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## STATISTICS SHOW VALUE OF IRRIGATED LANDS

In 1918 the 29,000 farmers on 1,000,000 acres of land reclaimed by the Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior, went over the top with a crop valued at \$50,000,000, according to the report of the bureau recently made to Secretary of the Interior Lane.

The production capacity of the American desert after irrigation is emphasized when the results of the farmers are compared with those of the humid states. The 1917 crop from reclaimed lands exceeds in total value by \$11,000,000 all the crops of Maine, as shown by the census reports of 1909. It is greater by \$7,000,000 than the combined crops of New Hampshire and Vermont, and only \$4,436,000 less than the total crop values of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The gross average of \$50 per acre for crops grown on the government's irrigated farms is remarkable when compared with similar statistics for all farms in the United States, the average yields of which in 1909 were only \$16.30 per acre. Such returns should at least allay the apprehension, if any now exists, that these farmers will not be able to return the investment of money which has been made by the government in constructing the irrigation systems. On several of these projects a single crop will suffice to return the entire investment.

The summation of the activities of the service to date shows that work is under way on 30 projects, in 15 states. These projects embrace approximately 5,112,655 acres, or 60,311 farms. Water is now available for 1,750,000 acres in 37,103 farms, and the construction of the necessary works to reclaim the balance is proceeding as rapidly as the limited lands will permit. As fast as water can be made available for the public lands in these projects, the settlers flock to them and the demands are usually in excess of the supply. Land hunger is increasing with the rapidly rising price of farm lands, and the better prices for farm products. In view of this condition and considering the imperative need of an enormous increase in food products, the importance of quickly extending the field of reclamation is obvious.

A brief resume of the engineering works to date is illuminating. Since the organization of the Service in 1902 it has to its credit many notable and worthwhile achievements. Several of the structures are monumental in character and rank with the greatest engineering works of the world. The engineers of the service have successfully completed the highest masonry dam, the longest tunnel and the most spacious reservoir for irrigation ever built. Across the desert they have extended a canal system 10,313 miles long, in which whole rivers are carried and turned upon the thirsty land, the huge reservoirs in the fastnesses of the mountains, with a combined capacity of 9,000,000 acre-feet, hold back the destructive floods of many streams. Twenty-six miles of tunnels penetrate the mountains, and through two of these, two rivers are carried outside of their own drainage basins. The surplus and waste waters are disposed of by means of drains and ditches having a length of 1,247 miles.

The volume of the dams is 13,258,729 cubic yards, and the excavations of rock and earth for canals and foundations reach the enormous total of 154,449 cubic yards, or about 60 per cent of the total yardage of the Panama canal.

In the construction of the several irrigation systems it was necessary to dig 391 wells having a total depth of more than six and one-half miles. More than 13,000 bridges and culverts of steel, concrete and wood were constructed, which end to end would extend 74 miles. Canal structures of wood and concrete number more than 600. Pipe lines and flumes long enough to reach from New York to Washington and back again are now in place.

The service has built and operated 100 miles of standard gauge railway, 71 miles of telephone and 442 miles of transmission lines. In order to begin construction on many of the important works it was necessary to build 935 miles of wagon roads. The power plants of the service have developed 48,003 horsepower which is utilized in construction and in the maintenance of the various projects. More than 1200 buildings of all sorts have been erected for the accommodation of the employes and for other purposes. During the per-

iod of engineering work the Service has established 11 townsites, several of which are today thriving business centers.

## PENNSYLVANIA MAN BUYS TWENTY ACRES

F. W. Stevens, who with his family arrived here last week from Ivyland, Pa., did not linger long over the matter of reaching a decision as to whether he would become a rancher of this valley, for no sooner had he become comfortably settled in a rented house than he closed a deal with C. S. McNaught for the thirty acres owned by that gentleman lying across the road at his home place west of town.

Twenty acres of the thirty is in alfalfa, and it suits Mr. Stevens to a dot. When he gets squared away a little he will begin outlining plans for the building of a neat farm house and out buildings thereon, his intention being to make of the place a permanent home for himself and family.

