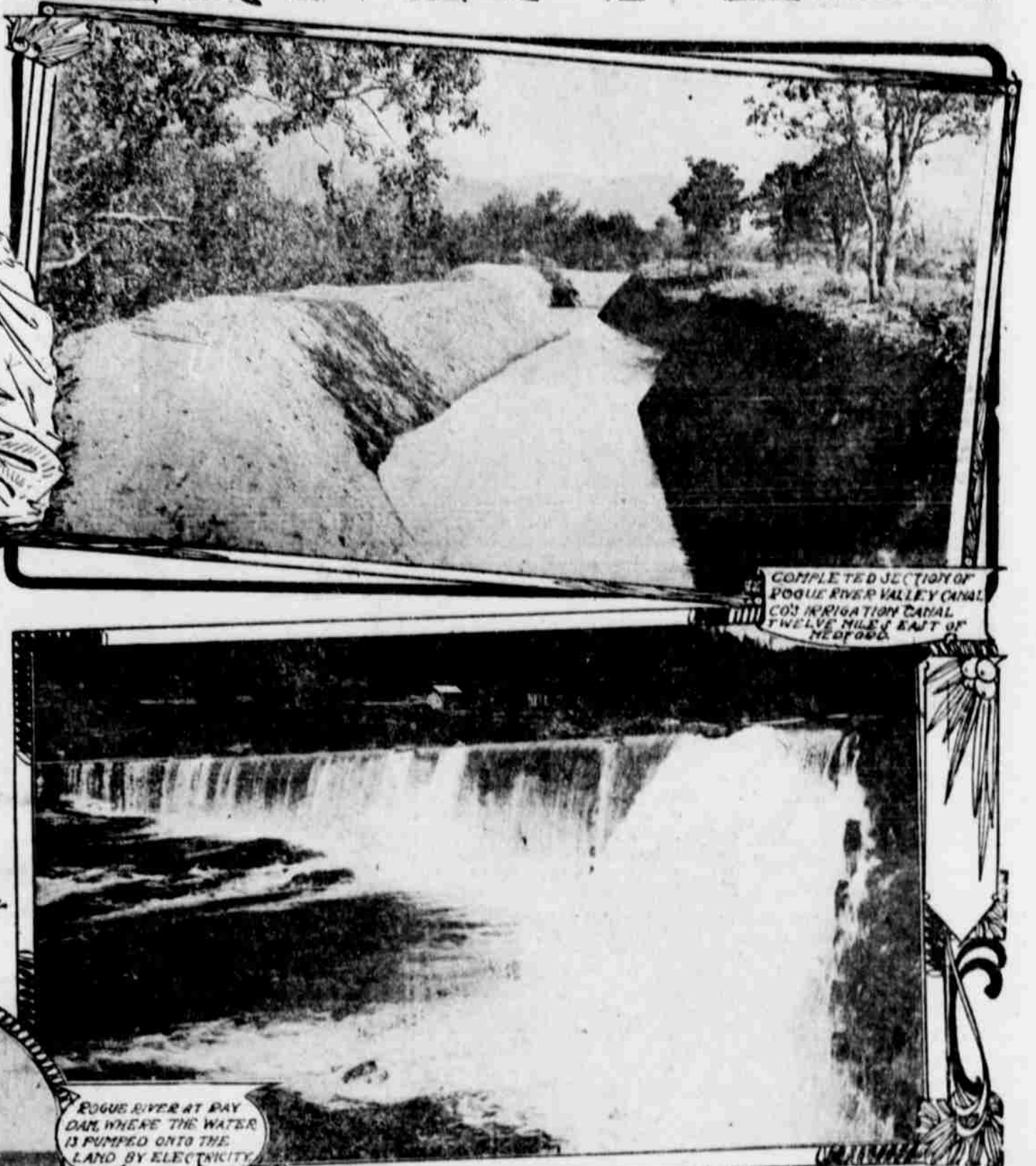


# IRRIGATION IN ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

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

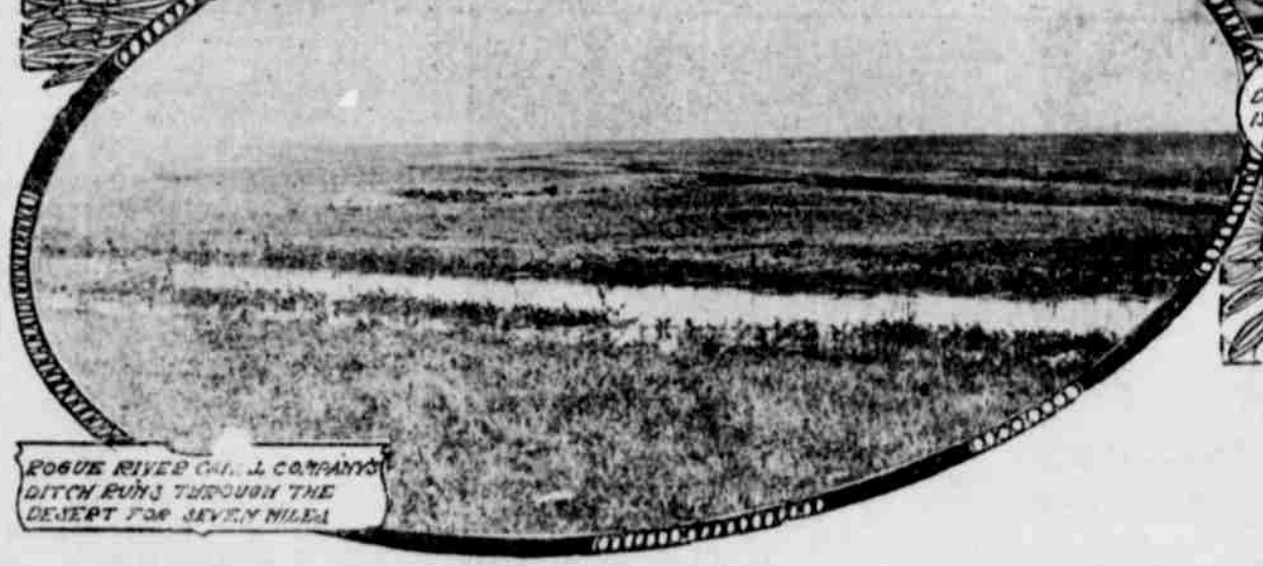


COMPLETED SECTION OF ROGUE RIVER VALLEY CANAL CO'S IRRIGATION CANAL TWELVE MILES EAST OF MEDFORD

ROGUE RIVER AT BAY DAK, WHERE THE WATER IS PUMPED ONTO THE LAND BY ELECTRICITY



FIVE YEAR OLD PEACH TREE WHICH YIELDED THIS SEASON 18 BUSHELS



ROGUE RIVER CANAL COMPANY'S DITCH RUNS THROUGH THE DESERT FOR SEVEN MILES



Raising 108 Bushels of Corn to the Acre on Parton Ranch, Eagle Point District.

Long continued agitation for irrigation for the entire valley has culminated in the appointment of a committee at a recent mass meeting of farmers and fruit growers authorized to take initial steps for the creation of an irrigation district under the Carey law. The county court will be petitioned for the creation of this district, the formation of the district, to be followed by an exhaustive inquiry into the several sources of water supply and the cost of the same. Preliminary steps will be taken soon after the first of the year.

While irrigation is not a necessity in the raising of fruit and other crops in the Rogue river valley, its value is recognized as crop insurance and as an essential in diversified intensive farming, towards which the valley is rapidly trending.

Wherever irrigation has been practiced in connection with fruit growing, the results have amply justified the expense, not only in the quality and quantity of the fruit, but also in the health and vigor of the trees. The greatest need of irrigation in the Rogue river valley is found in the more shallow soils, and for the production of other crops than large fruits. For intensified cultivation the greater part of the land of the valley requires irrigation to reach its best productivity. Much of the more shallow land demands irrigation before any crops of importance may be assured.

