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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor

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EM-TEES

CHRISTMAS AT HOME.

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL. "Are you coming home for Christmas?" wrote a widow to her son. He sighed, and shoved the letter in his pocket. As he murmured, "Yes, I ought to, but I'd miss a lot of fun, and my Sally would go skyward like a rocket!"

So Bobbie talked with Sal awhile, and this is what he wrote: "Dear Mother—How I'd like to grace your table! And how I hate to tell you in this hurried little note that I've just received a very pressing cable! The boss can't do without me, so he called me up to say that I'll have to spend the holidays in Turkey; So I hope you'll have a very, very merry Christmas day. Though for me the sky may look a little murky!"

Bob's still carrying that letter in a pocket of his vest, and I hope he'll still have sense enough to burn it. Even though his sea-eyed Sally puts his mettle to the test. By gazing at his head as if to turn it!

Congress is now in session. The bakers ought to be able now to cook up a good excuse to raise the price of doughnuts still higher on account of the shortage of air for the holes.

DID YOU KNOW—

You can't drown a goldfish and you can't give him too much water?

A Toledo wonder has invented a machine that is much superior than nature's method for splitting peas. His machine makes a much thinner split and saves the splits. He finds the splits saved from 507 peas is equal to 2 1-8 peas.

If a guinea pig had a tail like a peacock and could wag it, he'd find it would be easier to wag himself than the tail.

A Des Moines native is about to give to the world his remarkable epoch making discovery—a self-starting spoon.

Rubbing the face all over the soap isn't any more economical than rubbing the soap all over the face.

Very few farmers use a nest egg for raising eggplants.

A Louisville mechanic has perfected a machine for boring holes in butter. It is thought by master mechanics this machine solves the butter boring problem.

OUR OWN TRAVELLOGUE.

Wee-wee-bloo is one of the queerest provinces of Ashtray. The roads all run sideways and the mountains are so low it is hard to detect them from the rest of the land.

On account of the meadows being so narrow and running in one direction, the cows are so thin they aren't even lean.

When the cream from these cows is churned it produces drawn butter.

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS.

A silver mounted English walking stick or a bicycle would make an appropriate gift for your friend in the penitentiary.

Once upon a time a woman baked a cake and found no fault with ye cake. There was nothing wrong with ye oven or ye frosting.

OLDE STUFF.

"Inspector Rafferty characterized the case as the most remarkable he had ever dealt with."

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN SPORTSMEN has declared a nation-wide campaign against the English sparrow. The war is to last at least three years, by which time it is hoped these pests, if not completely exterminated, will be so reduced in numbers that it will take many years for the survivors to recuperate to anything like the sparrow population of today.

The federal bird census shows that in many portions of the country English sparrows now outnumber all native birds, and are rapidly replacing the useful and needed American song birds. Only the robin has been able to hold his own against the discordant, destructive, filthy, pug-nacious hyphen. Wrens, bluebirds, orioles, martins, mocking birds, warblers, vireos and many other song birds are being driven away and exterminated by this imported nuisance which destroys vegetation and fruit, as well as works havoc in grain fields.

Garrett P. Serviss, one of the best-known naturalists in the country, says that "the English sparrow has not one redeeming feature," and his opinion is echoed by all who have studied the matter. Even the federal government is taking a hand in the warfare and advises extermination as essential to the protection of the farmer and the elimination of insect pests.

The principal method of carrying on the war will be by trapping, and under proper police authority, shooting. The United States biological survey, Washington, describes several successful traps in Farmers' Bulletin, No. 493, which can be had upon application. Sparrows feed in flocks, and when assembled large numbers can be killed by a charge of No. 10 or 12 shot. They can be baited by grain scattered over long narrow areas. Good results can also be obtained by shooting them when they congregate to roost after nightfall. Sparrows are very suspicious, and a wounded bird will spread terror among others—but baiting soon attracts them back.

English sparrows are already becoming plentiful in the Rogue River valley, though mostly confined to the towns. However, they are rapidly spreading into the country, and unless the warfare is begun against them, will soon drive away our native songsters, to the loss of our orchardists and farmers.

