

Hood River Glacier.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1904.

WATER IS ASSURED.

The Glacier believes it is not over sanguine in saying the farmers will have irrigating water this summer. The water consumers' committee was in consultation Tuesday night with A. S. Bennett, The Dalles and A. A. Jayne, and in the opinion of these lawyers, if no compromise can be effected with Mr. Chambers, there is a way out of the difficulty by recourse to the courts. Both gentlemen firmly believe there are certain rights in the matter which any court of law will uphold.

The statement made to the Glacier by Mr. Chambers, that the people have treated him in a very unbusiness-like manner, may seem rather odd to the water consumers. It is the farmers who believe they have not been approached in a business-like way. In our opinion, the whole matter could have been gone at in a more satisfactory manner. The announcement given to the press two weeks before the stockholders' meeting, and reiterated at this meeting, that the farmers must put up \$30,000 or get no water, easily gave the impression that the Valley Improvement Co. was going to ride over the farmers rough shod. Furthermore, the secrecy with which the 99-year contracts were guarded was another bad feature. No wonder the farmer suspicioned Mr. Chambers had a trap for him.

Mr. Chambers was honest and endeavored to be fair in the matter, the Glacier truly believes. A man with extensive business relations with the public, as has Mr. Chambers at Eugene, could not afford to damage his reputation by swindling the people of Hood River. He sees no bad features in his contract, but when a committee of responsible farmers find it faulty, and are backed in their opinion by lawyers like A. S. Bennett, A. A. Jayne and J. N. Teal, he should have respected the right of the farmers to ask for something better. Mr. Chambers should not have ignored the committee's report as read at Tuesday's meeting and get up and ask what the farmers wanted. His action was an insult to the good sense of the committee. Again, Mr. Chambers may have regarded it a business proposition to ask the farmers to pay the company's debts, but the water consumers had equally as good grounds for calling it a hold-up.

Hood River farmers have no desire to injure any one. They are willing and anxious to do the fair thing. They will do business in a business-like manner, but they will not submit to a proposition forced on them with no recognition of their rights.

If Hood River farmers are compelled to go without irrigating water for one season, some of them will be surprised to find how well they can do without water for strawberries. On most of the Hood River land strawberries even without water will bring better returns than any crop that can be grown. Land that will produce a crop of potatoes without irrigation will grow strawberries at a profit. The first cost of the water, \$5 an inch, is small compared with the expense of applying the water to the berry plants. By growing less weeds and keeping the soil stirred, the most of Hood River land can be made to grow berries as well as they grow across the Columbia at Underwood. At Underwood there is no irrigating system, and there the berry crop never fails but is good as long as the pickers are at work on the irrigated lands in Hood River at the same altitude.

The Glacier is in receipt of Bulletin No. 1, issued by the O. R. & N., and containing Industrial Agent R. C. Judson's report of his experiments and observations with grasses, alfalfa, corn on summer fallow, and of sales of pure bred cattle made by the National Hereford association and National Short Horn Breeders' association. The information contained in this book will be found very interesting and instructive, representing much research and labor on the part of Mr. Judson. The O. R. & N. desires to place this and future bulletins in the hands of every farmer, stock grower or other persons interested. Those who desire free copies may obtain them by leaving their names at the Glacier office.

The farmers of Hood River are to be congratulated upon the unanimity with which they hang together in the emergency that confronts them. They deserve the loyal support of the entire community.

Local Institute a Success.
The local teachers' institute held in the park street school house, Saturday, was one of the most successful meetings of the kind in the county. Acting Superintendent J. T. Neff, who was in charge, expressed himself as very much pleased with the work done. The exercises were conducted in Principal Miss Schungel's room, and the programme was as published last week. Dinner was served to visiting teachers and friends in Mrs. Shaw's room.

