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LOCAL MAN GIVES VIEWS ON DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

By the Water Users of the Umatilla Project:

It is with a full appreciation of your situation and a keen desire for your continued prosperity that I address you on the subject of District Organization.

Judging from some of the questions that have been put to me, I am somewhat apprehensive that many of you do not fully understand the purpose of the organization, nor the nature and ultimate object of its workings. And if it is true, as reported, that some have taken a stand against it and are working for its defeat, then I am sure they do not understand.

When I reflect, however, the situation is not altogether surprising. I realize that not all of you have had full opportunity to study these features, and not all of you have been advised of the true situation and the very great necessity for immediate action.

My purpose in addressing this letter to you is to explain these things as I understand them and as they are understood by those who are conversant with all the facts.

The object of the district organization is to create an agency through which all of you, as a body politic, can do things; an agency capable of contracting for you all, but always under your control and direction. It is like a machine, capable of great accomplishments, but inactive and ineffective till the power is turned on. You will be the power.

The immediate purpose of the district organization, and the only thing now in mind, is to forestall, by timely action, the destructive consequences that would result should the "A Line," in its weakened and unstable condition, fail to hold.

Whether the machine of the district will be put in motion for this purpose will be submitted to you for your decision and determination by ballot, and I shall now ask you, when endeavoring to make up your mind as to the course you should pursue, to remember that there is but one thing to be considered at this time, and that one thing is the reconstruction of the "A Line."

You should not permit your mind to become confused and your judgment warped by things that are conjured up and injected into the discussion that do not belong there. You should cut out entirely any idea of the district taking over the operation and management of the project or of assuming any of its liabilities or obligations. You should eliminate from your mind all thought of "Federal Loans," and in fact all other subjects that have heretofore been associated with the district idea. They are all foreign to the subject now. Do not misunderstand me gentlemen. I do not mean to intimate that you cannot do these things if you want to. On the contrary, the district makes them possible. For instance, this organization is the medium through which Federal farm loans can be obtained, if you choose to use it for that purpose. But the idea I wish to convey is that the reconstruction of the "A Line" is the only thing contemplated in the present movement, and you can rest assured that nothing else will be undertaken at this time, nor in the hereafter, except when authorized by you.

You should bear in mind, too, that by simply organizing the district does not take on any liability or obligation. It is still free to accept or reject any proposition presented to it. No obligation is created till authorized and a contract executed therefor, by the legally constituted officers of the district, for that purpose.

The district is being organized and the proposition of reconstructing the "A Line" will be presented to you for endorsement and authority to execute the contract. I can scarcely conceive it to be possible that any one on the project could deliberately withhold his endorsement of this proposed work. I can't think that any one could be so blind to his own interests. Lack of knowledge of the conditions that menace him alone would justify such a

course. I will here supply the information that should satisfy any one of the necessity for this constructive and protective work. The "A Line" is the main artery of the distributing system, through which all reservoir water must flow. If it fails to function, every irrigable acre in the project must suffer. No water user, no matter where his land is located, can escape. Now please stop and contemplate the result should this main canal be destroyed during the development of a crop. Well, the efficiency of the canal is equal only to any sub-division thereof, and if any part fails to function, the whole of it below the rupture immediately goes out of commission.

Now witness the "A Line" from the "A-C Drop" to the reservoir. Large sections, and many of them, have become so weakened by the constant attacks of seepage water and the resultant erosion, that thousands of feet are in imminent danger of giving away—not just the bank alone, but the whole canal structure. I recall three or four of these sections, if any one of which should go out, it would be impossible to make even temporary repairs, sufficient and in time to save the crop, and the menace would still remain. The doubtful ones should make a pilgrimage to this part of the project.

I submit, as a demonstrable fact, that the value of one cutting of hay over the entire project is now equal to the whole cost of the reconstruction work contemplated.

The obligation that each one will assume to pay, in case the work is authorized, will be in the same proportion to the whole cost that his holdings bear to the entire irrigable acreage in the project.

