

DISTRICT PLAN FOR IRRIGATION NOT LAND LIEN

Legon Points Regarding Creation of Water District Explained—Methods of Procedure Outlined—Indebtedness Created Not a Lien on Individual Property.

Considerable misunderstanding has arisen over various points in connection with the formation of the proposed irrigation district, the nature and purpose of the election, the powers of the directors, their first steps, payment for the water right, lands exempted and other points. These misunderstandings have arisen both from a lack of information and from misrepresentations made by those opposed to irrigation.

Method of Payment.
One of the points commonly misunderstood is the method of paying for the water right. It has been stated by those opposed to the formation that electing the directors will virtually amount to saddling a lien of up to \$200 per acre on the property immediately. In the first place the directors have no authority to place any liens on property or assess any property to exceed \$1 per acre; this amount to be used in investigating the best method of furnishing water to the district. This point is made clear in the Oregon water laws. It is practically assured that this expense will not exceed ten cents per acre.

Incidental to this question comes that of the method of collection of the cost of the water right. This amount will be collected by the county clerk in the same manner as all other taxes are collected as shown by paragraph 6192 of the water laws of the state of Oregon: "The county clerk shall enter the apportionment so made (i. e. by the directors) upon the county assessment roll, against the property therein respectively described, in the same manner that other municipal assessments are entered by him on said assessment roll, except that the total sum apportioned to and charged against each description of land therein contained, shall be entered by the clerk as the irrigation tax against the same. Such tax shall be collected and accounted for in the same manner as other municipal taxes and the collection thereof enforced in the same manner as the other taxes of the county."

This means that the tax against a property for an irrigation district is in effect the same as that levied for road or other improvement.

No Contract Involved.
Some have objected to voting favorably on the district because as they say, "it will mean voting for the same contract as that now offered by the canal company and that contract we do not approve." There is no question of a contract to be settled at the first or preliminary election. Such matters will be debated by the directors following their election. They will decide on what seems the fairest form of contract and will submit their report to the people for their decision.

Section 6182 of the water laws of Oregon says on this point: "Upon receiving said report, (that of the state engineer) said board of directors shall proceed to determine the amount of money necessary to be raised and the character and extent of contract and obligation necessary to be undertaken and shall immediately thereon call a special election at which shall be submitted to the electors of said district, the question whether or not the bonds of said district or the right to enter into an obligation or contract—in the manner, in the amount specified shall be authorized."

Not Lien on Land.
The question has arisen as to whether the creation of the district will interfere with the securing of loans on land within the district, whether in effect, the amount of the water right will not be in the nature of a first mortgage on the land. The answer is obvious. The obligation to pay for the water right is altogether different from a mortgage. The land will be assessed for the district improvement as that land is assessed to pay for schools or roads, the amount of the improvement being an obligation of the district as a whole, and not upon any particular piece of land. The laws of Oregon state this point clearly.

Some men have stated that the landholder in this district must pay his interest for 20 years and at the end of that time pay the principal. This is not the case, the yearly assessments paid in the form of taxes settling both principal and interest so that at the end of the 20 year period the district will be freed from all tax with the exception of the small levy

WATER TURNED RANCH INTO FINE MONEY MAKER

A sincere booster for irrigation is George Lyman of Gold Hill. Mr. Lyman owns a 30-acre tract on Rogue river a mile or so above Gold Hill and last year installed a pumping plant that has converted his ranch from a sure liability into a certain profit maker. He thus speaks of his experience:

"In July, 1915, we installed an electric pumping plant for our 30-acre tract that cost us \$1500. This was at the rate of \$50 an acre for the water. It costs us \$125 a season for power, which with repairs and incidentals makes about \$2 an acre for irrigation."

"We got the water on just in time to save our apple crop as the apples had stopped growing and picked 30% boxes of fine fruit, where we would have lost the entire crop without the water. Had we secured the water earlier, we would have had a heavier yield. This year we picked 2400 boxes of the finest fruit in the valley—over half the crop running 88 or larger to the box. Without the water, we would not have any fruit."