The farmers in attendance were: The Dalles—Miss Rintoul, Miss Nicholson, Miss Roberts, Miss Nellie Roberts, J. S. Landers, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Neff. Hood River—C. D. Thompson, A. B. Cash, Mr. Everett, Mr. Brown, Miss Hester Kent, Miss Mabel Riddell, Miss Mara Smith, Miss Isenberg, Miss Markley, Miss Quinn, Miss Groves, Miss Copley, Miss Cotton, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Riel, Miss Hill, Miss Schungel, Miss Dietz, Miss Masiker, Miss Stranahan, Miss Stranahan, Miss Sparks, Miss Robards.

Hood River Up with the Procession.
The Milliner of Chicago recently offered six prizes for the best articles on millinery. First prize went to Boston; Mrs. S. A. Knapp of Hood River received third prize. Many articles were contributed by practical millinery people from all parts of the country, especially nearly every Eastern state.

FARMERS TURN IT DOWN.

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"Water!" shouted a chorus.
"Water without being robbed," replied J. T. Nealeigh.
There were speeches by Isenberg, Starn, and Coon, saying that they wanted water at \$5 an inch, as they had been paying. N. C. Evans reminded Mr. Chambers that the farmers didn't want his \$30 proposition, and that if he had anything else to offer, now was the accepted time. There were other speeches along the same line. Finally Roy Smith called for Chambers. The gentleman hadn't gone far until he was asked if the contract as submitted was final.

"They've heard enough," came from the crowd, and there was a general movement toward the door.
Was this the end of it? Did Mr. Chambers see a vision? Wagner saw that something must be done, and that quickly. Stretching forth his broad hand and rousing his every energy, he sought in pleading tones to restore order. As those in the doorway started to return, he called out, "Go on, those of you who don't want to listen."
"Who pays for this hall?" queried one from the rear.

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"Why didn't you speak at the farmers' meeting?"
"Because wasn't invited," replied the man who wanted the \$30,000.
"Then why did you come?" retorted the Hood River attorney.
At this juncture, Mr. Abbott addressed the people of Hood River to stand together and the entire bunch came down stairs and signed an agreement not to accept the 99-year contracts as they then stood.

Report of the Mass Meeting Committee
To the Patrons of the Valley Improvement Co.'s Ditch, in Mass Meeting Assembled, in Artisan Hall, Hood River, February 9, 1904: We your committee, appointed at a general mass meeting held in K. P. hall, Saturday, February 6, have performed our duty and beg leave to make the following report:
First—That owing to the shortness of time allowed the committee has not been able to get complete legal opinion regarding the most feasible plan for securing water for 1904.

Second—That the committee respectfully asks for an extension of time to 1 o'clock, p. m., Saturday, February 13, to complete its investigation.

Third—That the following report is one of progress:
After having conferred with Mr. Wagner, your committee, respectfully would submit the following: That in our opinion it would be unwise to sign such contract; second, first, that there is no guarantee adequate for any failure on the part of the company, and are refused to make any other substantial guarantee. Also, that the company is not a party that can terminate the contract and the consumer never. That in paying \$30,000 for 1,000 inches, we simply pay the indebtedness of the company and have no assurance that we will not have an indebtedness to meet at any future year, or be at the expense of rebuilding the flume.

Also that in case we sign up for 1,000 inches this season they may require \$40, \$50, or \$100 per inch for the same rights next year. Also, that when 2,000 inches have been signed for at \$30 per inch the Valley Improvement Co. will have received \$60,000, a sum adequate to build the system and the consumers will have paid the entire capital and the stockholders of the Valley Improvement Co. will own the plant, which they can hypothecate, sell or retain, and collect their pension annually, as suits their pleasure, knowing that no other company or person could ever, during the term of 99 years, build any other system for irrigation after 1,000 inches have been sold. Bearing in mind that Hood River is not a sage brush desert that has to be colonized by salt water, and the water limited and land unlimited. Here we have an unlimited amount of water and a limited amount of land, with the people here and the demand for water already created.

The committee only desires for damages, or repairing the ditch or flume, is the amount paid for water right at \$30 per inch, and \$2.50 as his annual rental for future years. If you can find the man with the \$30, and he for the greater part, or \$25,000 for the 1,000 inches in this payment for his claim against the Valley Improvement Co.

