

CHANGES MADE IN IRRIGATION LAWS 1919 LEGISLATURE

SALEM, Ore., May 23.—Some important changes were made by the last legislature in the water laws and irrigation and drainage district laws of the state. The abolishment of the office of superintendent of water division No. 1 reduces the state water board to two members, the state engineer and the state water superintendent. The state engineer was given charge of the distribution of the water of the state, with authority of overseeing the work of the various water masters, which work has heretofore been under the direction of the division superintendent. The superintendent of water division No. 2 was given charge of the adjudication of water rights in the entire state and was given the title of state water superintendent.

A constitutional amendment providing for the guaranty of the first five years' interest on irrigation and drainage bonds will be submitted to the people at the coming special election. On account of heavy discount on drainage and irrigation bonds this class of reclamation bonds has been under a severe handicap, which it is believed will be largely removed if this amendment is passed.

A statute was enacted providing that irrigation districts may accept a part of the land of any landowner within the district as an offset against the reclamation charge on the remainder of his land. This will probably serve as a very convenient method of cooperating with the federal government.

The provision of the irrigation district law relating to the validation of the procedure prior to the issuance of bonds was clarified by the reenactment of this portion of the irrigation district law.

Agricultural lands included within the limits of a municipality may now be included in an irrigation district. This amendment was deemed necessary on account of the large area of agricultural land which is included within the limits of some of the municipalities within or adjacent to the irrigation districts.

Provision has also been made for the reclamation of lands in an irrigation district in units. Heretofore, it was necessary that every acre of irrigable land in a district should be assessed the same as every other irrigable acre. This brought about a tendency to exclude from the district, which would increase the cost against the main body of land notwithstanding the fact that it might be entirely feasible to irrigate these lands at a higher cost. It will now be possible to include such lands in an irrigation district as a separate unit, and assess them according to the cost of reclamation.

Under the irrigation district law as enacted in 1917, the district could not require construction bonds in excess of 25 per cent of the amount of the contract. This has been cured as the statute now provides that no such bond shall be less than 25 per cent of the construction cost.

The drainage district law was also amended in some important features so that it now corresponds more closely with the irrigation district law and all question has been eliminated as to whether or not the obligation of the district was an individual or a community obligation by fixing it definitely as a community obligation.

Another statute was enacted providing for the certification of drainage district bonds in the same manner as irrigation district bonds are now certified.

Summing up, therefore, much favorable legislation was secured affecting reclamation. In fact the last legislature seemed to take a more favorable view toward reclamation than its predecessors.

FARM LOANS OF LOCAL DISTRICT REACH \$200,000

The Federal land bank of Spokane has declared and paid a dividend of one-half per cent per month on all stock outstanding on December 1st, 1918. The Medford National Farm Loan Association has increased its capital stock from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in order to continue to make loans to care for this community. This means the outstanding loans in this community have reached \$200,000.



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POST TOASTIES
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Elsie Ferguson at Liberty Tonight



"One minute, please" **ELSIE FERGUSON** in *His Parisian Wife*
An AIRCRAFT Picture

Are French dinner gowns, cut low, immodest? Do they harmonize with the views of elderly persons of Puritanical tendencies? Should young brides yield to parental opposition on problems of dress? These are a few

of the questions which are brought to the attention of spectators who are fortunate enough to see Elsie Ferguson in her new Aircraft play, "His Parisian Wife," which will be shown at the Liberty theater today and tomorrow.

ALLIED DOCTORS WORK TO HALT TURKISH PLAGUE

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 15.—(By mail.)—American, British, French and Greek physicians are striving with might and main to prevent an outbreak of the plague in the region extending along the north shore of the Aegean Sea from Saloniki to Constantinople. In this work the British, French and Greek armies and the American Red Cross are cooperating.

"America and England as well as the far off corners of the earth can not afford in these days to ignore outbreaks of disease no matter where they occur," declared a British sanitary officer in charge of the work of cleaning up Constantinople. "If the plague is allowed to breed here in the Near East sooner or later it will reach England and America. And its ravages if allowed to spread will exceed those of the so-called influenza."

