

ADVANTAGES OF DISTRICT PLAN FOR IRRIGATION

Personal Experience as Director of Colorado Project Set Forth—District Is Only Practical Plan Whereby Farmers Know Just What They are Getting.

BY J. C. BARNES

The resident land owners in the proposed irrigation district having less than 40 acres of land practically all want irrigation. The owners of orchards with few exceptions want irrigation. The large land owners at this time do not want irrigation for all of their land; they believe it would make it necessary for them to sell a part of this land. I think probably without exception they all want to take water for some of their land.

A solid block of land means less expense per acre to construct an irrigation system and less expense to maintain it after it is constructed. A solid block of land can only be obtained under the district plan. This plan is the only one that would reach the non-resident owner. A great many owners of small tracts of land have left; they would return or could sell their land if it was brought under irrigation.

Only Plan Possible

Again, it is the only plan that will reach a man whose land is mortgaged if the mortgagee refuses to sign the contract with the holders of the title. Under the district plan a farmer can buy or build a ditch and own it and know what he is getting. They can employ counsel and see that they get a good title to what they buy and can employ engineers to estimate costs and see that ditches and dams are constructed according to specifications.

An individual signing a contract with an irrigation company simply has to shut his eyes and trust to luck. This is just what those under the Phoenix ditch did.

A large company of land owners associated together under the district plan can, to a certain extent, dictate terms. Farmers organize into a

ditch company and can maintain a ditch company and can maintain a water irrigation company would maintain it for and under the farmers' ditch plan the work of cleaning and repairing the ditch is a small burden as they can do the work themselves during the slack times in the winter.

Personal Experience

Now, a word about my personal experience. I was a member of the board of directors of the first government project, the Uncompagni project in Colorado, and was one of the committee elected by the board of directors to unify the ditch system, that is to get those owning private ditches and water rights to exchange them for a government right. At first the government was bitterly opposed by the owners of private ditches, especially the large land owners protested. It was going to be a fight to the finish; in the end in every instance it was compromised satisfactorily to the land owners. After Mr. Taft pressed the button turning the Gunnison river into the Uncompagni valley every one wanted a government water right.

I believe if the district is organized it can be worked out to the satisfaction of all. There is no question but that all lands not benefitted to the extent of the cost of the water right for that particular land would be exempted. No matter which five of the men nominated are elected they would do this carefully and honestly as it would be their duty to do it. I am glad to see those opposed to the district nominate men. I think they should be represented on this board.

Election of Directors

I do not think it matters who are elected directors, if we can get ourselves into a district organization so that we can get at the facts and be in a position to act if conclusions arrived at after a careful investigation should justify action.

It would be a great mistake if the farmers do not now put themselves in a position so they can investigate as to the cost of getting water and go ahead with the purchase or construction of a system if the expenditure is justified.

The district plan is the best plan yet devised to bring the farmers together into a co-operative organization to secure irrigation. It provides for investigation, for bargaining; for the issuance of bonds for construction and for the maintenance of ditch and distribution of water. It is a farmers' co-operative company in every respect.

If you think those out and out in favor of irrigation might act too hastily if put on the board of directors,

BURBANK WEDS SECRETARY



Father Burbank and his bride, who was his secretary. She was Miss Elizabeth Waters. Two years ago Burbank and Miss Waters met in New York, where she was employed by the publishers of the plant wizard's books. Mrs. Burbank is about 30 years of age, while her husband is 67.

then vote for one of those more conservative. But regardless of who you vote for for director, vote for the formation of the district.

Ralph and George Altken have arrived from Roseville, California, where they are employed by the Southern Pacific, to spend Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Altken.

With Medford trade is Medford made

SCHOOL LANDS GO BACK TO STATE OF OREGON

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 23.—Judge William Galloway in circuit court here today decided that title to six hundred acres of land in Linn county was secured by F. A. Hyde and his associates through fraud and collusion and that the time in equity to such lands still vests in the state of Oregon.

PREPARATION FOR MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE COMPLETE

Preparations are complete for the municipal Christmas tree festivities to be held on the library lawn tonight at 7 o'clock. The big tree has been set up and is trimmed with a multitude of electric lights and holiday decorations. The top is crowned with a mammoth illuminated star.

Candy canes and oranges have been provided for 1200 children, each child to receive two oranges and a cane.

The children will assemble at the Washington school at 6:30, where they will be given each a ticket which will be exchanged after the exercises for a treat. The children will be under the supervision of the teachers of the public schools. Parents with children too small to march in the procession may accompany the children to the school and receive treat tickets.

Promptly at 7 o'clock the children, marching four abreast, will leave the Washington school ground, pass around the tree and take their position to the east of the library, where they will mass for the singing of Christmas music.

The exercises will be opened with a prayer by Rev. Hogg of the Presbyterian church. This will be followed by singing under the supervision of Miss Eileen French, superintendent of music in the public schools, after which the evening exercises will be concluded with the passing out of the Christmas treat from the library steps. Parents and children are requested to obtain their tickets at the Washington school, as no treats will be given out without tickets.

The prediction of rain and south wind by the weather bureau has apparently shattered the hopes of Medford's children for a white Christmas.

the cashier, to hand over the money and after locking Rossier in a room, mounted his horse and rode away. A posse was formed as soon as

Rossier could free himself and give the alarm and tonight was reported searching the country south of Mabton.



METRO PICTURES LEAD THE WORLD

MISS EDNA WARNER Fletcher Music Method Studio closed for Xmas holidays. Classes will be resumed Jan. 8. Res. Phone 764

The Christmas Gift Electrical

Almost every electrical appliance which a year or two ago was considered a luxury is now deemed a necessary comfort by the housewife. There are many dainty electrical devices which make acceptable gifts, and those who are in doubt should visit the electrical shops and see the new Percolators, Vacuum Cleaners Washing Machines, Toasters, Irons, Stoves, Warming Pads, Curling Irons, Heaters and Lovely Lamps.

Selecting a Christmas gift is always a perplexing problem, because the essential qualities are so hard to combine. It must be something serviceable, and yet, it must carry the spirit of Christmas. It must not cost too much, and yet, there must be a touch of real luxury about it.

The Christmas Gift Electrical combines these Essential Qualities and betokens personal thought on the part of the giver. Useful gifts lose nothing in attractiveness

CALIFORNIA-OREGON POWER CO.

MEDFORD, OREGON