That the contract presented to the people by the representative of the Valley Improvement Co. is a business proposition simply for the interest of the Valley Improvement Co., leaving the water consumers entirely at their mercy, without any substantial guarantee whatever that they will fulfill their part of the contract. It is the opinion of the committee that it would be financial suicide for the water consumers to sign that contract and bind themselves and their farms for 99 years, by doing so, keeping out any other company that would be willing to deal fairly with us, as it would not be profitable enough for any other company without the 1,000 inches which they propose to sell.

The representative further states that the contract he submitted was final. That being the case, we, the committee, advise the farmers of Hood River that they might better be satisfied with a half crop of berries or hay this year than to sell themselves body and soul, man and hood and all to a company, which has never done as it agreed, and is not liable to do so in the future.

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The representative further states that the contract he submitted was final. That being the case, we, the committee, advise the farmers of Hood River that they might better be satisfied with a half crop of berries or hay this year than to sell themselves body and soul, man and hood and all to a company, which has never done as it agreed, and is not liable to do so in the future.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1904.

WATER IS ASSURED.

The patrons of the Valley Improvement Co. have turned down the proposition of Mr. Chambers. This action was taken by the adoption of the committee's recommendation as reported at Tuesday's meeting.

The meeting was short, adjournment being taken until Saturday, at 1:30, when the committee will report its most feasible plan for getting water this year. It was after the meeting when the fun began. Mr. Chambers held a meeting then. Ignoring the committee report, he inquired of the farmers what they wanted.

"Water!" shouted a chorus.
"Water without being robbed," replied J. T. Nealeigh.
There were speeches by Isenberg, Starn, and Coon, saying that they wanted water at \$5 an inch, as they had been paying. N. C. Evans reminded Mr. Chambers that the farmers didn't want his \$30 proposition, and that if he had anything else to offer, now was the accepted time. There were other speeches along the same line. Finally Roy Smith called for Chambers. The gentleman hadn't gone far until he was asked if the contract as submitted was final.

"They've heard enough," came from the crowd, and there was a general movement toward the door.
Was this the end of it? Did Mr. Chambers see a vision? Wagner saw that something must be done, and that quickly. Stretching forth his broad hand and rousing his every energy, he sought in pleading tones to restore order. As those in the doorway started to return, he called out, "Go on, those of you who don't want to listen."
"Who pays for this hall?" queried one from the rear.

Here was a stickler. Two factions had arranged for the rental. Then to the front did they belong? Things looked war-like, and to some it was anything but laughable just then. It was about this time that Mr. Jayne returned to aid and abet his fellow committeemen, Messrs. Bailey and Franz, who were directing an artillery fire at Mr. Chambers. Jayne made a speech, of course.

"Why didn't you speak at the farmers' meeting?"
"Because wasn't invited," replied the man who wanted the \$30,000.
"Then why did you come?" retorted the Hood River attorney.
At this juncture, Mr. Abbott addressed the people of Hood River to stand together and the entire bunch came down stairs and signed an agreement not to accept the 99-year contracts as they then stood.

Report of the Mass Meeting Committee
To the Patrons of the Valley Improvement Co.'s Ditch, in Mass Meeting Assembled, in Artisan Hall, Hood River, February 9, 1904: We your committee, appointed at a general mass meeting held in K. P. hall, Saturday, February 6, have performed our duty and beg leave to make the following report:
First—That owing to the shortness of time allowed the committee has not been able to get complete legal opinion regarding the most feasible plan for securing water for 1904.

Second—That the committee respectfully asks for an extension of time to 1 o'clock, p. m., Saturday, February 13, to complete its investigation.

Third—That the following report is one of progress:
After having conferred with Mr. Wagner, your committee, respectfully would submit the following: That in our opinion it would be unwise to sign such contract; second, first, that there is no guarantee adequate for any failure on the part of the company