

RANCH OWNERS MUST UNITE TO SECURE WATER

Colonel Mundy Points Out Way for Irrigation—Farmers Can Build and Own Their Own System, But Co-operation Necessary—Needs of Valley Pointed Out.

(By J. F. Mundy)

I have been watching with great interest the many editorials and other articles printed by the Mail Tribune regarding the irrigation of the Rogue river valley, and inasmuch as it has been a long time since I have had anything of interest to say to the people of the Rogue river valley, I desire to express my views on account of irrigation.

As to the question of the valley needing water, I think ninety percent of the people agree that water must be had to successfully raise fruit, alfalfa or other farm products. The question is how and by what method water can be secured on reasonable terms and at a reasonable price. Where can sufficient water be obtained? I believe the ranch owners of the Rogue river valley could be united if some business proposition were submitted to them whereby they could obtain water on reasonable terms and for a reasonable price. For this reason I desire to make a suggestion.

Co-operation Essential

First, that the ranch owners who really want to secure water get together, organize their own company, under the water laws of Oregon known as the District Improvement act. Under this act any number of ranch owners may organize a stock company, elect their own officers, sign up such lands as they desire to be covered by water. This act provides for the issuance of bonds sufficient to pay for the cost of the canals and laterals. Under this method the ranch owner cuts out all questions of middleman and graft. They own the ditch, manage the company, they own the land, the water belongs to that particular tract of land, for which they sign for, and with each acre of land the landowner is entitled to one vote. If the owner owns 150 acres of land and wants to put water on 80 acres of this land he can sign up for 80 acres. That water belong to that particular 80 acres of land, entitles the owner of this land to 80 votes in the corporation. Should he sell 20 acres of this land he loses 20 votes. In other words, the water belongs to that particular land and that portion of the debt belongs to that particular piece of land.

Costs Held to Minimum

Under this method no one is forced to take more water than he wants, the company is not forced to build a larger ditch than they require to water the land signed up, the costs can be cut down to a minimum, the cost of maintaining the ditches and canals after the first three years should not exceed fifty cents an acre. At any rate the ranch owner only pays the actual cost of maintenance—he pays no profit to anyone.

If the ranch owners of the Rogue river valley will get together and organize their own company on the above lines, the enterprise can be financed. The cost, however, per acre would depend on the number of acres included in the enterprise, owing to the long main canal which of necessity would have to be well constructed, but if 40,000 acres could be included in this enterprise, it would not cost to exceed thirty-five dollars an acre to bring the waters from the Big Butte creek to the Rogue river valley and distribute it over the forty thousand acres of land.

Investigated Big Butte

As most of the readers of your paper no doubt are aware, some three weeks ago representatives of the contracting firm of Grant Smith & Co., of Seattle came to Medford at my solicitation and investigated the feasibility of bringing the water from Big Butte creek to the Rogue river valley. They satisfied themselves that it can be done at a reasonable cost, and have signified a willingness to take up the negotiations looking to their taking a contract to do the construction work for the entire system, finance the entire deal and take 20 year 6 percent bonds for their pay.

The writer has made careful investigation, has secured facts and figures which will satisfy the most skeptical land owner that if 40,000 acres can be secured the total cost will not exceed \$35.00 per acre, including the interest and maintenance charge on the ditch during the construction period and one year thereafter, thus enabling the ranch owner to secure

water and raise one crop before he has any charges whatever to pay.

Small Maintenance Fee

The ranch owner under this system would pay nothing but a small maintenance charge (actual cost), after the first two years nothing but the interest of 6 per cent and small maintenance fee for the next ten years, then one-tenth each year until paid, thus giving the ranch owners 22 years time at 6 per cent.

If the ranch owners will at once get together and organize themselves into a company along the above lines the writer will at his own expense find responsible contractors who will construct the main canals and laterals, distribute it over the valley, contractor to accept in payment bonds at \$35.00 per acre, no maintenance or interest to be paid until canals and laterals are constructed, six percent interest payable semi-annually, to be paid on bonds, from date of completion of canals and laterals for first ten years, one-tenth of the principal and six percent semi-annually to be paid for the second ten years.

