

WATER CONTRACTS OFFERED FARMERS MOST LIBERAL

BY W. W. WATSON

The first inquiry that suggests itself to a community of farmers to whom water is offered for general irrigation purposes is: What will it cost? The second question will naturally be: What are the permanent conditions upon which we may thus obtain it?

I have used many different kinds of irrigation contracts in Eastern Washington and California during the past twenty years. That experience gave me acquaintance with irrigation contracts generally in use for many years in some of the most active irrigation districts in the west. I feel, therefore, that I am qualified to make impartial comparisons.

When the farmers under the Phoenix segment of the Rogue River Canal company's system of irrigation were given opportunity to use the water therefrom, they were also given the liberty practically to name the conditions of their contract with the company.

An Unusual Proposition

I desire to congratulate the farmers whose areas are covered by this canal. It has never been my pleasure to handle a more generous irrigation contract to which the company is bound, of the interest on deferred payments, of the distribution of the water, of the farmers' interest in the surplus flow, if there be any, and of their priority of right in the use of the water, should the canal eventually be extended to other districts. The company has reserved no special privilege whatever, beyond the right to construct the canal and laterals and distribute the water under specific conditions.

Under Other Canals

The contract drawn to cover the purchase of water from other canals of the Rogue River Canal company follows the same general plan of privilege to the farmer, chief among the latter being that he has no payment to make on the principal sum involved in the purchase of the water right until five years from the date of the contract, only the usual maintenance fee of \$2.50 per acre per year being required. This contract was submitted to prospective users of water under the system known as the Hopkins extension, carefully considered by them, two changes suggested and they were made.

A New Experience

I am, frank to say, that these several conditions in irrigation contracts suggest to me a new experience in the matter of business relations between the water owner and the water user in extensive enterprises of this nature.

In these circumstances, farmers of this fertile valley who have experienced the despair of crop losses by drought and their consequent impoverishment and whose lands may now or soon be commanded by one of the canals of this system, should feel that good fortune has at last overtaken them and that they may now sow with the assurance that they may reap. And in the rich harvest lie their bounties.

LEWIS TIES CAN TO CANTINE'S DEPUTIES

ED ANDREWS.



What is Name Without an Hair!

This is a subject that has a place in all minds in all times.

And it is equally difficult to think of any subject that has a place in all minds in all times.

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