## SOLDIER IN FRANCE WRITES TO PARENTS

From the quartermaster's camp of the national army located "somewhere in France" comes a letter from Corporal C. B. Johnson to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Johnson, ranchers northeast of this city. After telling them that he felt just as though he was at home again after reading The Herald's they sent him, he continues his letter as follows:

"We have had some very changeable weather lately—one day it is raining and the next day nice and warm. For the last three days I have had forty German prisoners working stacking, or rather piling, sugar and flour, and as there is some 60,000 sacks to pile will be at the job for some time to come. I wish I knew more of the German language so I could make myself understood.

"There is lots of action on the battle front, and it looks as if Germany is making her supreme effort for a decision. The French and British are holding well, and the U. S. troops are doing their share. One can't say that peace is in sight yet, however. I hope I won't have to spend next Easter Sunday in France, and working at that."

## THE DEBTS OF THE WARRING NATIONS

The London Economist for February places the total gross debt of Great Britain at 5,678,600,000 pounds (\$27,636,000,000).

The French minister of Finance in presenting the budget for 1918 estimated the public debt of France on December 31, 1918, at 115,166,058,000 francs (\$22,527,000,000).

The public debt of Italy at the end of 1917 is estimated at about 35,000,000 lire (\$6,676,000,000).

The debts of the Central Powers are estimated as follows: Germany, \$25,408,000,000; Austria, \$13,314,000,000; and Hungary, \$5,704,000,000.

Our own public debt is now around \$8,000,000,000, but more than half of this amount has been loaned to our Allies and will be repaid us. It is estimated that of the total net expenditures of the United States for the fiscal year of 1918, exclusive of our advances to our Allies, more than one-half will be defrayed by taxation.

### Completed Fourth Voyage

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Callbeck received a letter the other day from their daughter, Mrs. W. Whipple, Spokane, in which was conveyed the information that her husband, who is in service on a man-of-war vessel engaged in transporting troops to France, had just arrived in New York after having completed his fourth voyage across the ocean. Only once in all the journeys was a submarine encountered, and that U-boat was quickly put to rout by a few well directed shots from the U. S. warship. On one voyage a terrible storm was encountered, that threatened for a time to send all hands to Davy Jones's locker, but luck was with the ship and she reached port safely.

## BAILLEUL, CENTER OF FIERCE FIGHTING



Bailleul, one of the important strategic points on the Flanders front, was taken by the Germans after a bloody fight and thereafter was the center of desperate struggle. The principal street and the church are here shown.

## COLUMBIA NEWS NOTES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Born—Wednesday, May 8, a baby daughter weighing 7 pounds, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reid.

Mrs. W. L. Blessing was hostess to a dinner party Thursday given in honor of Alfred Groom. Covers were laid for eleven, guests besides the hostess and family including Mrs. Barham, Mr. and Mrs. Brunson, Dorothy Brunson, Childs Barham and Alfred Groom.

Mrs. F. A. Brunson was hostess to a delightful little dancing party given Wednesday evening in the auditorium in honor of Alfred Groom who enlisted in the navy and left Thursday for examination in Portland. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all.

Mr. Stillings shipped a mixed car of livestock last week.

Mrs. Joe Udey had as guests last Sunday Messrs. and Mesdames Steve McMillan, Pat Siscoel, W. L. Blessing and Miss Ruth Akers.

Mr. Leathers now has a new Oakland six.

Durrell Murchie entertained his graduation class Thursday evening at dinner. Covers were laid for seven, including their instructor, Miss Kate Barton.

Mrs. Frank Beddow spent several days in Pendleton this week.

Julia Franz returned to Pendleton Saturday.

## RED CROSS

A special election is called for Tuesday, May 14, at 2:30 p. m., for the election of a chairman, secretary and treasurer. All members are urged to be present.

### TO BRING THEM HOME

Over in France where the death shells scream,  
The boys are fighting as in a dream—  
A glorious dream of blood and hell—  
While I stay home and prosper well.  
Over in France they are dying now,  
Like red earth turned by a giant plow,  
They are going across with a smile  
For me—  
While I stay at home in security.  
Over in France the gas clouds roll,  
And the shower of steel is taking its toll;  
The flag drives on, but the boys lie still—  
While I live on and eat my fill.  
Dear God in heaven, to whom we trust,  
Turn the food in my throat to dust,  
If I miss one chance which may come to me,  
To bring them home with victory!