IRRIGATION OBJECTIONS.

IN A COMMUNICATION printed elsewhere, Attorney A. E. Reames summarizes objections to the proposed irrigation district. Like all who oppose the creation of the district, he purports to be in favor both of irrigation and the district plan, but opposes this particular plan—and there is none other in sight. No matter what plan is offered there will always be objectors and if we halt because of them, we will continue to lose each year in crops more than the entire cost of an irrigation system.

Mr. Reames thinks the government engineers estimates are wrong, and that because arid lands of eastern Oregon require an excessive quantity of water, the semi-arid soils of this district will require similar quantity. He doubts that an adequate supply can be procured. All these issues are beside the mark and for determination later. The present question is the election of five directors for the creation of the irrigation district—and these directors will investigate and settle the problems raised by objectors.

The amount of water required by land depends altogether upon the soil. The arid, volcanic ash of eastern Oregon cannot be compared with the clay loams of the Rogue river valley and the experience of those who have irrigated here furnish a satisfactory base upon which to work. This is one of many problems the directors of the proposed district must work out—and all the people are asked to do at the present time is to give them an opportunity to begin.

Before the "million dollar plaster" referred to by Mr. Reames, is put upon the district, the directors and the land owners will be assured both that they are going to secure sufficient water and that the supply is permanent. But to get anywhere, we must begin, and that is what the land owners are asked to do at the election, make a beginning.

STOP as you pass Haskin's Drug Store Window and see the MYSTERIOUS GIRL in the BLACK MASK DO YOU KNOW HER? She says: "I am looking for a Husband, but he Must Use a DURHAM DUPLEX RAZOR" GET THIS \$5 Durham Duplex Razor for \$1.00 HASKINS for HEALTH

COMMUNICATIONS

To The Editor: I had promised myself to keep out of this discussion as to the creation of the proposed irrigation district. This letter is directed particularly to the statements in the editorial of this morning's Sun. I do not propose to sit quietly by and be called a liar as to the statements heretofore made by me in regard to the water supply of the Canal Company. This same campaign of vilification of everybody who opposes the so-called public enterprise, was worked to a finish in a recent bond election. The public has a right to know the facts and a man ought to be permitted to state them without being made the subject of public vilification. Personally I am in favor of irrigation; likewise I am in favor of an irrigation district for those whose lands require irrigation. I am not writing this letter as an attorney for any client. I feel that the public ought to know the real situation.

The lines of the proposed district are drawn according to the survey of the Canal company. The district will probably fit any other water system than that of the Canal company. If an irrigation district is to be created it ought to be created with reference to the lands to be irrigated and not to fit some system. It is the pussy-foot campaign that has been conducted and is being conducted in behalf of this scheme that makes me draw the conclusion that it is an effort of the Canal company to unload. If we are going to create an irrigation district, create it for those lands that want it and need it and not according to the contours of some irrigation company.

Now, as to whether the Canal company has sufficient water: this water in litigation and no sane investor would invest a million dollars, which this bond issue calls for, with titles in their present condition.

No Confidence Government Report I do not have confidence in government reports as to water supply because I know the manner in which they are made. They are not intended to be anything but preliminary and advisory and upon no complete data.

How much water does the Canal company propose to give in acre feet per acre for this \$40.00 per acre? According to the literature being circulated it certainly cannot be over one acre foot. The State Water Board in its recent decision adjudicating the waters to the Rogue River Valley farmers on these various streams gave, almost universally, in the neighborhood of three acre feet, and found this necessary. In some instances it gave more.

The Tumalo Project.

The amount of water for the Tumalo project was fixed by a court decree at 1.8 acre feet per acre. This is what is finally sold upon that subject in the report thereon made December 19, 1914.

"In the adjudication of water rights of Tumalo creek the duty of water was placed at 1.8 acre feet from April 15 to October 15 of each year. This would hardly seem adequate to meet the requirements for the soil conditions on such projects as the Tumalo. Therefore the desert land board has adopted rules and regulations for the operation and maintenance and distribution of water on the Tumalo project whereby they fixed the duty of water at 2.25 acre feet during the same season. In order that no controversy might occur and in order that the duty of water, as fixed by the courts may be revised it would seem advisable that some legislative action be taken along these lines."

