dam to provide against a repetition of that disaster.

Our Number One Enemy

To most of us the cessation of hostilities meant the end of war—and it did so far as one human waging war on another is concerned. But while men were lined up on opposing lines and hurling every type of death-dealing missile science has been able to develop at each other, a more sinister enemy has been waging a war with almost three times the number of fatalities suffered by American forces during World War II.

Between Pearl Harbor and V-J day, 294,476 Americans were killed by the Germans and the Japs on the various battle fronts. During that same period, 607,193 were killed on the home front by cancer. During 1945 the cancer death toll rose to 190,000. Nor are children immune from this disease, for statistics show that cancer kills more children between the ages of five and twenty than infantile paralysis, diphtheria, scarlet fever and whooping cough combined.

It is high time to wake up and do something about it! During April the American Cancer society is conducting a nation-wide drive to raise funds with which to wage an all-out attack on this Number One Enemy. The society has not only interested many of the world's most renowned scientists and research men to devote their full time to cancer research, but it has also secured the co-operation of the National Research Council which came to the aid of the government in the atomic bomb research program. It is vital that this be carried on, and 40 percent of the money raised in the state will go to further the national research work. The 60 percent of the money which remains in the state will be used to carry on the state-wide cancer educational program inaugurated last year.

One of the most notable events of recent months to claim praiseworthy mention in these columns is the street cleaning job which has been underway in Heppner the past ten days. It remained for a returned service man, a youth who did not wish to sit around twiddling his thumbs

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HIGHLIGHTS In Silverware

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PETERSON'S

Ture Peterson is recovering rapidly from an automobile accident of two weeks ago when he was rather seriously injured. It is thought he will soon be able to be up and out just a little.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Cornett of Sheridan Wyo., were guests at the

home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Forsythe the fore part of the week. They went from here to Eugene where they have a son living. Mr. and Mrs. Cornett are seeking a new location and are interested in seeing Oregon.

New Bus Service

The Grey Rock Bus Lines will now give daily bus service between Heppner, Lexington and Lone and The Dalles.

Bus will leave Heppner at 7:30 a. m. and returning leave The Dalles at 5:15 p. m.

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