

PIONEERS KNEW VALUE OF WATER IN ASHLAND DISTRICT

By W. W. WATSON.

During the past two months I have made special inquiry of many of those who now cultivate the old places in the Ashland district, owned and operated in the pioneer days by the fathers of some of those who operate them today, as to how much it would reduce the value of their acreages to be deprived of irrigation—having reference to the pioneer water rights required when some of them were donation claims, dating back, in some instances, more than half a century. These men were approached on this matter because they are the rich and well-to-do men of that section today—and have been for many years. They largely own the business blocks in Ashland and the major share of its bank stocks. They own the fine homes, the thoroughbred livestock, the big automobiles and the choicest poultry. They have the fine orchards, vineyards and gardens, the attractive lawns, hedged with roses and fleecily fleeced with flowers. In short, they have the homes of comfort and enjoy whatever luxury taste and whim may suggest.

It Brought Them Wealth.

The answers to my question were practically the same in every case. Substantially, it may be said, these old claims were taken originally because they were located on mountain streams at the points at which the latter emerge from the rugged canyons upon the plain of the valley. These streams promised an abundant supply of water for stock and for garden use and, finally, for the broader acreage brought under productive tillage in field crops. On the water thus supplied the old-time farmers depended for crop sustenance. It was well along in summer time, perhaps, before they needed to apply artificial irrigation, but when the crops appeared to need the moisture they had the field laterals ready for its conveyance to any part of the ranch. Thus they succeeded. Abundant yields of grains were obtained; great crops of grasses for pasture and hay; bountiful gardens loaded with succulents both for the household and the barnyard; fat hogs and poultry; well-rounded steers, contented milk cows with their generous daily contribution for the family table and the pig trough and spirited horses, the pride of the highways.

Profit on Irrigation

These properties seemed to accumulate without much effort on the part of the pioneer farmers. They worked, to be sure, and worked valiantly, many of them courageously, for in some cases native brush had to be cleared away for additional areas for field and meadow. But they appeared to have no nightmare of worry, such as we find today on the later areas of cultivation. They had no thought of crop failure. Carelessness in the matter of irrigation was the only thing that produced it, if their lands were well plowed and seeded. They raised more profitable produce on a few acres than our farmers do now on broad acres. And those same farms, cultivated for half a century, are richer in soil constituents of productive value today than they were when first touched by the steel of agriculture. As the eminent Widtsoe said, irrigation has preserved their fertility and made them stronger and more arable.

Finally, the fortunately located areas just below the "mouth of the canyon" were all taken as donation claims or homesteads. Those who followed the trail of these courageous pioneers and found this Eldorado—it was the lure of gold that brought them first—found rich-looking valley lands on which to build the temporary habitat.

Water Was Necessary.

The abundant gardens and vineyards and fields of heavy yields betokened an Eden of richness in soil and climate. Most of them came from states in which irrigation was unknown. Experience had not taught them the dangers of semi-arid climates in the farming business. Nor had it taught them the value of water for artificial application in the absence of rain. Besides, it rained more in the valley in those years than it does now. Official records show that our annual rainfall is gradually declining in measurement. So, years ago, began the "dry-farming" experiences in this valley. Fair yields of grain and other common field crops were obtained for many years; but they were growing less all the time. The decline was marked from year to year until the delinquent tax list shows the result.

How many names of those farmers whose lands have been irrigated for years are found on the delinquent tax list? When looking them up, if you will refer to the assessment roll in-

OSCAR C. APPEL, NOTED DIRECTOR, SUCCESS IN "LITTLE GYPSY"



A William Fox masterpiece at the Page tonight. "The Little Gypsy" employs the services of hundreds of people, a veritable army, in fact, and the scenic effects are wonderful in their realism and beauty. Mr. Appel

believes in absolute realism upon the screen and consumed weeks of valuable time searching for types that would fittingly represent his conception of the scores of minor characters that lend atmosphere and color to "The Little Gypsy."

RAILROAD MEN TO UNITE WITH MINERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Labor leaders here say that a movement is under way to bring about concerted action of members of the four great unions of railway employees and of the United Mine Workers in their demands for increased wages or shorter working days. It is stated that if this plan were put into effect it would bring about combined action by 750,000 men and affect the mining fields of Pennsylvania, Colorado and the south.

The movement is said to have the approval of W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and W. G. Lee of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

It is said here that John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers has disapproved the proposed coalition.

TACOMA RAILROAD FRANCHISE VOID

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—Annulment of a twenty-five year franchise of the Tacoma Railway & Power company was upheld today by the United States circuit court of appeals in a decision affirming the holding of the federal district court. The case was appealed by the Old Colony Trust company of Massachusetts, trustee for bondholders. The federal courts sustained the decision of the state courts because the company violated an agreement not to sell electricity for lighting.

The city of Tacoma gave up a permit for lighting service in 1908 which it revoked in 1913. Upon the company's refusal to discontinue the franchise, granted in 1905, it was annulled.

Instead of the delinquent tax list, you will find most of them the heaviest taxpayers in the county.

With these official records as full evidence of the value of irrigation; with the big men of the county, those of them who are yet in active life, as living testimonies of its bounty; with fields and orchards in favored areas, where water is obtainable, appearing with bad and blum and heavy harvest to the intelligence of the struggling "dry farmer," how can the latter overlook the fact that the solution of his home problem lies in getting water on his land at the earliest possible moment?