With a few minor exceptions, the sloping hillside lands are naturally supplied with sufficient moisture by seepage from higher lands to mature the tree fruits and to insure in many places fair yields of the cereals and small fruits. The soils of the valley floor as a rule retain moisture readily, especially if cultivated, and those along the streams are abundantly supplied with moisture by the drainage of the country. With these natural advantages, the need of a supply of irrigation water has not been pressing, though the time has arrived

when the value of water is thoroughly appreciated, particularly in a dry season like that just past. A large portion of the valley is already under the irrigation system of the Rogue River Canal company, a corporation owned by Patrick Welsh, J. D. Twchy and R. K. Neil, Spokane capitalists, who have invested \$750,000 in the enterprise. Water is taken from Little Butte creek, supplemented by dams at Fish Lake and Four Mile Lake. Plans are under way for the extension of this system to cover 60,000 acres of cultivated land at a total cost of \$2,500,000, including mountain reservoirs having a combined storage capacity of 35,000 acre feet of water, a trunk canal 16 miles in length, three main distributing canals aggregating 100 miles in length and 400 miles of laterals. The first effort to provide a water supply was inaugurated nine years ago by I. L. Hamilton, who formed the Fish Lake Water company, and constructed the main canal. Four years ago Fred N. Cummings organized the Rogue River Canal company, interesting the present owners in the project. Upon his retirement two years ago, J. T. Sullivan, a former contractor, became manager. In ad-

dition to selling water, the company is developing several hundred acres of orchard under the name of "Roguelands."