You are all familiar with the workings of supplemental construction districts. This is precisely the same thing, on a large scale, comprising work in which the whole project is interested, and is based on the idea that each acre is equally benefited. This contemplated work is of vital interest to every water user on the project, whether he thinks so or not, and if he does not think so, then I submit that he does not understand the true state of his own affairs.

It is well known to you all, too, that the "A Line" is too small for the demands made upon it, and that in order for the "service" to get by at all during the irrigation season just closed the canal had to be crowded to the danger point all the time and all along the line—greatly enhancing the risks at these weak sections mentioned above, and threatening the whole system, and owing to the defective or incomplete construction of the canal, the seepage is inordinately great, much greater than our supply of water will permit—running as high as 70 per cent during the moss period. Isn't that some alarming? The water in the reservoir was practically exhausted this season, not through beneficial use, but waste.

There was enough water wasted, mostly through seepage, in 1919 to have taken care of 7000 acres of land. New fields are appearing on every hand, and they will have the same right to water that yours have. How can it be supplied except as a result of this reconstruction work?

There has been no shortage of water and there will not be if it is properly conserved, but there has been and is a shortage of carrying capacity. You cannot carry water economically over a sieve, nor can you safely conduct water through a conduit with rotten sides; nor can you deliver 200 second feet of water through a canal of only 125 feet capacity.

It must be apparent to you, then, that our reservoir water must be conserved—that this constant menace from danger must be eliminated—the water waste stopped and that we must have a canal with sufficient capacity to meet the demands.

There is one way to accomplish these things—just one—and that is through the workings of the district organization. Our great benefactor, the government of the United States, will advance the necessary funds, if we will secure their ultimate.

(Continued on page two)



\$21,550 IS VALUE OF HOISINGTON ESTATE

The estate of the late Dr. G. S. Hoisington, who was a victim of the fatal accident at Saxe crossing on October 29 while autoing to Walla Walla from Pendleton, was admitted to probate last Monday, his widow, Mrs. Eva H. Hoisington, being appointed administratrix.

Real property to the value of \$13,250 in this county was left by deceased, included in this being the fine large 160 alfalfa ranch which the doctor owned in Columbia District. There was personal property to the value of \$8300. This consists of \$1000 in Liberty bonds, \$5000 in notes and accounts, \$2000 in crop shares and \$300 in an automobile. In addition Mr. Hoisington left a quarter section of land in Washington state.

See Sappers' new Furniture Stock.

"The Old Homestead"

The old homestead residence of Col. H. G. Newport on Newport avenue which was purchased early in the summer, together with several acres of alfalfa land surrounding it, by Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hay, has undergone a pleasing transformation under the directing eye of Mrs. Hay and the handiwork of B. F. Strohm, carpenter and contractor. The interior and exterior has been improved by the addition of a triple window on the west side of the large and stately house, stairways have been changed, rooms rearranged on the ground floor, liberal coats of paint have been used, and many other improvements made to suit the tastiness of the new owners.

MASON AND ADAMS WIN BIG AT LEWISTON SHOW

In one of the largest live stock shows ever held west of Denver, Mason & Adams carried away 31 ribbons at the Lewiston, Idaho, fair this week, placing their much famed hogs to the fore for world champions.

They took third, fifth and eighth, open class, in a list of ten prizes on boar, first with sow, first in litter, first in produce of dam, second in get of sire, and junior champion sow. In the Futurity they got first and sixth on sows, third and fifth on boar and first on litter.

The above winnings are remarkable from the fact that they were pitted against breeders from all parts of the country with years of breeding for prize winners.

Christmas Trees

Dell Shillis, rancher on Butter Creek near this city, is going to help Santa Claus out this year by delivering to those who want them Christmas trees at a nominal sum for the benevolent old gentleman to hang his presents on when he makes his rounds with presents for the children Christmas eve. The City Meat Market will receive the orders and turn them over to him, so those desiring trees for Christmas should leave their names with Ray or Geo. Challis at the above store at once. Dell says the trees will be of Blue mountain origin—the very best.

See Sappers' new Furniture Stock.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Hermiston Dairy and Hog Show Association will be held on Saturday, Nov. 29, at the Library building. All who have subscribed and paid for stock in the association are entitled to a vote, and are requested to be present.

