

The Hermiston Herald

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BETTER PROSPECTS FOR PROJECT IN 1926

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES UNDER WAY POINT TO IMPROVEMENT

New Government Contract, Selection of Farm Leader, and New Land Coming in Expected to Work Changes in Hermiston And Country.

The year 1926 is unfolding better prospects for the Umatilla project than have been felt for several years. A new tone is rising steadily in all affairs and the citizens of this community are beginning to feel that their general condition will be greatly improved before 1926 closes its activities.

New Government Contract
The new contract is being steadily advanced by the board of directors of the district. Mr. Holgate, district counsel for the Reclamation bureau, spent two days here last week going over details and the final draft of the new contract will soon be in the hands of the commissioner at Wash. This contract completed, is considered excellent in its provisions for the people of the project and the board with several assistants, are making the utmost endeavor to cover every phase of this very important subject.

Farm Leader
Mr. Wilbur, the new farm leader, is on the job and the work of his office will be felt before many weeks. The economic conference will assemble facts that will aid him materially in his future assistance toward the development of the new diversified products and in furthering the marketing program. His appointment was one of the greatest achievements of the past year and with the loyal assistance of everybody, the results should be very valuable.

Union High School
The Umatilla Project has always been noted for its loyalty to good schools and the year 1925 brought about the new union high school district that will not only help the boys and girls of the old project but those of the new lands and adjoining areas. A better high school is there fore one of the things to be hoped for.

Changing Agriculture
The depression of the last few years has brought about a changing agriculture. Alfalfa was found not so profitable as other products. Asparagus is on the bound and may prove a wonderful product for the sandy soils. Poultry is likewise claiming many converts and has grown from a few small flocks to a big flock of 25,000 hens. Many are going into the business this spring. It is estimated that the Umatilla project will carry over 1,000,000 hens and the entire territory can be made to exceed Petaluma with its 6,000,000 hens and an \$18,000,000 annual output of poultry products. A cow testing association is in sight and better dairy herds and more of them are sure to follow. The sheep business in small flocks and lamb feeding are proving themselves profitable. Early potatoes, berries and home gardens are taking an important position and several other products are being considered or tested out.

New Land Coming In
Already there is a movement toward some of the lands under the Western Land canals that are to carry water next year from the new McKay creek reservoir which has had its final appropriation and will be completed in eight months. Several farmers will start work and improvements this year while they have flood waters and be better prepared for continuous water next year. The Stanfield district will also be ready for water next year and will carry water into new territory here.

Farm Bureau Co-op.
The Farm Bureau Co-operative is doing an excellent work in assisting the farmers. Its savings are spread for 20 miles each way and its help in developing the dairy, hog and poultry industries will prove very valuable. This is one one of the products of adversity during the past years.

Activity in Business
The creamery has changed hands showing that the district is looking up. The Union Oil Co. has just completed a fine distribution plant and has a man here, giving the territory the benefit of the services of two large oil companies, the Standard Oil and the Union both located here within 3 years. Every business

house in town is occupied and there is a demand for more residences and a better class of houses. Every farm on the project will be in operation in 1926, either by the owners or by renters, and scores more farms could be rented if they could be had. Hermiston during the past years has not suffered from any bank or business failures and with very few exceptions, and these under practically impossible conditions for success, have there been any farm failures. This can be said of mighty few agricultural communities in the entire country.

Confident of Oil
The oil well at Attalla has just installed a new line of casing to a depth of 3500 feet with three packers to shut off the water in the well. The total depth is 3700 feet and the drillers and owners claim they have 20 feet of good oil sands in the bottom that is carrying first class crude oil. As soon as the water is baled from the well and oil sands they claim that the oil will either flow or can be pumped in commercial quantities. The flow of gas is strong.

Cold Springs Looking Up
Cold Springs is starting to grow. Early in the spring a two story building for a service station, garage, store and hotel accommodations will be built. With the completion of the state highway from Cold Springs to Pendleton several parties are planning to build bath houses and improve the swimming beaches for summer business. The distance from Pendleton and practically all the towns of Umatilla county is about an hour by auto and as the Columbia river beaches are excellent in the summer a big business of this kind is expected.

Hermiston-Hepner-Spray Highway
The county court of Morrow county has completed arrangements for the construction of the highway from Hepner to Spray which via the Butter creek highway gives Hermiston a direct road into the John Day country. The new road has 11 miles already built and is graded to Hardman. From that point the Forest Service, state and county unite in the work of completion. It will be an important highway to the cattle and sheep ranges of the state and the nearest connection of that region with alfalfa feeding grounds.

MASONS FROLIC WEDNESDAY NIGHT

NEIGHBORING LODGES PARTICIPATE IN DANCE HERE

Large Crowd Gathers for Event. Old Fashioned Dances are Feature of the Evening.

The local Masonic lodge and neighboring lodges sponsored a dance at the Hermiston auditorium Wednesday night, January 27. The auditorium was appropriately decorated for the occasion and the committee who arranged the artistic settings deserve a lot of praise.

At an early hour visitors from Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo begin to arrive and by ten o'clock the hall was filled to its capacity. Formalities were dispensed with and in a short time everybody seemed to be having the time of their life.

A special feature had been planned for the occasion consisting of an acrobatic dance by little Rosella Matott. As usual the little lady brought down the house with her performance.

The old time dances was another feature of the evening, they being sandwiched in between the more modern steps and were popular with both the young and old.

At midnight a bounteous repast was served after which dancing was resumed until the wee small hours.

Parent-Teacher Meeting

The Parent-Teacher association will meet Thursday, February 11, at 3 o'clock at the school auditorium. The following is the program to be given:

Piano solo, Marian Henderson; play, "Making of the First Flag," by second grade; report of teachers' convention by Prof. Cherry and a paper on "The Value of Education" by A. E. Bessel.

O. M. PLUMMER SPOKE HERE FRIDAY

MEDALS PRESENTED WINNERS IN STOCK JUDGING TEAM

Varied Program in Connection With Meeting is Rendered at the Methodist Church.

O. M. Plummer, manager of the Pacific Livestock Exposition, was the principal speaker at a meeting held in the interest of the boys and girls club work at the Methodist church in this city last Friday night. A large crowd was present, it being necessary to bring in extra seats to accommodate the gathering.

During the evening Mr. Plummer presented gold medals to Lowell Stockard, Oscar Mikesell and Leroy Guisinger, local boys, who were members of the judging team that won northwest honors at the big show. In his speech of presentation Mr. Plummer said that the training which the boys received at the Hog and Dairy show had made it possible for the boys to win the judging honors and if the event had failed to accomplish anything else, the honor which the boys had obtained through this medium was well worth the time and money spent in staging the show. He also stated that there were more purebred hogs with in a radius of five miles of Hermiston than any other section in the state.

Fred Bennion, county agent, and Mr. Allen, leader of the boys and girls clubs, also spoke. A varied and interesting program consisting of songs and piano solos was rendered.

MARKET MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

Blair & Sims Now Have Attractive Place on Main Street

The Hermiston Cash market, owned and operated by Blair and Sims, moved the latter part of last week from the building next to the Hermiston creamery to their new location on Main street. The market has been made very attractive and the shop would be a credit to a town much larger than Hermiston.

IRRIGON NEWS ITEMS

The social given by the Grange was well attended on Friday evening. The Vagabond orchestra furnished the music.

J. A. Graybeal and wife spent several days last week in Walla Walla.

Harry Smith has been somewhat incapacitated by blood poisoning in a hand.

Seaman has rented his farm Mr. Johnson of Portland. The seaman's have moved into the depot this summer.

river, Cushman to Florence, opened.

Gresham-Eastman Lumber Co. will install complete planing mill.

TESTS SHOW MOONLIGHT IS "RADIO WRECKER"

Moonlight, a commodity believed to worry nobody but the writer of popular songs, today was revealed in a new role as a radio wrecker.

Preliminary tests for the national survey of fading and static to be conducted by the Stewart-Warner corporation in co-operation with the Northwestern University, department of physics, on the nights of February 9, 10 and 11 from 8 to 11, central time, brought unexpected reports of the insidious activities of the moon.

Published reports of private inquiries into the causes of disturbances that prevent good radio reception so far have dealt with the manner in which atmospheric conditions are changed by sun spots, comets and eclipses. Even the aurora borealis has been investigated, but it has never been suggested that the phases of the moon might have anything to do with the abnormal performance of distant aetherals.

R. C. Terrien, an electrical engineer, of Chicago, today forwarded to J. K. Smith, director of the national tests, a report, covering a period of eighteen months. He suggested that it be investigated during the February tests and possibly at other times during the year.

"Eighteen months ago I discovered quite accidentally that distant reception was almost impossible on a night when the moon was full and high in the sky," said Mr. Terrien in his report. "I thought of course that this might be merely a coincidence, but I remembered what I had learned regarding the magnetic effect of the moon on the tides, and it occurred to me that such a visible electrical influence ought to have a definite influence on the ionized stratum of atmosphere or whatever it is that carries, deflects or blocks radio waves. So I watched closely. Each silent night I made careful note of reception conditions and lunar phases and gradually I built up the evidence to show that my supposition was at least worthy of further investigation.

"I discovered that during the summer we frequently had nights free from static, despite warm, sultry weather. Invariably such nights were those when the moon was in the first or last quarter. I discovered also that many nights which began with the atmosphere perfectly 'dead' so far as radio reception was concerned, showed marked improvement later in the night when the moon had gone closer to the horizon.

"The night of December 28th of last year was a typical one. The air was crisp, cold and clear and there was no appreciable moisture—in spite of which it was impossible to pick up any but the most powerful distant stations and very few of those. The moon was just approaching fullness. For two hours it was impossible to hear anything but New Orleans and Pittsburgh. After midnight conditions improved and continued to get better until just before daylight when everything went dead again. I have noted similar conditions virtually every moonlight night when the moon was full or high.

"I am not attempting to draw definite conclusions from any observations, the record of which is enclosed herewith. But I do believe the results are sufficiently interesting and of sufficient importance to

the radio public to warrant an investigation of lunar influences on a comprehensive scale."

As a result of this letter, Mr. Smith sent out notices to the 4,000 observers who will take part in the tests February 9, 10 and 11, asking them to make notations during the period of the survey.

SPEAKERS WILL TALK TO INTERESTED IN TRUCK RAISING

Professor Long of O. A. C., Lee Lampson of Kennecott and County Agent Bennion would like to meet with those interested in trucking, particularly those interested in early potatoes, sweet potatoes, asparagus, and melons, at the library at 7:30 Friday evening.

DOES WELL WITH POULTRY

Mrs. S. L. Carson has received an order for 1500 day old chicks, the largest single order ever to be shipped out of Hermiston, and will start her incubators at once. Mrs. Carson has the O. A. C. strain of Barred Rocks and has for a number of years sold day old chicks and breeding stock of high quality. It is hoped that the size of the order received by Mrs. Carson will encourage other poultry fanciers on the project to go after the big business and make this section as well known as any of the famous hatcheries on the Pacific coast.

Only Barred Rocks are handled at the Carson ranch. Mrs. Carson has no objection to the White Leghorns that are popular, but simply says she likes the Barred Rocks better, that is all. She considers her flock of layers give satisfactory returns, her flock average for two years has been around 200 eggs, and as she sells poultry for table use through the year the heavier breed is more useful for that purpose.

"If anyone is willing to work," says this breeder, "they can make a good income with chickens, but it means work seven days a week and fifty-two weeks in the year. I have faith that poultry is one of the best things for farmers on the project, as a side line or as an exclusive occupation. If a person can go into it business on a large scale, 1000 to 2000 laying hens will produce a good income.

"I am enlarging my plant a little each year. This year I am installing enough incubators to enable me to handle a hatch of 500 chicks every 1900 eggs. I have enlarged my breeding pens until now I have 240 hens in four pens. I have five new cockerels from the college and also have 10 cockerels I raised last year from a pen I got from the college."

Five thousand chicks is the hatch Mrs. Carson expects to turn out this spring.

Much alfalfa is raised on the Carson ranch but as Mr. Carson has a large dairy herd it is found more profitable to use this acreage of alfalfa for cows and ship in grain for the hens. There is no better feed for chickens than green alfalfa, and they have that in abundance. As a matter of fact, the availability of green feed throughout a long season, is one of the things that impressed Prof. Cosby of the O. A. C. with possibility of poultry production on a large scale on the Umatilla Project. There are about 3000 more chickens on the project this year than last. Let us work for 30,000 more next year.

HOPE FOR RAPIDS PROJECT SEEN IN SEC. WORKS REPORT

COLORADO PROJECT, SIMILAR, IS ENDORSED BY SECRETARY

Secretary Would Have Power Sales Carry Construction Costs Under Bonding Plan. Same Treatment Would Bring Development of Rapids. Site.

Prospects for early construction of the Umatilla Rapids Project on the Columbia seem to have been greatly aided by the recent report of Dr. Hubert Work, secretary of the Interior, officially approving the Boulder dam project on the Colorado river. Copies of the secretary's report have been received here and show the interior department strongly committed to the idea that the federal government should carry out the big power projects for the benefit of southwestern states.

The relationship between the Colorado enterprise and the Umatilla rapids project comes from the fact the schemes are very similar. The essential features of the Colorado project are large scale power development, irrigation and flood control on the lower Colorado. On the Umatilla rapids project the objectives are the same except that navigation improvement is called for instead of flood control. The feeling prevails that the secretary's approval of the Colorado project presages an endorsement of the Columbia river development also. At this time the department is awaiting the report of an economic survey that is being carried on by the bureau of reclamation. One of the main points involved, that of making the power and carry the lion's share of the cost, has apparently been settled by Dr. Work's view that on the Colorado this policy may be used.

George C. Baer, secretary of the Umatilla rapids association, has forwarded copies of Secretary Work's report to the Portland chamber of commerce officials and to other influential workers in Portland. He has also taken the subject up with Oregon senators and Congressman Sennott with a view to getting their advice. The Colorado project is strongly supported by southwestern states and with the department's approval now accorded success for that undertaking seems to be drawing nearer. The Oregon delegation, backed by the Washington and Idaho senators and congressmen, may desire to press for passage of the Umatilla rapids measure at the same time. It will be remembered that the original federal survey for the rapids project was secured under such conditions.

Secretary Work's report on the Colorado project was given early in January and on January 12 the department issued a memorandum to the press setting forth the report and a summary thereof. Following is the summary:

Construction of the proposed Boulder Canyon project for the protection and development of the lower Colorado river at an estimated cost of \$125,000,000 through a bond issue by the United States was recommended today by Secretary Work of the interior department in a report submitted to the senate committee on irrigation and reclamation.

Suggesting modifications in the senate bill, the secretary declared that the general plan and purpose of the measure, which was to regulate and control the flow of the river below the dam to prevent floods, to increase the water supply for irrigation, to provide domestic water supply, to generate electric energy and to contribute to the general prosperity of the southwestern part of the country, had his support as a national undertaking to be carried out and administered by the federal government. Stating that the federal government should preferably be entrusted with the project, such rights or distribution of its opportunities, or with its international relations he said that all use of the undertaking can be coordinated and the fullest benefits realized best by central control. If the proposals in the secretary's report are adopted, protection of the upper Colorado river states is assured bond issue plan.

Discussing the building of the project through a national bond issue, Secretary Work asserted that it should be a sum sufficient to provide for the construction of the dam, the power plant and the All-American canal and that an additional sum should be included in the au-

thorization to pay interest on bonds sold during the period of construction and until such time as the revenues will meet in the interest charges. Providing the money for this development through a special bond issue, he continued, would obviate disturbance of the regular fiscal operations of the government and would also obviate provision by the budget for the money needed during construction. The bonds could be sold as the money was needed, the construction extending over a period between five and ten years, if work were carried on at a rate to secure the greatest efficiency.

The secretary expressed opposition to the allocating of power privileges, as proposed in the senate bill, and advocated the building of a unified power plant by the federal government, as more efficient and cheaper resulting in the elimination of controversies between applicants and long delays in their adjustment. Continuing he stated that the area for the location of separate plants was restricted and allotments would not be equal in value. Some allottees, therefore, would have an advantage over others, which would result in the creation of operation and administrative controversies that unified development by the government would avert.

Transmission lines for the distribution and retailing of electric power from the government central plant, the report proposed, should be financed by the purchasers. To secure the greatest economy, main transmission lines leading to different localities, should be constructed for joint use. This plan of power development, the report asserts, is not an experiment, having been adopted by the federal government in the construction of other reclamation works where the generation of power is incident to irrigation development. Salt River, Minidoka, Lahontan and Guernsey were cited as illustrations.

The report also discusses at length the proposed All-American canal, pointing out that the existing contract with the Mexican government gives the use of half of all the water diverted to that country and suggested the revision of this agreement, the sale of water for domestic use and for the irrigation of lands under the provisions of the reclamation act and the Warren act. In conclusion Secretary Work presents a financial statement showing the estimated capital investment and annual operating expenses and receipts under the proposed plan of construction and operation through a federal bond issue.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$125,000,000.—East Oregonian.

Found Famous Writer Had Been Before Him

The monument to Guy De Maupassant at Mironesnil, Norway, recalls a story illustrating how easily unconscious literary plagiarism may be committed. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once told a friend that, traveling in Switzerland, he came upon an inn isolated in the mountains for four months in every year. By the time he had reached the plain below he had mapped out in his mind a story in which two enemies were to be shut up in the inn for four months of isolation. At the first railway bookstall he came to one of De Maupassant's books caught his eye. He bought it and, turning to the first page, "L'Auberge" appeared as the heading of the story. The "Auberge" was his identical inn, the story was of two enemies shut up there during the winter, and the denouement the same as he had imagined.

Eskimo Theory of Death

The Eskimo theory of death is peculiar to Christian areas, and has resulted in many tragedies. It was believed that a man had two souls, one good, one evil. When he died the good soul expected to go to heaven in bliss and comfort in a warm place underground. His evil soul was supposed to remain on the earth where the body died, a haunting, harmful influence over those who were reckless enough to encounter it. When a person became ill the medicine man was sent for. Almost always he pronounced the case hopeless. The body was then taken out of the igloo and placed on the snow to perish. It was a logical proceeding, for if he died indoors the igloo would have to be abandoned and sealed up forever.

Pendleton — Sunnyside tomato growers shipped 11 carloads of tomatoes during 1925.

Eugene—Contract let for \$100,000 film studio at The Brees, near town.