Can Do It Themselves

Some may say that this cannot be done. The answer to this is, does anybody for one moment think that Mr. Welch of Roguelands company, Grant Smith & Co., or any other company would tie up their own money in this enterprise for a period of twenty years? They certainly will not. They expect if they finance this enterprise to get ample security for the money invested. If ample security is given for the money required the bonds in this enterprise can be sold to the investors through large bond houses in the middle west. The ranch owner does not need the services of the write, Mr. Welch, Grant Smith, or anybody else to do this. They can do it themselves. But if the ranch owners desire my services I will undertake at my own expense to finance the deal for them.

I offer the above suggestions to the people of the Rogue river valley realizing that something must be done and done quickly. The balance of trade is largely against us in this valley.

Diversified Farming

The ranchers of the Rogue river valley cannot afford to put their eggs all in one basket. The raising of fruit is all right, taken in connection with the raising of poultry, hogs, corn, barley, wheat vegetables, and other products, and the sooner the rancher gets on the basis of diversified farming the sooner the balance of trade will be turned to our favor instead of against us.

The entire world is going through a period of reconstruction and it will take several years before we reach a firm basis. In the meantime something must be done to hold the balance of trade in our favor. There is absolutely no sale for land and will be none for several years to come. Boom prices are a thing of the past,—it is ancient history. When the fabric is reconstructed it will be on a basis of production alone.

If you would want to sell a piece of land the purchaser will ask what you are producing, and he will offer you a price that will return him a fair interest on the investment, and will pay no more.

Reconstruction Period

During the reconstruction period of the next few years we must not only look to the reducing of more products of the soil, but we must look for a market for the same. We can scarcely hope to find much of a market for our fruits, which is in a sense luxury, for the next five years or more, hence we must seek canning factories and evaporating plants to care for this fruit.

If this land was put under a system of irrigation we could raise successfully sugar beets, which could be sold at a profit that would pay a fair interest on \$500 or \$600 per acre on the land. They are doing it in Colorado, they are doing it in the Jordan valley, and can do it in the Rogue river valley. The sugar beet plant can be had whenever we can demonstrate that we can successfully grow the beets. This test is being made at my request at this time by the Mormon people, who are thoroughly in earnest in looking to the establishment of a sugar beet plant in the Rogue river valley this fall and winter so as to create a market for one of the valuable products of the Rogue river valley for the coming year, which plant I assure you can be secured if this valley is put under water.

Undeveloped Resources

Jackson county has wonderful natural resources that are undeveloped. New capital must be obtained to develop same. We have billions of feet of very fine sugar pine timber in this county and yet we are shipping all our lumber from Eugene, paying the Southern Pacific company a ten cent freight rate or \$2.80 per thousand on same. We need a saw mill. We need a box factory. We need smoke stacks to build a city in the valley. All of these can be secured with united effort. Will we make the effort? It is for the people of the Rogue river valley to say. J. F. MUNDY.

With Medford Trade is Medford Made

Mizza Hajos, Star in Savage Opera in Ashland Thursday



MIZZI HAJOS IN SARI AT VINING

"Sari," the irresistible combination of melody, humor and beauty, which was the musical sensation of last season in New York, comes to the Vining theater June 24, with Mizzi Hajos in the title part. "Sari" tells a real story with comedy and drama combined; its music is by Emmerich Kalman and is fiery, passionate and appealing—its songs get close to the heart and its famous "Hazzaza" dance is a rollicking delight. Henry W. Savage has given it a beautiful mounting and an excellent cast, which, besides Mizzi Hajos, includes Charles Meakins, J. K. Murray, Gretchen Hood, Bert Gilbert, H. W. Marsh, John Squires and other well-known players.

GOLD MEDAL FOR STANDARD OIL

SAN FRANCISCO, June 21.—Besides awarding gold medals to the Standard Oil company (California) on practically all of its products, the jury of awards, Panama-Pacific international exposition has awarded a medal of honor to the oil company on "its work and policies," and a special medal of recognition of the Standard's conservation work in the California oil fields, it was officially announced at the Standard Oil building yesterday.

Commenting on the "work and policies" award, K. R. Kingsbury, vice-president of the company, said: "That award applies specifically to the manner in which our company has dealt with its employees, its customers and the public, and for the methods it has developed in producing, transporting, refining and selling petroleum."

"Another award in which we feel a deep sense of gratification is the gold medal for our conservation methods in the oil fields. This company has always bent every effort toward eliminating waste in the production of petroleum and has initiated and placed in operation many devices and methods tending toward conservation and efficient operation of oil wells."

EGAN PLAYING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

TACOMA, Wash., June 21.—Clear skies and a refreshing air marked the opening of the annual tournament of the Pacific Northwestern Golf association. A brilliant field was promised in the women's competition, opening the tourney. Among the visiting women practicing yesterday, Mrs. I. M. Wheeler of Butte, former metropolitan champion, made an impression with her clever work.

Several California and eastern stars are here. Chandler Egan, former national champion, and Jack Neville, present holder of the Pacific northwestern tournament, drew a greater part of the gallery in practice. Willie Leith of the local club had the best card yesterday, striking 70 in the morning round. Bob Johnson, the Seattle Golf club professional, had 73 for the afternoon round. David Findlay of the Spokane club is fully recovered from a dislocated wrist and the wise ones predict Findlay will be a hard man to beat in 72 holes of competition.

CZAR'S MUNITIONS AT VLADIVOSTOK

TOKYO, June 21.—Advices reaching Tokyo from Vladivostok are that munitions of war intended for the use of Russia's armies at the front are arriving at that seaport in great quantities. So heavy are the shipments that facilities to forward them by rail through Siberia are lacking. It is in an endeavor to overcome this that the Russian authorities have placed rush orders for cars and loc-

Final Clearance of Ladies Spring Suits \$9.50

Only about one dozen of these Spring Suits remain to choose from. However, it is not our aim to carry over a single garment. In this lot are suits that sold two months ago at \$35 and well worth it; among the selection are the staple blues and black and white check, your choice of the lot at **\$9.50**

CURTAIN NETS
Short lengths of good quality scrim, plain or fancy, white, ecru and cream, sold regular up to 50c the yard—**at One-Half.**

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One big lot of Fancy Wash Braids, all colors and white, both scallop and plain band, especially good for wash dresses, at, each **7c**

PARASOLS ONE-HALF PRICE
Some two dozen of these summer shades remain, some black and white, others in most any combination of color you could wish for—worth regular \$1.75 to \$7.50, **ONE-HALF PRICE**

RIPPLETTE
And Crepes in neat stripes, both light and dark patterns, nothing nicer for house wear and requires no ironing, special at **11c**

WASH SKIRTS
Just received by express this big lot of White Wash Skirts, including linens, piques, poplins and gaberdines, some are slightly trimmed with buttons and large patch pockets at **\$3.50 to \$6.50**

MUSLIN SHORT LENGTHS
An accumulation of muslins, ranging 3 to 8 yards in the piece, a soft finish, good quality cloth, sold regular 10c, at, yard **6c**

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Save your purchase slips or ask your friends and neighbors to save them for you. Anyone can earn this trip.

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SULTAN OF TURKEY CONSULTS SPECIALIST

BERLIN, via London, June 21.—Professor James Adolf Israel, the widely known German specialist, is at the bedside of Sultan Mehmed at Constantinople, according to the Tagblatt. Professor Israel is the Sultan's guest at the Yildiz Kiosk, where he will remain until the end of next week. The nature of the Turkish ruler's ailment has not been disclosed.

William H. Rand Dead
NEW CANAAN, Conn., June 21.—William H. Rand, for many years

head of the printing and publishing house of Rand, McNally & Co., died here last night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Henry W. Chappell. He had been ill for some time.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at its next regular meeting on July 6, 1915, for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors at retail in quantities less than a gallon at its place of business on South Front street in said city until January 1st, 1916.
Dated June 19, 1915.
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