

KAY'S REASONS FOR OPPOSITION TO IRRIGATION BONDS

By T. R. KAY, State Treasurer.
To the Editor:

In answer to many requests for an expression as to the proposed initiative bill to amend the constitution, which will provide for the bonding of the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, not to exceed 2 per cent (which would mean \$18,000,000), have to say that I am opposed to the proposed measure for several reasons.

The proposition to initiate this amendment first came from the irrigation congress, which met in Portland in December, and, therefore, came from people particularly interested in reclaiming desert lands. A similar measure, which came from the same source, was put on the ballot two years ago, which provided for bonding the state for irrigation and road building, the latter being the more popular issue of the two, yet the amendment did not carry in a single county in the state, it being defeated by 135,000 against as for 49,000 for.

There is a popular demand for some system of rural credits and the people interested in irrigation have taken advantage of this, and propose to amend the constitution, which will link together the bonding of the state for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, thinking the latter issues will carry the former one through.

Now, in my opinion, there is absolutely no demand at this time for the state bonding itself for irrigation purposes, inasmuch as there are now on the market thousands of acres of reclaimed lands ready for settlement for which there is absolutely no sale. In proof of this, I have to say that three years ago the state appropriated \$450,000 to reclaim 22,500 acres of land known as the Tumalo project. There were 7000 acres of this amount owned by settlers on the ground who had vested water rights, together with parties who had contracts in the old Columbia Southern company, which the state permitted the renewal of, they receiving credit for same on new contracts for the amount paid the Columbia Southern company. This leaves 15,500 acres of land reclaimed by the state for sale, of which there have been sold less than 1000 acres, although it has been on the market for nearly two years. This land is favorably located and is considered first class, yet the desert land board is unable to find purchasers for it. There are over 7500 acres of patented lands, or listed for patents, in the Central Oregon Irrigation company for sale. And still further, of the 15,000 acres of reclaimed lands in the government project in Umatilla county, there are 5300 acres actually being cultivated; the rest being in the hands of speculators or the title remaining with the government. There are likewise thousands of acres of reclaimed lands for sale in the hands of private companies and everyone who is familiar with these matters knows that there is absolutely no demand for these lands.

This being the case, then what legitimate demand is there for bonding the state for reclaiming more? The only demand comes from people or communities who would be benefited by the expenditure of large sums of money in their localities, or, further, from people who would secure positions in connection with carrying on of the work, and it simply amounts to a proposition to borrow money and expend it in order to make good times.

Some claim the reason these lands are not sold is because the terms are not liberal enough. The terms are 10 per cent down and 10 per cent paid each year for nine years, with interest at 6 per cent, and these are what I would consider liberal terms. Again, some people maintain that these lands can be irrigated for \$15 per acre, which contention is not well founded, as none of the Carey act projects have ever been reclaimed on the original estimates. The Columbia

Southern company originally figured it could reclaim and sell these lands at a profit for \$14.75 per acre, which was the amount charged for them. This company failed and the state reclaimed the lands at a cost of nearly \$40 per acre, that being the state lien price for water. The cost of the government project in Umatilla county is \$60 per acre, and this project is favorably located. The value of the land when sold by speculators is added to the lien cost.

I understand this proposition has received considerable encouragement from some large bankers, who stated that in case the state would guarantee the bonds they would sell like "hot cakes." This, no doubt, is true, inasmuch as the banks are teeming over with funds which they are willing to loan on good bonds at 4, or 5 per cent interest, yet under present conditions they are not willing to loan these moneys in the ordinary channels for a much higher rate of interest. At the present time it is hard to secure funds for legitimate business propositions at less than 7 or 8 per cent, and in eastern Oregon for less than 10 per cent.

I will venture the assertion that none of these bankers would invest a dollar in irrigation bonds at any rate of interest, unless the state was back of them, and if the state had been back of the Carey act projects in the past it would have had to pay both principal and interest, inasmuch as practically all of them have been failures.

The population of Oregon is less than 800,000 and the area is 95,000 square miles, or 61,000,000 acres of land, which is greater than the combined area of the states of New York and Pennsylvania, with over 18,000,000 people. There are three acres of tillable land today in the state of Oregon for every acre in cultivation, not counting desert lands, so what demand is there for the state bonding itself and spending large sums to reclaim more lands, with all these tillable lands lying idle and thousands of acres of irrigated lands on the market.

All subdivisions of the state, such as counties, cities and school districts, can bond themselves, and many of them are now bonded to the limit. Therefore, to provide for state bonds would simply amount to reloading the same property and adding to the already excessive burden of taxation.

The state of Oregon is one of the few states which has no bonded indebtedness. In case the constitution is amended whereby we can bond for one purpose it will not be long until it is bonded for many other purposes, and once the bars are thrown down it will be but a few years until we have tens of millions of dollars' worth of state bonds, which will add greatly to our already high taxes and will not be conducive to good results.