In addition to this project, construction work is underway on the Leadwaters of Bear creek by the Foot-hills Irrigation company. Dams and conduits are being built that will water 7500 acres of land in the south end of the valley at a cost of \$250,000. The project was promoted by T. W. Osgood and financed by Jacobson-Bade company, the well known contractors.

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 4000 acres are now irrigated in this manner in the valley.

### Soil Survey

Four hundred thousand acres of tillable land are found in the valley of Rogue river and in the valleys along the tributaries to this stream. In the territory directly adjacent to Medford there are

about 100,000 acres. Attention is called to the productive capacity, per acre, of this region, whether in fruit, grains or vegetable crops. It is much greater than in localities intensively farmed in the east, the south, the middle west.

It is an undeniable fact that in late years attention has been given to fruit production to the exclusion of other crops. It is equally true that on Rogue River valley lands bounteous yields of cereal and hay products and all kinds of vegetables may be obtained. Wheat, oats, corn and barley yield large crops. Five to eight tons of alfalfa in three cuttings are had. Potatoes will average more than five tons to the acre, onions will give greater returns and tomatoes will run as high as fifteen to twenty tons and over. Cabbage, turnips, parsnips, beans, peas, carrots, beets, squash, melons, cucumbers, cauliflower, celery, asparagus—everything, in fact, will grow.

The Rogue River valley is not a one-crop section. It will produce anything grown in the temperate zone and will pay better returns for less labor than any other locality of which we know.

The United States government has issued a pamphlet entitled "Soil Survey of the Medford Area," describing the soils of the Rogue River valley, which can be had on application to the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C. Oregon was the first of the states to apply for money under the terms of the Bourne bill, whereby the federal government appropriated \$10,000 to \$20,000 put up by Jackson county for improvement of rural delivery postal roads.

Work was finished last August under Major W. A. Crosslands, senior engineer of the bureau of highways, department of agriculture. Fifty miles of postal road were improved about five miles of permanent construction being accomplished.

### Poultry Openings

Jackson county has already gained considerable notice as a possible poultry producing section. Said Professor James Dryden, director of poultry and husbandry at the Oregon Agricultural college: "I know of no section in the United States that is more favored in a climatic way for the raising of poultry than the Rogue River valley. You have no ex-

trêmes of temperature, a moderate rainfall, a little snow and abundant sunshine. What more do you want in the way of climate? You have all the natural advantages of both soil and climate." The production of poultry may well become a profitable side industry with the care of an orchard, and there are tracts of land suitable for poultry colonizing which are of little value for other use. The climate is highly suitable, with the almost continuous sunshine during nine months of the year, and with the mild winters. The best of food is near at hand, considering the production of wheat, corn, alfalfa and other products. Also, the market. Up to 200 carloads of eggs and a considerable quantity of poultry, are annually shipped into Oregon, and a still larger quantity into the Puget sound market centers.

### Electrical Progress

(Concluded from Page 3) working plant using over 2000-horsepower of electric power to operate, this company having proved by a series of tests that it was cheaper to purchase electric power from the California-Oregon Power company than to operate a steam power plant.

This mill cuts over 300,000 feet of lumber per day for nine months out of the year.

The Klamath Manufacturing company, Klamath Falls, also uses 185 horsepower in electric power to operate their woodworking plant, and the Big Basin Lumber company uses 75-horsepower.

**Miscellaneous Uses of Electric Power** Electric motors are being used for innumerable power purposes, including the operating of quartz mills, quarries and brickyards, planing mills, box factories and ice plants and street railways.

The California-Oregon Power company during the season of 1914 has built over twenty-five miles of distributing lines along the county roads of the Rogue River valley, supplying electric current to ranches, orchards and country homes, the owners of which are quick to realize that electric current is no longer a luxury, but a necessity, and that as labor is uncertain and high priced, every labor-saving device in the home and on the ranch, instead of being an expense, is a true economy. The line extensions built by the company in the Rogue River valley in 1914 cost over \$10,000. In addition, about \$30,000 has been spent in building new sub-stations and for new transformers and secondary distributing systems.



Hog Raising and Dairying Are Yearly Increasing in Importance in the Rogue River Valley.