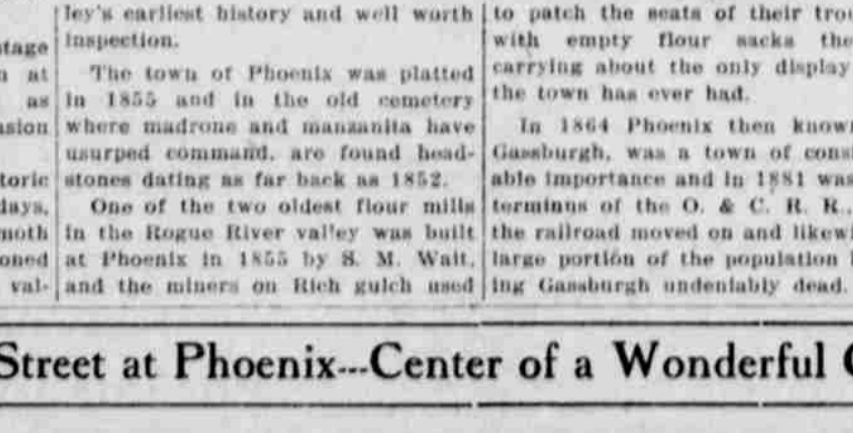


IRRIGATION IN ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

Some of the Big Enterprises that will Water Thousands of Acres of Orchards

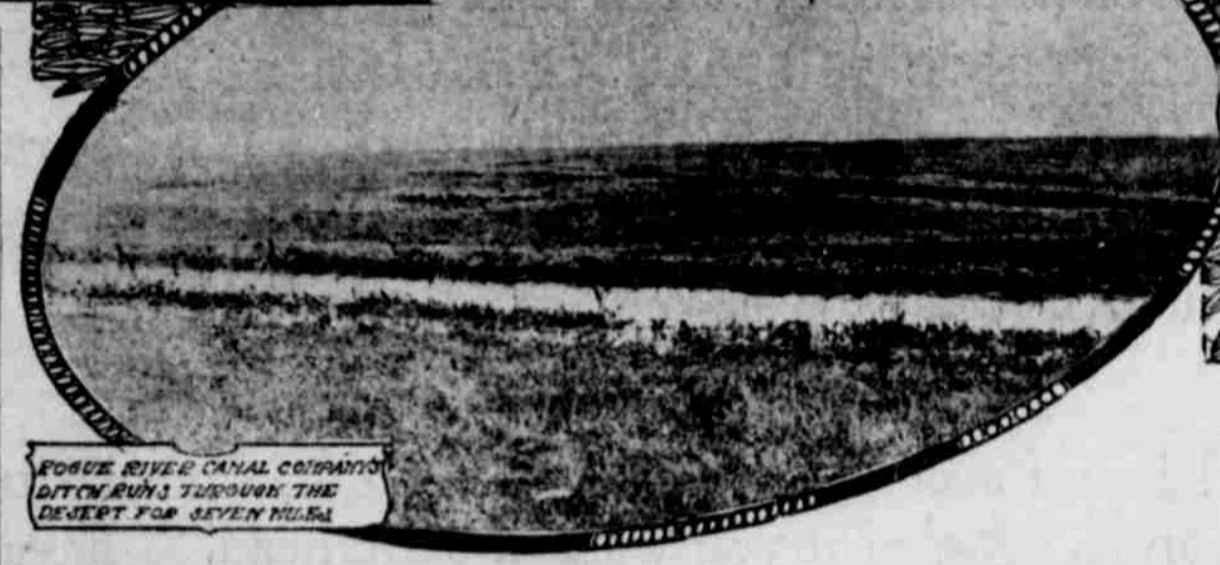


A campaign is now under way in the Rogue river valley, which if successful—and this seems certain—an investment of \$2,250,000 will be made by the Rogue River Valley Canal company which will place 55,000 acres of valley land under water. The company has asked that 60 per cent of the land covered by their proposed laterals be signed up to use water and then they will begin active construction work. That the company is responsible is shown by the fact that its owners are Patrick Welsh, Judge Twoby and R. K. Neil, all capitalists of Spokane of unquestioned financial standing. The company already has invested \$750,000 in the valley.

Irrigation in the Rogue river valley is more of an insurance than a necessity and this has retarded irrigation development. Much good fruit has been and is now being raised without irrigation and young orchards are being grown without its aid, but such production and growth on unirrigated land is at the mercy of the summer rains which may or may not occur in proper season.

In some sections of the valley irrigation has been employed for years. "Stringtown," near Phoenix, is a splendid illustration of what water will do in the development of the highly cultivated farm of a few acres. This area has for years depended upon the night flow of the Phoenix mill ditch which the users were given in exchange for labor spent in cleaning out the ditch and keeping it in repair. Many are the stories of fabulous production that come from this locality. The ranches along Little Butte creek have been irrigated for years, and so highly is water in that section valued that only through the medium of the state board of control was serious litigation over water rights prevented.

The first effort to provide a water supply is available it is being put to



inaugurated about eight years ago by the Fish Lake Water company. Their plans embraced the diversion of water from Little Butte creek and the storage of the run-off of Mount McLaughlin in Fish and Four Mile lakes. This company constructed 16 miles of main canal and succeeded in bringing water into the north end of the valley, but difficult construction and apathy on the part of landowners in the matter of purchasing water rights prevented the further development of the project that held the key to the irrigation of the entire valley. After lying practically dormant for six years, the possibilities of this project, through the efforts of Fred N. Cummings, were brought to the attention of Patrick Welsh, the millionaire contractor, and R. K. Neil, mining and irrigation operator and Judge J. D. Twoby, all of Spokane, whose experiences with the irrigation development of the Spokane valley fitted them to foresee the irrigation possibilities of the Rogue river valley.