Section 20, article 4 of the state constitution provides that "every act shall embrace but one subject, and matters properly connected therewith, which subject shall be expressed in the title."

This constitutional provision was intended to protect the members of the legislature, and on initiative bills the general public from having to vote for a bill or appropriation which

GOOD CARD AT SEVENTH COMPANY SMOKER TONIGHT

The Seventh company will hold its smoker tonight at the Armory and the card promises to be the best ever given in this part of the state. Rose and Hopkins, the latter of Central Point, will give an exhibition of scientific boxing. These two are about the cleverest amateurs of their weight in southern Oregon. Their footwork is excellent and they strike lightly and quickly.

The star event in the wrestling will be between the champion of the University of Oregon and Edmunds of Gold Hill, who is the 145-pound champion of southern Oregon. He has never lost a match, having decisively defeated his opponents. The match carries the championship of western Oregon.

Jess Ingram, the undefeated lightweight boxer, will be opposed by Geo. Peart of this city. Both are clever boxers and the fans may expect one of the most exciting contests ever pulled off in Medford. Jess so far has defeated overwhelmingly every Medford man.

Nokahini, the holder of a first diploma in jiu jitsu, having graduated from Tokyo university, will demonstrate some of the principles of this scientific defense. His assistant will be L. S. Beveridge. There are in all nine diplomas. There is only one man in the United States holding a fourth diploma, and but few of the second and third. No man living holds the ninth. It is possible by this defense for an extremely light man to hold an opponent of fifty pounds more weight from hurting him, and it would not be extreme to say that he could throw his rival over his head.

Will Beveridge and his brother, Leland, will wrestle for the lightweight championship of this city and vicinity. Both have defeated their men. The betting favors Will to defeat his brother, as being the more scientific in the art of wrestling. The match should go three falls.

There are eleven events in all and a great advance sale has been recorded.

They do not indorse, in order to vote for one in which they are in favor. Or, in other words, to keep from putting a "rider" on a good measure.

Irrigation and drainage being the two methods of reclaiming waste lands, could properly be included in one measure, but rural credits, having nothing in common with the other two subjects, should not be included in the same bill.

I believe in some system of rural credits and think I am entitled to the privilege of voting for that measure without having to vote for bonding the state for irrigation and drainage, which I am not in favor of at this time.

Here's A 'Tip' On Rheumatism Follow It

AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION
When your arm or your leg feels "all knotted" with rheumatism, when you feel as though your muscles were "tied up with a rope," you are really describing your pain accurately. Rheumatism is a condition of the body when acids and other deposits of impurities are actually "tied up" the strands of muscles in your body, or straining the nerves and thus producing the awful shooting pains of sciatica, lumbago, etc. Medical authorities agree that these acid deposits are carried and deposited by the blood in the various parts of the body. It stands to reason, therefore, that local applications such as rubbing with so-called remedies can't do any permanent good. At best they only relieve the pain a little and only for a little while. The only way to effect a real cure is to attack the real cause—the blood. It is cleansed from the troublesome deposits by S. S. S., the reliable blood purifier that is now cleaning the water and healing the ill of the third generation. S. S. S. "uses after" the impurities in the blood as relentlessly, as eagerly and as thoroughly as a ferret goes after rats; pursuing the poisons into every vein and artery, into every nook and corner of the body, and chasing the troublesome substances out of the system. The blood thus cleansed, carries off the acids and other injurious deposits and "filters" them out of the body through the kidneys. S. S. S. is not a drug. It is a purely vegetable blood purifier. You can get S. S. S. at every drug store. But if in addition you should like to have the advice of the doctors in charge of our laboratory, do not hesitate to write us. You will receive free, conscientious and confidential advice. This is in line with our policy to make every effort to insure the best results from S. S. S. to every sufferer. Get a bottle of your drug store today. If you wish special advice, write to Medical Department, Form 46, Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Georgia.



FISH for LENT

The Lenten season is a great time for fish and we will be better prepared than ever to take care of your wants with Fresh Fish, Clams, Lobsters and all kinds of Cheese.

Medford Fish & Poultry Co.



National Baby Week, March 4 to 11

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CARE OF THE INFANT, BETTER BABIES, BETTER MOTHERS AND A BETTER COMMUNITY

Help decrease the mortality of the child—for we shudder to think of our own country being listed far down the line among the civilized nations when it comes to the death rate of children. Free information regarding the proper care of children every day of the week.

PROGRAM FOR TOMORROW, THURSDAY, MARCH 9: Children's Day, Star theater, special program. All children up to 12 years of age admitted free to all shows, afternoon and evening.

TO BE PROPERLY CLOTHED

The proper clothing goes a long way in keeping the child in good health. We have overlooked no detail in this department.