The Parent-Teacher association will make the refugee garments every Friday afternoon in the Red Cross work room. Everyone is invited to join in this work.

## IRRIGON NEWS ITEMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

M. K. Flickinger, one of our substantial homesteaders who is located near Messner, was at Irrigon a few days ago. While here he purchased a car load of cement pipe for use on his ranch.

Dr. Ingram and family of Pendleton motored down last Sunday. This was his first visit to Irrigon in a number of years and he likes the country very much.

Irrigon is now organizing two squads of eight men each for a Home National Guard. These squads will be a part of the Heppner, Morrow County, Company and will be used for home defense of any nature that is required. Paul Jones, who has had considerable training in military tactics, will be the drill master. Our sympathies are with you Paul in attempting to handle this bunch of hay makers.

Ross Laudenslager and Editor O'Connell of Hermiston were at Irrigon last Saturday, where they had business to attend to.

Mr. Oldaker of Hermiston, with W. R. and W. A. Walpole, motored to Boardman on Tuesday, where they spent the day inspecting the lower end of the project. They report the country well advanced in its farming operations, and all settlers feeling fine over future prospects.

Much improving is going on around Irrigon. Among other ranches, alfalfa has been put in on the Hoffman, Curria and Hamilton places and all is looking good. Prospects are good with the apples and some other fruits, and the hay is well advanced.

## SCHOOL TERM ENDS FRIDAY NEXT WEEK

Friday of next week will witness the close of the 1917-1918 school term. The beginning of the end of the term will start with the delivery of the baccalaureate address by Rev. Graham at the Baptist church Sunday evening. Then will follow class night at the high school auditorium Wednesday evening, and the following night commencement exercises will be held at the same place, the address prior to the presentation of diplomas to be given by Mr. Dyar.

There are to be seven graduates this year, as follows: Nellie Davis, Laura Carson, Gladys West, Durrell Murchie, Russel Weinheimer, Louis Garner, and Herbert Sullivan. Exercises will be held in the grade school also during the closing week.

### WEATHER REPORT

There was a fairly good shower of rain in the valley this week, the first in quite a while. The maximum temperature for the week ending Thursday night was 86 degrees, minimum 34, and rainfall three-tenths of an inch.

## RAISE IN MAINTENANCE IS NOT POPULAR HERE

### LOCAL AVIATION SITE IS AGAIN INSPECTED

Tuesday witnessed the second inspection of the proposed aviation training camp site west of this city by a party of five men commissioned by the war department to further investigate the feasibility of such a site for the establishment of an aviation station.

Without flare of trumpet or any other demonstration they arrived in Hermiston on the morning of the above day, and in company with Chairman F. B. Swayze and the balance of his committee quietly and quickly went over the ground. After the inspection was over they as silently departed for other parts of the state to carry on investigations of a couple of more proposed sites.

The party was made up of a major of artillery, a medical officer, a major and captain in the aviation branch and a civilian. None of them had much to say regarding what they thought of the Hermiston site, and no one will know for a certainty whether they are for or against us until they file their report with the proper department at Washington, D. C.

### ORDERED TAKEN BACK TO WALLACE, IDAHO

Saturday of last week Chief of Police Laudenslager received an order from the Shoshone county draft board to look up one Alvin J. Strader and deliver him to the sheriff at Wallace, Idaho, as quickly as possible. The letter accompanying the order conveyed the information that Strader had been drafted April 26, and that instead of appearing wrote a letter to the board explaining that he was averse to going to war and taking human life, and rather than do so would face a firing squad.

Evidently he had no intention of evading the outcome, for on leaving Shoshone county he came to his home in Irrigon on a visit to his parents and happened to be in Hermiston on the day the order for his apprehension came to the chief of police.

He took it quite as a matter of fact on being informed that the draft board wanted him in Wallace, and together with the police officer left that night for the Idaho mining town, where he was delivered into the hands of the sheriff Sunday afternoon by Mr. Laudenslager.