Eastern Macedonia which has been a battleground for centuries and which since 1912 has been fought over and over again is today a horrible mess. The early summer sun is breeding flies and mosquitoes by the millions, the unhealthy Struma valley is steaming with malarial vapors, the streets of Drama, Serres, Kavalla, Xanthi and the hundreds of other small villages are filthy beyond belief.

The returned refugees live in shell shattered ruins under sanitary conditions unspeakable. Their rags are alive with vermin. From the big Red Cross warehouse at Kavalla housing 300 families of refugees from five to a dozen dead from typhus were removed daily last month. The refugees were easy victims after many months of semi-starvation in Bulgaria.

The children of Eastern Macedonia are pitiful sights, suffering the results of semi-starvation, with their little ribs showing plainly through their taut drawn flesh. With hollow lack lustre eyes they lie about on the streets in the sun indifferent to their fate.

Each day tens of thousands of loaves of bread are distributed by the Red Cross in dozens of Serbian, Macedonian and Rumanian cities. Bales of clothing are given out to the needy. Serums against disease are injected in thousands of peasants and "delfousing" baths are given to those living in the crowded centers.

REV. BOOZER'S SERMON ON BOOZE ATTRACTS

Probably no sermon announced by Rev. L. Myron Boozer, pastor of the Presbyterian church of this city, has produced such a storm of protest nor so many words of commendation as the one announced for Sunday morning, when the local clergyman is to deal with President Wilson's attitude on wartime prohibition. The division of sentiment seems about evenly divided with a little the more positive tone in the protest in which group a considerable number have signified their intention of remaining away. Perhaps the reverend gentleman will find himself with a typical summer congregation which spells empty pews.

On August 14, 1914, a force of Salvation Army workers was in Brussels, following up France's army.

NEW EUROPEAN R. R. STARTING SERVICE EXCLUDES GERMANY

PARIS, April 15.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—What is characterized as one of the most vital steps towards the speedy reconstruction of war-torn Europe is being taken this week in the inauguration of the through, transcontinental train service between Paris, Belgrade and Bucharest via Pontarlier, Milan, Trieste, Agram and Vinkovce. This line would under any ordinary circumstances be a great boon to the traveler and to the business man, but now, on the eve of the signing of peace, it assumes an incalculable importance to the welfare of many countries.

The allied capitals will now be linked up once more by a rapid service which will permit of easy communications. The slow sea route can be abandoned for the numerous governmental missions which will play a great part in the reconstruction. In numerous other ways the new line will facilitate the process of rebuilding the fortunes of the allies.

That this railway avoids Germany and undoubtedly will take away much of the trade of the German railways finds no adverse criticism in Paris. The French are quite content to see the railways of their late enemies lie dormant for a time. Whether the new allied line will ultimately become the great trade artery for the continent, replacing the German lines between the North Sea ports and the East, is a matter of much discussion. There are arguments on both sides of the question. Certainly its immediate effect is expected to be to lessen the German prospects. Whether there is any sentiment in trade, which will influence future developments, remains to be seen.

The new service will provide through trains de luxe between Paris and Belgrade three times each week according to present plans. One train a week will go through to Bucharest. Thus with a good train service between Paris and the English channel ports, England will again be brought into close touch with her eastern allies.

As soon as possible the line will be extended to Constantinople and to Athens, but the running of trains to these places now is impossible owing to the destruction of railways during the war. It will take several months to repair the damage. In addition, rolling stock is very scarce. Even now it is necessary to make a wide detour to get to Bucharest from Belgrade.

MORGENTHAU IN FAVOR AMERICA, TURKEY MANDATE

PARIS, May 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—Henry Morgenthau, former American ambassador to Turkey, has submitted a memorandum to President Wilson concerning the proposal that the United States should become mandatory for Constantinople. It is understood that he favors the inclusion of Constantinople, Anatolia and Armenia under one mandate as being advantageous for administrative purposes by combining a large section of Northern Asia Minor under one central administration. The question of mandates for various parts of Turkey is before the council of four.

President Wilson's recommendation relative to accepting a mandate for Constantinople will depend largely upon the report of a commission created today for investigation of conditions in Syria. Henry Churchill King, president of Oberlin college, and Charles R. Crane will be the American representatives and will have colleagues from the allies and associated powers, the commission will leave immediately to study conditions in Turkey.

Mrs. Lee Watkins arrived home this forenoon from Salem where she attended the Rebekah convention.



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