"In addition to the orchard, we irrigate a gravel bar alfalfa and clover patch. Before we put water on, we never had a crop of alfalfa, and hardly keep it alive. Now we get three and four heavy cuttings. The yield on our six acre corn field has been increased from a poor yield to 30 bushels to the acre."

"Irrigation has made us money and more than paid each year the cost of the plant. Water is worth more than the land, and I am satisfied that the ranchers of the valley will find it equally as profitable as I have."

DIED

Daniel Hill passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Addie Marsh of Jacksonville, Wednesday night, having reached the age of 91 years and 2 months. Mr. Hill had been a resident of Jacksonville for the past 23 years, coming to that town in 1893 from Eureka, Cal., where he had resided since 1886. Mr. Hill was a native of New Brunswick. Mr. Hill is survived by four children, Atchison B. Hill of Eureka, George L. Hill of Eureka, Mrs. Addie Marsh of Jacksonville, and Ellis B. Hill of Eureka. The body will be shipped Saturday to Eugene for burial.

necessary to raise money for maintenance.

Exemptions Explained.

The principal misunderstanding and subject of controversy has been that of exemptions. An argument by those opposed to the district in the Griffin creek section has been that if the ditch cut across a small corner of a man's farm, and the majority of his land was above the ditch and could not be irrigated from it, yet he would be compelled to pay for the water right for the total acreage.

In some cases misunderstandings such as this have arisen because the boundaries of the district included portions of upland not suited to irrigation. In cases such as this, the boundaries were so set merely for the purpose of convenient description and such lands will be exempted by the board of directors. Other men have feared that they will find it necessary to pay for the water right on wooded tracts of land and various small groves. All these points may be cleared up by reading the following extracts from the water laws of Oregon, covering exemptions: Section 6165 "nor shall the lands which will not, in the judgment of said court, be benefited by irrigation by said system, be included in such district." Section 6189, "that in no case shall any lands be taxed for irrigation purposes which from any natural causes cannot be irrigated or which are incapable of cultivation." Section 6191, "On the first Tuesday of October of each year the board shall meet—and the board shall change its assessment and the apportionment thereof and the list and the records of the same as to irrigable acreage, description, etc., in any respect and in such manner as may be necessary as to make the same just and in accordance with the facts."

MANY IN MEDFORD TRY SIMPLE MIXTURE

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SILVER LOVING CUP PRESENTED MRS. E. B. HANLEY

(From the Portland Telegram.)

Silver-loving cups will be sent today to Mrs. E. B. Hanley and Mrs. Bert Anderson in appreciation of their efforts for the republican presidential ticket in the recent campaign. The money for the cups was contributed by citizens in all parts of Oregon, the money being sent to the Telegram. Not more than 25 cents was accepted from any one contributor. The cups have been bought and engraved and will be received in time for Christmas.

Selection of the tokens was made by Ralph E. Williams, republican national committee man for Oregon; by Republican State Chairman Charles L. McNary and by Thomas B. Neuhaven, progressive state chairman and vice chairman of the Hughes campaign committee.

Mrs. Hanley's cup is thus inscribed:

To Mrs. E. B. Hanley, "The Little Ranch Woman," who went forth to inspire Oregon to vote for Charles Evan Hughes. This gift is inscribed by the Republicans of Oregon.

In grateful appreciation of her splendid service to her party, her state and her country.

In the campaign Mrs. Bert Anderson toured the state with Mrs. Hanley, contributing vocal selections at the meeting which her companion addressed. The Anderson cup is thus inscribed:

Mrs. Bert Anderson, Southern Oregon's Sweet Singer. From the Republicans of Oregon In Grateful Appreciation Of Her Songs for Charles Evans Hughes 1916.

UNCLE SAM TO BUILD BIG CRUISER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Construction in the Philadelphia navy yard of a ship for building one of the four battle cruisers authorized by congress has been determined upon by Secretary Daniels.

Private bidders submitted proposals upon a percentage basis and Secretary Daniels said today that unless the government constructed one of the vessels the navy department would be unable to determine the total costs with any degree of accuracy.