In dealing with the amount of water required, R. W. Allen, superintendent of the Umatilla Experiment farm "The duty of irrigation water on coarse, sandy soils is very low. Under average farm conditions on the Umatilla project, approximately eight acre feet of water is being used. The application of eleven to twelve feet of water is not uncommon upon coarser soils. \* \* Alfalfa should have not less than seven feet, according to present observations. The duty of water on such soils can be raised and kept at a somewhat higher point by frequent addition of organic matter in considerable quantities." The soils upon which the above experiments were made were largely of medium sand.

The government in its Klamath

project allowed two acre feet per acre; the farmers now have to buy the additional water required. Some are buying as much as four acre feet additional at high prices. Frank Adams, with a large meadow, is compelled to take it out this year on account of not being able to pay the charges for the excess water. The instances are cited, not because they are necessarily parallel but to show how different are the water requirements of one soil from those of another.

Government Never Said It

The government never said that there was water available for 20,000 acres under the Rogue River Valley Canal company's system. In the report so much quoted it said: "No continuous record of the run-off of the lake (Fish lake) has been kept and only a few miscellaneous measurements are available." It then deals with the run-off of Four Mile lake which it shows to be less than 6000 acre feet, and says:

"Just why two adjacent drainage areas such as those of Four Mile lake and Fish lake should have such widely different run-offs is hard to explain, but it is presumed that a portion of the drainage area as indicated by the surface of the ground is in reality tributary by under-drainage to either Fish lake on the south or the South Fork of Big Butte creek on the north." If the government's engineers had had a little more time to investigate they probably would have found that the big springs at Pelican Bay lodge are made by the underground seepage from Four Mile lake. At least the engineer's statement quoted is significant as to whether the lake will hold water for storage. The government report then concludes that there would be a possible storage at Fish Lake of 20,000 acre feet and at Four Mile lake of 12,000 acre feet, making 32,000 acre feet subject to a decrease, it says, of as much as 25 per cent in low years.

So with the plain statement that no accurate records of the run-off from Fish lake are available and that those in 1914 and 1915 as to Four Mile lake show less than 6,000 acre feet, it would appear that the conclusion is being drawn that these two sources would furnish 32,000 acre feet, which would be one acre foot per acre for 32,000 acres. Yet, the state water board has been decreeing to the farmers in this section, as I have said, at least three acre feet.

It is possible that upon some soils, such as adobe planted to orchard one and one-half acre feet would be sufficient, but no man in his right senses would buy less than five acre feet for alfalfa.

Water Sold for 10,000 Acres

It must also be considered that the Canal company has sold water for 10,000 acres out of this same system under prior contracts.

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You may think you will always grow orchards and that orchards require less water than other crops, but you are making a bond issue for a permanent water supply and the water which you buy ought to be sufficient to grow any kind of crops adapted to that particular soil.

I shall not have time to follow up this discussion nor to answer everybody who jumps on me for these statements. However, I feel that I have done my duty in pointing to the sources of information which are available to the farmers. We spent the summer in the trial of one question, to-wit: the duty of water on lands of two distinct characters, namely: marsh lands and uplands planted some to meadow and some to

alfalfa. It was shown that the upland soils whose clay and loam lands had gravel sub-soil used as much as four acre feet per acre in each alfalfa irrigation. The court has just entered its decree and gives the farmers 4.5 acre feet per acre for those lands and I seriously doubt its being sufficient. The state water board had given them three acre feet per acre.

Before you put a million dollar plaster on these lands find out that you are going to get enough water per acre during the irrigation season and that the supply is permanent, the works indestructible and that you will not have any conflict arising from prior outstanding contracts which would have a first call upon the water.

A. E. REAMES.

Spend the Holidays at Home The economical time of the year to travel. Holiday round-trip fares allow longer return limits than at any other time of the year. Christmas Holidays New Years Holidays Write or ask local agent JOHN M. SCOTT, General Passenger Agent Portland, Oregon SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES

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