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SUPREME COURT DEADLOCKED IN OREGON CASE

By GILSON GARDNER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—It has been thirteen months since the United States supreme court heard arguments by Louis D. Brandeis on the Oregon minimum wage case. There is a rumor that the court is deadlocked 4 to 4; half the judges being in the intellectual period of the stone age, while the other half have reached a comparatively modern viewpoint. The white house should be absolved from any responsibility for the mention of William Howard Taft in connection with the supreme court vacancy. Mr. Taft wants more than anything else in the world to be a member of the supreme court, and whenever a vacancy occurs in that court his press agents fill the papers with eulogiums and kind words about his judicial qualifications. As a matter of fact, in the opinion of some of the president's closest advisers, Mr. Taft is not sufficiently enlightened as to modern economic problems to be qualified for a position in this court.

The movement to secure a tariff commission recalls the fact that there was a tariff board in 1911 and 1912, created by the Payne-Aldrich law, which made certain investigations and recommendations to congress during its existence. These recommendations were for the most part studiously disregarded by congress in the bills passed and vetoed by President Taft. Congress never has been willing to surrender to any tariff board authority to determine tariff schedules.

Medford Boosters Smoke
The Medford and Mt. Pitt Cigars.

Everyone Should Drink Hot Water in the Morning
Wash away all the stomach, liver, and bowel poisons before breakfast.

To feel your best day in and day out, to feel clean inside; no sour bile to coat your tongue and sicken your breath or dull your head; no constipation, bilious attacks, sick headache, colds, rheumatism or gassy, acid stomach, you must bathe on the inside like you bathe outside. This is vastly more important, because the skin pores do not absorb impurities into the blood, while the bowel pores do, says a well-known physician.

To keep these poisons and toxins well flushed from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels, drink before breakfast each day, a glass of hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it. This will cleanse, purify and freshen the entire alimentary tract, before putting more food into the stomach.

Get a quarter pound of limestone phosphate from your pharmacist. It is inexpensive and almost tasteless, except a sourish twinge which is not unpleasant. Drink phosphated hot water every morning to rid your system of these vile poisons and toxins; also to prevent their formation.

To feel like young folks feel; like you felt before your blood, nerves and muscles became saturated with an accumulation of body poisons, begin this treatment and above all, keep it up! As soap and hot water act on the skin, cleansing, sweetening and purifying, so limestone phosphate and hot water before breakfast, act on the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels.

PHILIPPINE BILL MEETS APPROVAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The administration's legislative program particularly national preparedness, and the Lualaba case, gave promise today of occupying much of President Wilson's attention during the week.

The president has engagements to confer with many senators and representatives in furtherance of his efforts to expedite the work of congress on the army and navy bills.

The Philippine bill, already passed by the senate was up for discussion at a conference today between the president and Chairman Jones of the house insular committee. It is said that efforts will be made in the house to amend the bill. The measure is said to have met the president's approval as it passed the senate.

MIDVALE PURCHASES CAMBRIA STEEL COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 7.—Control of the Cambria Steel company, one of the largest independent steel concerns, has been purchased by the Midvale Steel and Ordnance company of Philadelphia.

Announcement of this effect was made today by W. H. Donner, president of the Cambria company.

FEDERAL LEAGUE BASEBALL SUIT DISMISSED BY LANDIS

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—The suit of the Federal league against organized baseball filed a year ago under the anti-trust law, was dismissed today by Judge K. M. Landis in the United States district court.

WM. FOX MASTERPIECE
THE LITTLE GYPSY
PAGE - TONIGHT

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COTTON POPLINS 25c
This cloth comes 36 inches wide and such colors as pink, light and Alice blue, tan, black and white, and has a permanent finish that will wash and hold its color.

RICE FLAKE VOILES 25c
Come double width, 36 inches wide, in the plain colors, also fancy stripes and large floral patterns, a very desirable cloth for making dresses where they require the fullness.

SPLASH VOILES AND SWISSES 29c
Neat Dotted Swisses in pink, blue and black dot, voiles in large floral patterns of lavender, pink and blue; all come 36 inches wide and in a cloth that will wash well.

WIDE STRIPE SUITINGS, 35c, 45c
Fashion says stripes shall be the rage this season, and it truly looks so, in the manner they are shown in the different materials. We have them in pink, blues and black and white, suitable for dresses or separate skirts.

GINGHAMS 10c
Patterns that are suitable for either children's or ladies' dresses and come in a big lot of small checks, stripes and plaids.

GINGHAMS 12 1/2c
Materials of the better grade and quality that will stand washing, all the new spring patterns of the most wanted colors.

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TIME CARD

INTEGRAL AUTO CAR CO.
Leave Medford daily except Sunday for Ashland, Talent and Phoenix at 8 a. m., 11:50 a. m., 1:15, 2:30, 3:45 and 5:15 p. m. Also on Saturday at 11:15 p. m. Sundays leave at 10 a. m., 4 p. m. and 9:30 p. m. Leave Ashland for Medford daily except Sunday at 9 a. m., 12:50, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45 and 6:15 p. m. Sunday leave Ashland at 9 a. m., 1:00, 5:00 and 10:30 p. m.

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