What disposition will be made of his case is not known as yet, but it is probable the young man will be sent across the big pond to the battle front or interned until the war is over.

### MAKES FINE SHOWING AT KELLY FIELD, TEXAS

Carl M. Voven, a Boardman business man before his enlistment who is well known to the residents of this community, made a good showing at the track meet held recently at Kelly Field, South San Antonio, Texas, where he made second place in the hop, step and jump and was awarded a handsome prize. His ability as an athlete is considered unusually good, inasmuch as he was pitted against some of the old-st and best track men in the country.

Mr. Voven enlisted last December at Vancouver Barracks, and was sent from there to the big flying station at Kelly Field for training in the aviation section of the signal corps. He soon made his way to the front and was promoted to the grade of drill sergeant and received his warrant for that position the latter part of March. Since being on the field he has taken an active part in all games and contests of an athletic nature and is very popular among the soldier boys.

Voven is well known as an all round athlete. In 1916 and 1917 he was coach for the Hermiston high school basketball team. He played in the Blue Mountain base ball league and has a very good record with that league. At present he is located on Line C, Trades Division, First Training Brigade Kelly Field, Texas, awaiting an assignment to the service squadron.

Commercial Club members intermingled with those of the local Water Users' association at the regular monthly meeting of the former organization held in the lecture room of the Hermiston public library last Monday night. This meeting was slated as a get-together one between the water users and the Commercial Club, and it proved to be all the name implied.

It soon became noticeable after the gathering was called to order by President E. P. Dodd that there was an undercurrent of dissatisfaction over something, and it was only a matter of a short time until the opening gun was fired that gave one the idea that this was caused from the raise in the water maintenance for this season by the government. Many deplored the action of the government in making this raise this year, and in addition strong sentiment was shown against an added charge of 50 cents per acre for any extra water used over the standard allowance, it being held that this was a misdirected application of justice, inasmuch as it would retard the cultivation of much new land under contemplation of improvement, the why and whereof of which were logically explained by different persons present. This led on to the reopening of the discussion of the district plan, and the formation of an irrigation district for this valley was talked upon at some length and then referred back to the water users for further consideration.

The matter of G. L. Dunning's candidacy for county commissioner was touched on, and indication was that the people of the west end of the county will especially be a solid phalanx for him at the primaries.

Someone suggested that as we have a nice little town here now, let us get in line to make it metropolitan by having automobiles parked on the street in a proper manner. This gentleman quickly subsided, however, when he was informed that the marshal was now doing that very thing.

Discussion of an error that has existed the past couple of years on the road leading west out of Hermiston near the second crossing of the railroad going toward Bu ter Creek, wherein it was shown that at times it was almost impassable on account of overflow and seepage water, had the effect of getting the road committee of the Club busy, and they now hope, with the aid of the county court, to have this fixed shortly.

### FARM RESIDENCE NEARS COMPLETION

On North Ridge about 14 miles north of town a handsome farm residence is nearing completion under the guiding hand of John Leek, which when finished will be occupied by himself and family. The structure is being built on the homestead of his daughter Elizabeth, and occupies one of the most sightly building spots on the project, overlooking, at it does, the whole city of Hermiston. It is the two story type of building, and all the rooms are commodious in dimensions.

### Its Great Virtue

One of the great virtues of War Savings Stamps, which places them in a unique position of advantage as an investment, is that they can be redeemed any time between now and January 1, 1923, for the original purchase plus 1 cent for each month which has elapsed, which equals in interest to the amount of three per cent. The small amount of redemptions to date indicates to the War Savings committee that practically all of the stamps bought have been for investment purposes and not with the view to trading them in the near future.

### Pears Will Yield Good

H. E. Hanby was saying one day the first of the week that he expects to clean up in the vicinity of \$1500 this year from five acres that he has in pears, as he figures he should take 700 boxes therefrom. Frost killed all his peaches, and also made ironclad on his apples.

Mrs. Intlekofer and two children arrived Tuesday from Vancouver, Wash., to remain a couple of weeks as guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Straw. The lady is a cousin of the above gentleman, and is well known among the older residents of the valley, herself and husband having formerly resided here.