Conferences between private companies and department officials were begun today to agree on a scale of profit for the builders and to draft contracts for building the vessels on the percentage basis.

Bob Pelouze will return to Medford for the holidays Friday morning from Stanford university.

LANSING SAYS NATION DRIFTS TOWARDS WAR

(Continued From Page One.)

Second Statement.

This afternoon, after a consultation with the president, Secretary Lansing issued a second statement to make it clear beyond question that there was no change in the policy of neutrality of the United States, and to make it plain that the notes to the belligerents should in no sense be construed as a threat to any of the governments.

Secretary Lansing's statement follows:

"I have learned from several quarters that a wrong impression was made by the statement which I made this morning, and I wish to correct that impression.

"My intention was to suggest the very direct and necessary interest which this country, as one of the neutral nations, has in the possible terms which the belligerents may have in mind, and I do not intend to intimate that the government was considering any change in its policy of neutrality which it has consistently pursued in the face of constantly increasing difficulties. I regret that my words were open to any other construction as I now realize they were. I think that the whole tone and language of the note to the belligerents show the purpose without further comment on my part. It is needless to say that I am unreservedly in support of that purpose and hope to see it accepted."

Way is Opened.

President Wilson is relying upon public opinion in other neutral nations to add force to his efforts to bring peace.

It was stated authoritatively today that the president acted without any assurance that his move would be favorably received by the entente allies. He took the position, it was said, however, that his note calls for replies and that even though unfavorable, the responses would tend to make clear the objects of the belligerents and establish some common ground.

There is every indication that President Wilson is hopeful of the outlook and he believes the way has been opened for negotiations. What steps he takes in the future depend entirely upon the nature of the responses from the belligerents.

The president already has made it clear that while the American government has no interest in the terms on which peace is made between the belligerents themselves, it has a very profound interest in bringing about an agreement for maintaining peace in the future.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 21.—A violent battle is in progress in northern Bulgaria, where the offensive was assumed by the forces of the central powers, which at first carried several heights but later were driven from a portion of the ground captured, the war office announced today. Russian attacks in efforts to gain control of the remaining heights are going on.

OPPOSITIONS OF IRRIGATION MEET AT OAK GROVE

Anti-irrigationists held a meeting at the West side school house Wednesday evening, attended by about 70 of the farmers and orchardists of that vicinity.

Several of those opposed to the formation of the district gave short talks outlining their objections. Among the speakers were F. J. Newman, who read a paper on the relation of irrigation to the growing of alfalfa seed, E. B. Hanley, L. Neidermeyer and G. L. Shermanhorn, chairman of the meeting.

Mrs. E. B. Hanley entered the fight against the creation of the district, delivering a short address.

The pro-irrigationists were represented by Porter J. Neff, Ralph

Cowgill and Dr. George H. Dean, candidate for director. These men gave short talks and answered arguments of the opposition.

The position of those opposed to the district as shown in the speeches of last night were summed up as follows by Mr. Neff: "We don't need water, we don't want water and if we did want it the canal company could not furnish it."

NOTICE.

Land owners Irrigation District No. 1. It has been the pleasure of my friends to file a petition in my behalf for director, Irrigation District No. 1. I am in favor of irrigation if it can be obtained on a favorable basis to the land owners. If elected I will do all that is within my power to further the project beneficial to our district. If for any reason, after a thorough investigation has been made, the plan is found to be injurious to the land owners, I shall do all that is possible to reject it.


I solicit the support of all at the preliminary election, December 27th. C. V. CUMMINGS.

RELATIVE QUIET ON WESTERN FRONT

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The French official statement on the progress of hostilities given this afternoon by the war office says there has been relative calm on the front in France with the exception of aerial activity. Four enemy aeroplanes have been brought down by French pilots, and French machines have been employed to drop bombs behind the German front.

DENMARK RATIFIES SALE OF WEST INDIES

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—Both houses of the Danish parliament now have approved the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The landthing, or upper house, voted favorably upon the proposition today 40 to 19.



On January 15, 1917, the price of the Buick Four will advance \$50 and the Buick Six \$75


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JOHNSON, The Jeweler