The irrigation system to be built by the Rogue River Valley Canal company will cost \$2,000,000. It will

consist of Fish lake and Four Mile lake reservoirs, having a combined storage capacity of 35,000 acres feet of water; a connecting canal between the two lakes, a diversion canal 16 miles in length to bring the water from Little Butte creek into the valley; three main lines of distributing canals aggregating 100 miles in length, and 400 miles of laterals to convey the water to the land.

All Cities of the Valley Show Progress

(Continued from page two.)
securely on the shores of sunset seas.
Over sixty years ago when Culver coach rolled up to the station at Phoenix and overlooked his promised land; an untamed paradise; for nowhere else on earth had nature lavished such rare perfection of climate and soil.
He heard at nightfall the grey wolf, and the war trail of the painted savage was there.
About this time the rich placer mines near Jacksonville and Phoenix

In addition to this project the California-Oregon Power company has encouraged the installation of individual pumping plants for the purpose of furnishing water for irrigation and 3000 acres are now irrigated in this manner in the valley.
Another irrigation project has been projected in the south end of the valley by T. W. Osgood which will place 7500 acres under water.

dredging machinery, now being manufactured in Seattle at a probable cost of \$100,000.00.
Fine Products
Fine potatoes are produced without the application of water, and the experiments conducted during the past year resulted in the production of fine crops of corn in the same manner. Where the land is properly irrigated, beans yield two thousand pounds to the acre, and alfalfa from six to eight tons. The setting of fruit trees during the last twelve months has raised the orchard lands to between eleven and twelve hundred acres.
Near the head waters of Evans creek are immense quantities of merchantable timber, also valuable deposits of coal, asbestos, and potters clay. Near "The Meadows" large veins of copper are known to exist and with the continuance of present improvements during the immediate future, these various products will be utilized, adding, not only to the wealth of this district, but that of the valley at large.

commenced their yield of golden bulion and the rich lands its golden grain.
Settlers came and the old stage coach rolled up to the station at Phoenix. The station serving as a hotel and blockhouse as the occasion demanded.
The old station so full of historic romance and memories of other days, surrounded by locust and mammoth cherry trees, with its old-fashioned roses is closely linked with the valley's earliest history and well worth inspection.
The town of Phoenix was platted in 1855 and in the old cemetery where madrone and manzanilla have usurped command, are found headstones dating as far back as 1852.
One of the two oldest flour mills in the Rogue River valley was built at Phoenix in 1855 by R. M. Walt, and the miners on Rich gulch used

to patch the seats of their trousers with empty flour sacks thereby carrying about the only display add the town has ever had.
In 1864 Phoenix then known as Gassburgh, was a town of considerable importance and in 1881 was the terminus of the O. & C. R. R., but the railroad moved on and likewise a large portion of the population leaving Gassburgh undeniably dead.

Phoenix remained dead for a long time, or as dead as a town could consistently remain surrounded as it is by one of the richest agricultural districts in the world, and in 1909 the village of Phoenix was only incorporated and a \$15,000 school house constructed, the district showing an assessed valuation of \$278,560 with an enumeration of 136 school children. In December, 1912, a special tax for school purposes was voted on an assessed valuation of \$1,108,880 and showing an enumeration of 218 children of school age. In the same time 40 new houses have been built and new business enterprises in proportion. The town supports two churches but no saloons.
The town is well lighted, has excellent telephone service, and the coming year will see a water system installed, the funds for which are already provided.
Phoenix has increased in wealth and general growth at least 25 per cent during the last year and the increase has been without boom or overbuilding, showing prosperity and progressiveness along conservative lines and the inhabitants are prosperous people.

COST OF LAND
The cost of land depends upon its location and soil. Tracts may be bought for \$100 to \$300 per acre, suitable for growing high grade fruit. Land some distance removed from the railroad and towns can be had for from \$29 to \$75 per acre. This land will be suitable for dairying, poultry raising and gardening.

Great Strides Made by Rogue River

(Continued from Page Four.)
have been a credit to any exhibit in any part of the state. It revolved beyond question that this part of the valley gives a large yield under proper cultivation, and the quality is seldom equaled. One important work of the club has been the establishment of a public library which now contains over four hundred volumes, and is located in the city hall, which has just been completed.
Irrigation
To the world, let it be known that this community is doing its work in the industrial and civic development of this ideal valley of the west. The improvements, however, have not been confined to the corporate limits of the town. Across the river to the south is a large amount of land ideal for fruit and alfalfa, where several irrigation plants have been established during the past summer. Great

improvements have also been made by clearing land and erection of buildings on the tract owned by the enterprising "Riverside Colony." On the same side of the river, in the direction of Geants Pass, irrigation systems have been put in as far as Savage creek, a district which produces splendid strawberries nearly every month in the year. On this side of the river, to the south, new dwellings have been erected and ground leveled for water, while on the large ranch of Bagley and Streets ground has been cleared, new trees set, and two capacious barns have been built. Like improvements have been made in the large, fertile district known as Evans valley, up to the ranch of the "Onion King" where the finest onions in the state are produced.
Expensive new buildings have been constructed, irrigation extended, land cleared, and on Pleasant creek steps have been taken to install

Main Street at Phoenix--Center of a Wonderful Garden Spot