Former Hermistonians Wedded

Friends in this city have received the announcement of the wedding of Miss Ethel L. Rodgers and Dr. J. A. Campbell in Portland on Nov. 12. Miss Rodgers taught school in Hermiston for two years and has since been teaching in Pendleton. Dr. Campbell was formerly a practicing dentist here and was recently discharged from the army, in which he held a commission of captain in the dental corps for two years. The couple will make their home in Seattle, where the doctor has recently established an office.

Their First Born

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Roddy, on November 6, 1919, at the local hospital in this city, a 10 pound daughter. The Roddys are ranchers a few miles southeast of Hermiston, and the young lady being their first-born they are very happy over her arrival.

Library Notes

The library will be open from 12 to 5 until further notice.

Brand Whitlock's "Belgium"—one of the biggest books of the year—and, according to the reviewers, the best non-fiction book written about the war, has just been received. Readers interested in same are urged to have their names placed on the reserve list, as the book may be recalled to central library after a few weeks on account of demand for it from other branches. Below is a list of fiction books received lately:

- Hope Loring—Bell.
- Hearts and the Highway—Brady.
- Jane Eyre—Bronte.
- Secret Garden—Burnett.
- Kincaid's Battery—Cable.
- Deerslayer—Cooper.
- Tyrant—De la Pasture.
- Hempfield—Grayson.
- Soldiers Both—Gulches.
- Gold and Iron—Herglesheimer.
- Burbury Stoke—Hopkins.
- Penny Philanthropist—Laughlin.
- Call of the Wild—London.
- Next of Kin—McClung.
- Accidentals—Mackay.
- Story of Scotch—Mills.
- Right of Way—Parker.
- Freebies—Porter.
- Harvester—Porter.
- Encounter—Sedgwick.
- Farming It—Shute.
- Other People's Business—Smith.
- Tom Crogan—Smith.
- Earthquake—Train.
- Dear Enemy—Webster.
- Impossible People—Wemyss.
- Blazed Trail—White.

Takes Over Shop

L. D. and P. L. Lay, proprietors of Lays' Garage, are now operating the whole institution, having taken over the mechanical department Wednesday on the expiration of the lease of McMillan & Strader. They have secured the services of Bert Garofola, a first class mechanic, who arrived Wednesday from Portland.

Butter Creekers are wondering what's going to happen next, now that Marion Marks has purchased a brand new six cylinder Mitchell roadster—just right for two. The Herald prints classy wedding stationery, and the latch string on our office door is always out to prospective grooms.

ARMISTICE DAY FITTINGLY OBSERVED IN HERMISTON

LOCAL MEN DELEGATES TO IRRIGATION MEET

For a long time there has been a feeling that the most certain way for the states where irrigation is practiced to present a solid front and get results would be the solidifying of activities. As a means to this end a big irrigation meeting is going to be held in Salt Lake City on Friday and Saturday of next week, at which it is expected the governor of every irrigated state in the Union will be present. Hundreds upon hundreds of delegates appointed by the governors of the various states will be in attendance.

Ten delegates have been named by Governor Olcott for the state of Oregon, and included in this list are the names of two such well known irrigation men as Attorney J. T. Hinkle and Col. J. F. McNaught.

Both gentlemen have signified their intention of attending the meeting, and will if nothing unforeseen turns up between now and then to prevent them from going.

Last Installment Due

The final payment on bonds of the Victory Loan fell due November 11. This payment was for 20 per cent of the total. Those buying bonds from the banks on government payments should pay at once, as the amount will draw interest at 8 per cent from Nov. 11 instead of the regular 4 1/2 per cent.

Start on Contract

Fees & Davis, who have a \$5000 contract covering the construction of the concrete bridge over Willow Creek, Heppner Junction overhead crossing and the Messner overhead crossing on the Columbia highway, have begun operations, and material is now on the ground and camp established at Willow Creek, which bridge will be first constructed.

LIVED IN UMATILLA COUNTY 42 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. R. Beasley, who recently moved here from Idaho, have purchased the Zeller residence property on Newport avenue and intend to make this their permanent home.

Forty-two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Beasley lived in Umatilla county, and after leaving these parts went to Idaho, in which state they have lived continuously during all the intervening years.

It is interesting to hear both talk of many of the historical events witnessed by them during their early life in the pioneer days of the late 70's. They remember well the old grist mill that was located in the little cove on the Umatilla river near Umatilla, and in their minds' eye can still see the caravans from the distant wheat fields wending their way to the mill to have their at that time small product converted into flour. Since their return they have located some of the old Oregon Trail landmarks still left in this vicinity.

Banqueted Their Friends

C. D. Porter and E. T. Folts, two of the best known Lochinvars in this city, were hosts to a banquet party of about 40 of their friends—mostly ladies—at the Hotel Oregon Cafe Thursday evening of this week. It was a most unique affair, inasmuch as the viands and liquids varied from the usual, consisting, as they did, of sweet cider as a beverage, doughnuts as an edible and almonds, peanuts and candy as an appetizing desert. Everything but the hole in the doughnuts was partaken of with rare relish. All present had a good time, and conversation never waned until 11 o'clock, when all took their departure. In doing so the ladies vied with each other in being first to convey their thanks to the two Beau Brummel hosts for the pleasant evening's entertainment, and the gentlemen, everyone, also showered them with worthy commendation for the valiant deed they had done.

The first anniversary of the closing of the great world war was fittingly observed in Hermiston as well as elsewhere throughout the United States and foreign countries. Of course it may have been on a little smaller scale than New York, Portland or Seattle, but nevertheless the patriotic spirit was 100 per cent loyal and strong on this project.

All stores and business houses in this city closed Tuesday in respect of the anniversary, and many were the windows decorated in red, white and blue, giving somewhat the aspect of the national day to the town.

But the dance in the Auditorium in the evening given in honor of the American Legion by the Red Cross was the crowning event of the close of what is hoped to be a new national holiday. The hall was gorgeously decorated with streamers of vari-colored crepe paper running from the center of the room to the walls, thus forming an effective and attractive circle. Emblazoned on a banner over the stage was the inscription "American Legion," with American flags making up a beautiful background.

They came from far and near to the ball, and the hall was well filled when the strains of the first waltz wafted over the room from Sawyer's orchestra. After several dances a halt was called to give F. B. Swayze, president of the First National Bank, an opportunity to make a little speech in behalf of the Red Cross in its membership drive just closing. He eulogized the work of the organization, and told of how it came to our aid with money last winter during the flu epidemic, just at a time when succor was sorely needed. He admonished all persons present who had not already become members to reciprocate by approaching the booth at the end of the hall presided over by Mrs. T. Campbell and other Red Cross ladies and hand in their dollar with a cheerful heart and thereby become members in good standing.

Then came the military grand march, the grandest mazy performance ever witnessed in this city. It was directed by Earl J. Kingsley and led by Dr. W. W. Hilsley and Miss Everette Kingsley. Soldiers in uniform and sailors in blue, alternating, presented a pretty sight, and gave to the audience an aspect of a platoon going through a military drill. At the conclusion of the march Dr. Hilsley gave a brief history of how the American Legion was organized in the United States—after which the dance went on.

Fee Sappers' new Furniture Stock.

Improving Farm Home

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Croeland are having their new ranch home in the southeastern part of town finished up by the addition to the interior of kitchen cabinets, built-in book cases, wardrobes, etc. When all the little finishing touches yet to be put on the outside are finished, their new home will present a most cosy and attractive appearance.

Assumes New Duties

C. H. Skinner on Monday last assumed the duties of postmaster in Hermiston. Present indications are that Charley will make a good official, for like his predecessor, he is of genial and courteous disposition. While his appointment is only temporary, there is no doubt it will be made permanent later on, his qualifications being such that he will rank high when taking the civil service examination.

Ex-Postmaster J. H. Young and family expect to leave on the 20th for their future home in Texas.

Game Warden Visits

W. H. Albee of Helix, district game warden, passed Saturday, Sunday and part of Monday in this vicinity attending to his duties as protector of game. He found everything shipshape, and was pleased to find that sportsmen in this neighborhood are living up to the letter of the law.

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