SILK DRESSES \$15.00 TO \$27.50

Just received, Silk Dresses for street wear, in the popular shades, such as green, rose, navy, black, Copen and Wistaria; some are taffeta, others are combined with Georgette crepe and chiffon.

200 New Spring Garments to Choose From

COATS AND SUITS, bought of some of New York's biggest shops, and come to us in the latest styles, which have been created in the larger cities within the past few weeks, and such a variety to choose from, including the jaunty misses' styles, the more conservative models in ladies'; also stunts for large women. Among our collection you will find:

- MISSES' NORFOLK AND SPORT SUITS \$22.50 TO \$35.00
- LADIES' "COLONY CLUB" SUITS \$27.50 TO \$45.00
- STOUTS FOR LARGE WOMEN \$24.50 TO \$35.00
- COATS, ALL SIZES AND COLORS \$ 7.50 TO \$25.00

TUB SILKS

The new Crepe de Chines, in the popular narrow stripes, comes 36 inches wide, makes excellent blouses, at yard \$1.75

WASH PETTICOATS, IN SILK, \$2.95

Flesh, black and white, cut good and full with ruffle, and a silk that will not split like a taffeta, elastic band, and comes most any length.

HAIR RIBBONS 15c, 19c, 25c, 29c

Shown in a big range of checks, together with plaids and floral patterns, in just the right width for hair bows.

JAPANESE LUNCH CLOTHS AND NAPKINS

Another big lot of those popular sets just received and come in a new range of patterns, with napkins to match; also the cloth by the yard, at 19¢

WOOL BATTS, SPECIAL \$2.15

A good, large roll, ready for use, made of good Oregon wool, well combed and ready to buy

Watches, Rings

THE MAY CO.

ALTERATION HELP WANTED
We would like one or two ladies for a limited time in this department—only experienced need apply.

CHILDREN'S WASH DRESSES 48c, 60c, 75c, \$1.00
In good quality gingham, ages 2 to 6; also stamped dimities and plain white materials trimmed with pink or blue gingham.

THE MAY CO.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE The Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Co.

of Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania on the 31st day of December, 1915, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

CAPITAL	
Amount of capital paid up	\$ 750,000.00
INCOME	
Net premiums received during the year	\$3,577,205.92
Interest, dividends, and rents received during the year	325,334.44
Income from other sources received during the year	8,150.46
Total income	\$3,910,790.82
DISBURSEMENTS	
Net losses paid during the year	\$2,031,704.65
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	225,000.00
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	776,642.19
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	151,262.34
Amount of all other expenditures	619,287.15
Total expenditures	\$3,803,896.33
ASSETS	
Value of real estate owned (market value)	121,000.00
Value of stocks and bonds owned (market value)	6,329,502.00
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	24,857.82
Cash in banks and on hand	288,868.36
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1915	675,531.86
Interest and rents due and accrued	104,248.40
Total assets	\$8,251,407.44
Less special deposits in any state (if any there be)	Nil
Total assets admitted in Oregon	\$8,251,407.44
LIABILITIES	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	\$ 364,060.34
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	1,617,187.18
Due for commission and brokerage	67,500.00
Total liabilities, exclusive of capital stock of \$750,000.00	\$2,048,747.52
Total premiums in force Dec. 31, 1915	8,999,618.12
BUSINESS IN OREGON FOR THE YEAR	
Total insurance written during the year	\$2,086,170.00
Gross premiums received during the year	29,294.89
Premiums returned during the year	4,852.20
Losses paid during the year	31,760.80
Losses incurred during the year	26,737.96
Total amount of insurance outstanding in Oregon December 31, 1915	\$2,569,685.00

By W. GARDNER CROWELL, (Signed) Secretary.
Statutory resident general agent and attorney for service: Chas. V. McCarthy (Signed)

D. R. WOOD & CO., Resident Agents

RESULTS COUNT

Our courses are arranged with one aim in view—to get the best results. Investigate—then enroll in Day or Night School.

Medford Commercial College
New Students May Enroll at Any Time. Phone 15-L.

"Yours for Perfect Cooking"

—Mary Sunshine
None of Mary's friends could really believe that she "simply loved cooking" until they visited her in her kitchen and saw the reason—her wonderful Cabinet Gas Range. "Folks say they never tasted such splendid meals as I cook," she declared happily, "but it's really all due to my Gas Range."

Know the Joy of Successful Cooking

—Install a gas range now. The modern gas range represents the latest in efficient, convenient and economical methods of cookery.

Oregon Gas & Electric Co.
PHONE 526

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from eastern points to all Southern Pacific Stations in Oregon.
Stoppers allowed within 30 days from date of sale at all Oregon points on Southern Pacific.

Write your Eastern friends of the opportunities for settlers in Western Oregon.

Money can be deposited with local agent, who will make all arrangements and have tickets delivered to your Eastern friend or relative.

Ask your local agent or write John M. Scott, Gen. Passenger Agent, Portland, Oregon.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC